

MINUTES  
OPC MEETING  
April 15, 2010

First Selectman David Campbell called the meeting to order at 8:39 a.m. in Room 206 at Town Hall.

Present were Selectman, David Campbell; Selectman, Jayme Stevenson; RTM Moderator, Karen Armour; State Representative, Terrie Wood; Board of Finance Chairman, Murry Stegelmann; Board of Education Chairman, Kim Westcott and Karl Kilduff, Town Administrator.

**Board of Finance**

Chairman Stegelmann discussed the Town's budget. There will be a preliminary vote on it this Thursday and a final vote next Monday. The budget reflects the tough line taken by the Board of Finance on capital expenditures. Additionally, he commented that the Selectmen's budget would have a surplus of funds. Mr. Kilduff indicated that the surplus would come from personnel cuts. The guardrail proposed for Pear Tree Point Road was identified for a cut from the budget partially because it was determined it may be an additional hazard for pedestrians needing to stay off the road.

Mr. Stegelmann and Mrs. Westcott talked about the budgeting and use of about OPEB funds to pay for healthcare costs. Finally, he stated that the mill rate will increase to 3.25%, which is better than was originally expected the BOF would be able to achieve.

**Board of Education**

Mrs. Westcott stated that the Board of Education will be holding a Special Meeting on Tuesday night. It is expected that the BOE will have a deficit in its budget due to two primary reasons: being short funded by the State (reimbursed at 84%) and legal fees/special education costs.

The Darien High School is expected to have an increase of 68 students next year, which is the most significant increase among the Darien schools. In an effort to keep the budget in line there have been some position cuts, mainly in support staff.

**State Representative**

Mrs. Wood advised that the State's budget has major issues. The Deficit Mitigation Plan resolved the budget for this year by absorbing the State's Emergency Fund into the general budget. There are many significant drains on the State budget such as the fact that 50% of the children born in CT last year were born under Medicaid or Medicare.

Bills being considered to generate revenue are an increase in the State tax from 14% to 20% and a raise in hospital taxes.

### **Representative Town Meeting**

Moderator Armour briefly mentioned that the RTM will meet on May 10, 2010. At that meeting she'd like to see the fines/fees removed from ordinances and into regulations. There will be a vote on the BOE budget and some other routine RTM items will be addressed.

### **First Selectman, David M. Campbell**

First Selectman Campbell explained the state of Whole Foods sidewalks and paving in the area of Whole Foods. Sidewalks were not constructed by Whole Foods as required by the State so road paving has been put off for a week, thus interfering with the temporary Certificate of Occupancy which would allow them to begin stocking shelves and training staff. It may also result in some congestion as new traffic lights and traffic patterns are scheduled to begin.

Mr. Campbell expressed concern over the Town's spring cleanup policy. The Town has received a large number of complaints that the trash is unsightly. There was mention of people from other towns leaving trash on Darien roads and the fact that some mandatory recycle items are being thrown out with regular trash. A "will call" option is being considered where residents may call once a year for pickup of specific items.

Darien and New Canaan will be combining their Probate Courts. The new name for it will be the Darien/New Canaan Probate Court. Mr. Campbell asked for input as to the location of the new combined court- Darien or New Canaan. Silverhill Hospital in New Canaan generates issues that need to be addressed by a Probate Court so that is being considered in making the location decision.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 20, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 206.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda O'Leary  
Recording Secretary