

MINUTES
OPERATIONS PLANNING COMMITTEE
May 21, 2009

First Selectwoman Evonne called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. in Room 206 at Town Hall.

Present were RTM Moderator Karen Armour; Board of Finance Chairman Murry Stegelmann; Planning & Zoning Commission Chairman Fred Conze; and Administrative Officer Karl Kilduff.

Board of Education

In his absence, Board of Education Chairman John Boulton asked Mr. Stegelmann to speak on his behalf. Mr. Stegelmann reported that the principal of Hindley School was retiring, as well as the assistant principal of the High School. Regarding the Swine Flu, he stated that the Board of Education was no where close to closing the Middle School.

Mr. Stegelmann reported that the Board of Education is trying to figure out if they can refigure the budget without some of the extra curricular activities. He said that the current budget continues to stay on track to the estimate given in the past, except that they are getting positive signs from Hartford about the reimbursement of the special education for the current year. He said if the Board of Education gets 100% of the funds, they will break even for the current fiscal year.

Board of Finance

Mr. Stegelmann reported that the budget passed the RTM. Said he had never seen a budget pass so easily.

Mr. Stegelmann spoke about two items that the Board of Finance is following up on:

- Funding for the Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) trust documents
- Sewer extension bond is also pending. September is cutting it close if we want to do the sewer project in the fall.

Mr. Stegelmann commented that the Board of Finance's concern regarding the sewer project is that September may be too late and also whether the residents were on board with the project, if an RTM meeting is scheduled.

Mrs. Armour said that she would call a special meeting of the RTM for June 15th for the sewer extension project and the OPEB.

RTM

Mrs. Armour reported that the Rules Committee will be meeting next week on the dog ordinance. She said the "dog people" should come up with a plan. Further discussion took place on a dog ordinance.

Planning & Zoning Commission

Mr. Conze reported that two years ago the Commission asked Tom Golden to look at the Heights. He said that two weeks ago Mr. Golden came back with a project that looks great. He added that the idea is to redevelop some of the buildings in Town.

Mr. Conze reported that Procaccini will come before the Commission next week regarding a project on Wakemore Road.

Mr. Conze reported the Commission will have a public hearing on June 23, 2009 regarding the 333 West Avenue property. He said that the Commission created a “cluster zone” with eight houses being built, which would keep the buildings in scale with the surrounding neighborhood.

Mr. Conze reported that on June 10, 2009 he and Commissioner Joseph Spain are meeting with the judge in New Britain to talk about the Stefanoni’s feelings that the Commission does not like affordable housing.

Mr. Conze reported that the Planning & Zoning Commission has approved the storm water regulations. He said they were careful not to make the regulations too rigid because the cost can be high. He added that it was decided to have a regulation that is user friendly and flexible.

First Selectwoman’s Report

Mrs. Klein reported that Mr. Kilduff has presented the organization chart for the new Senior Center. Mr. Kilduff reviewed the chart with the members. Mrs. Klein asked Mr. Stegelmann if the Board of Selectmen could meet with the Board of Finance on May 26, 2009 regarding property acquisition. Mr. Stegelmann replied that he would check into it.

Discussion took place on the Post Road property of Mr. Freedman.

Mrs. Klein reported that the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA) meeting she attended went well. She said she spoke about Darien’s affordable housing efforts.

Mrs. Klein reported that she is waiting for final comments from the RTM PZ&H Committee on the Draft Affordable Housing Plan and that they want to make it a final plan in June.

Mrs. Klein reported that an EMS Review Committee to discuss whether or not to have paramedics in Town. The Committee will meet with people in emergency medicine.

Mrs. Armour asked about the ordinance regarding open space. Mr. Conze replied that the P&Z Commission has to amend the Town Plan of Development in order to do this open space ordinance.

Mrs. Klein commented that many of these items can hopefully be wrapped up by June.

Mrs. Klein reported on the status of the FAA matter.

There being no further business on motion made and seconded, it was voted to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Grace Hanafee
Recording Secretary