

MINUTES
OPC MEETING
October 21, 2010

First Selectman David Campbell called the meeting to order at 8:17 a.m. in Room 206 at Town Hall.

Present were First Selectman, David M. Campbell; Selectman, Callie Sullivan; Board of Finance Chairman, Murry Stegelmann;; Board of Education Chairman, Kim Westcott; State Representative, Terrie Wood; RTM Chairman, Karen Armour and Administrative Officer, Karl Kilduff.

Board of Finance

Mr. Stegelmann stated that he, Gwen Mogenson and Lori Bora are working on the five-year Town forecast. Presently, they are awaiting some information from the Board of Education and putting together a budget forecast consisting of all capital projects that are on the table now. New Canaan has done some bonding at very low rates within the last couple of weeks and Mr. Stegelmann anticipates that Darien would also be able to get good rates for bonding.

Mr. Stegelmann confirmed that the Board of Finance had a sense-of-the-meting discussion on an additional budget of \$1.3 million to the \$2 million already approved for the Weed Beach project.

Board of Education

Ms. Westcott stated that the Board of Education is also working on its five-year budget proposal. It is expected that the BOE will lose stimulus funding.

Presently, the BOE has no big initiatives planned. But with regards to a small solar project planned the Planning & Zoning Department has advised that it place a notice in the paper allowing neighbors an opportunity to become aware of the project.

Additionally, Ms. Westcott noted that the temporary lights for football practices at Darien High School will go into operation starting November 1, 2010. The lights are normally set at about 20' high and may be raised to 30' to possibly reduce the affects of glare on neighbors.

State Representative

Terrie Wood, State Representative, informed the OPC members that she has been in contact with some people from Greenwich who have offered to share information with the Town/Planning & Zoning about some recent successes with affordable housing initiatives.

Ms. Wood conveyed that State revenues were up for the last quarter which ended on September 30, 2010 but the surplus will not offset the State's \$3.5 billion structural deficit.

Town Administrator

Mr. Kilduff stated he has received a quote of \$169,000 from Yankee Gas to connect Town Hall to existing gas lines. At current levels of consumption it would take approximately six years of savings to cover the initial investment but would generate greater long term savings and cleaner energy.

Also, Mr. Kilduff conveyed that CL&P is working on a rebate to the Town for the installation of new energy efficient lighting. That rebate will be approximately \$30,000.

RTM Representative

Karen Armour discussed items on the RTM agenda for Monday, October 25th. Some items on the agenda are: the BOS presentation on moving the facilities, the abandonment of Allen O'Neill Drive and a Code of Ordinance amendment regarding animal control.

First Selectman

David Campbell announced that the Town has received a moratorium on 8-30G. The moratorium takes effect on November 2, 2010 and provides the Town with four years where no applications can be filed under 8-30G. However, the Town still has pending applications that must be addressed.

Mr. Campbell has put together one building committee of five members who will work on the facility shuffles for the BOE Central Offices and the Senior/Community Center. They will be completed as two consecutive projects by the same building committee. Mr. Campbell will speak at Monday night's RTM meeting about the facility changes.

Finally, Mr. Campbell stated that Garden Homes will have 11 affordable units available soon. A lottery for the affordable units by eligible candidates will take place at the end of November.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 18, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 206.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda O'Leary
Recording Secretary