

MINUTES
OPC MEETING
November 17, 2011

First Selectman Jayme Stevenson called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m. in Room 206 at Town Hall.

Present were First Selectman, Jayme Stevenson; Selectman, Jerry Nielsen; Board of Finance Chairman, Liz Mao; Board of Education Chairman, Betsy Hagerty-Ross; RTM Moderator, Karen Armour; State Representative, Terry Wood and Town Administrator, Karl Kilduff.

Board of Education

Ms. Hagerty-Ross stated that the Board of Education has reached an agreement with the teachers' union to ratify contracts. The negotiation process involved consideration of both Steps and Gross Wage Increase. The union also agreed that all employees would participate in a Health Savings Account. The agreement will be voted on by the RTM.

The Board of Education will take up the issue of Spanish classes in the elementary schools at its meeting on Tuesday, November 22, 2011. Presently, under consideration is a proposal to use Library time for Spanish lessons. Adding a Spanish curriculum at the elementary school level will require hiring five new teachers.

State Representative

Terry Wood expressed a desire to gather input from the First Selectman, Town Administrator and Town Attorney on proposed language changes to 8-30g. She is in the process of communicating with other CT municipalities that also have issues with how 8-30g is being used by some developers and adversely affecting their communities. The new legislative session begins in February.

Due to redistricting, which occurs every ten years, Ms. Wood's 141st District will cover slightly less of Darien and more of Rowayton. The redistricting means there will need to be changes made to polling locations.

Board of Finance

Ms. Mao noted that the Town's Five-Year Forecast has been drafted. Information regarding the BOE's personnel costs will be given to Ms. Mao after the BOE meets on Tuesday, November 22, 2011. Those personnel costs and the 25% decrease in electricity costs for the next two years, negotiated by Mr. Kilduff, will be added to the Five-Year Forecast.

Ms. Mao announced that a financial advisor will attend the Board of Finance's January meeting to advise the Board on bonding.

Finally, Ms. Mao commented that the Public Works Department is looking for funding of an integrated software system for generating accounts receivable.

9:10 Terry Wood left to attend a legislative tour of Northrop Grumman.

RTM Moderator

Ms. Armour mentioned items that will be addressed at the January RTM meeting: consideration of the Flood, Erosion Control Board and the changes made to Chapter 13 of the Town Charter which remove daily operations (procedures for filing vacancies, when to hold meetings, etc.) to an appendix.

Ms. Armour stated that plans are being made to post the email addresses of RTM members on the Town's website. If members are uncomfortable with posting their personal email addresses they have the option to get a gmail account that will forward their RTM emails to their personal email accounts. Ms. Mao suggested that Ms. Armour consider setting up a Google Group to facilitate ease of communication and distribution of information among RTM members.

First Selectman

Ms. Stevenson mentioned that a Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen will take place this Monday, November 21, 2011 at 8:00 PM. The meeting is for the purpose of determining the date and time to hold the referendum vote on the facilities proposal.

Ms. Stevenson requested a motion to approve the 2012 OPC meeting schedule. Ms. Mao moved. Ms. Armour seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 15, 2011 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 206.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda O'Leary
Recording Secretary