

MINUTES
OPC MEETING
DECEMBER 17, 2009

First Selectman David Campbell called the meeting to order at 8:14 a.m. in Room 206 at Town Hall.

Present were Selectman, David Campbell; Selectwoman, Jayme Stevenson, RTM Moderator, Karen Armour; Board of Finance Chairman, Murry Stegelmann, Board of Education Chairman, Kim Westcott, Planning & Zoning Commission Chairman Fred Conze; State Representative, Terrie Wood; and Administrative Officer, Karl Kilduff.

Board of Education

Chairwoman Westcott stated that the Board of Education has made full-day Kindergarten a permanent change.

She noted that a committee has been formed to determine guidelines for accepting gifts. Mr. Conze made the suggestion that the formation of a foundation, separate from the Board of Education, be considered.

Chairwoman Westcott also mentioned that the six year Capital Plan is currently in draft form. Additionally, she mentioned that the Board of Education is interested in learning more about the possible plans to move to a new location.

Board of Finance

Chairman Stegelmann discussed the issuing of short term bonds to pay for the high school and the Police Department dispatch console.

He advised the need to look into the capital expenditure of making natural gas available, to at least some town buildings, as the price of gas may offset the original expenditures in the long run.

He also suggested that a group of people from various town boards be assembled to work together on recommendations regarding space/building issues.

Further, he recommended that (in reference to Chairwoman Westcott's committee to review gift donation procedures) a catalogue of town needs be established to allow gift givers to address actual needs of the town.

Planning & Zoning Commission

Chairman Conze updated the committee on the status of 8-30G litigation.

Other issues mentioned were that a site tour of Whole Foods was recently done and it was determined that construction is coming along nicely. Joseph A. Bank and a restaurant will be moving into the former Ann Taylor Loft location.

Representative Town Meeting

Moderator Armour highlighted the importance of updating some ordinances, including the Department of Health. She mentioned that fees should not be directly stated in ordinances. It was decided that the RTM would change ordinances when needed as a more accessible and affordable process than changing the charter.

She referred to the JAG Grant for the Police Department that is due to be voted on in early January. The Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen will meet before the RTM Rules Committee meeting to address the matter.

She also conveyed that the lease on the cell phone tower remains to be hammered out and a blight ordinance is being considered.

Chairman Conze left at 9:14 a.m.

State Representative

Representative Wood spoke about a recent meeting to address the state budget that adjourned after five minutes. Democrat representatives are in disagreement over how to address the state deficit. The current deficit is in the hundreds of millions and will be only slightly offset by decision to defer plans to drop sales taxes. There remains a concern the lack of state funds will cause a roll back of grant funding.

Other pending issues mentioned were the hope of getting a bill passed in February that will allow accessory apartments to count towards 8-30G. She was also seeking town support for sidewalk improvements along Hoyt Street to reach the Talmadge Hill Station.

Chairwoman Westcott expressed a desire to have the state take up the issue of Burden of Proof in regards to requests for Special Education services.

First Selectman

First Selectman Campbell made no additional comments.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 21, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 206. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda O'Leary
Recording Secretary