

**MINUTES
TOWN OF DARIEN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL MEETING**

February 19, 2013

A special meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on Tuesday, February 19, 2013. In attendance were First Selectman Stevenson, Selectmen Bayne, Campbell, Lundeen, and Nielsen. Also in attendance was Town Administrator Karl Kilduff. First Selectman Stevenson called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Discuss and Take Action on 2013-2014 Annual Budget Revisions

First Selectman Stevenson asked the Board members if they had any questions or comments about the budget.

Mr. Nielsen questioned the amount of funding for the Town Hall generator. First Selectman Stevenson stated that the quote the Town received was for \$330,000, but the Town was pursuing a grant and the budget carried a 25% grant match.

Mr. Bayne asked for the percent increase in the budget. First Selectman Stevenson stated that the overall Town Budget carried at 5.99% increase.

Mr. Lundeen noted that a number of items in the budget were beyond the Town's ability to control, however there was an increase in staffing and government's "foot print" associated with construction projects. He added that since funds were taken from the budget for new sidewalks, a clear process needed to be put in place for where to build new sidewalks in town. He felt that sidewalk expansion was a fact of life in a growing community and that a sidewalk advisory committee would be a benefit.

Mr. Bayne agreed to not fund a specific sidewalk project and agreed with Mr. Lundeen in disappointment over the process. He added that he was disappointed in the budget's growth and lack of control over expenses. He asked if the Town was prepared for continued budget growth or reduce services. He stated that the Board has not heard from the public that it wants a change in services.

Mr. Nielsen noted that it is not easy to vote for an increase, but in terms of facilities the Town is at a point where it needs to add. He felt the Board was being responsible.

Mr. Campbell stated that it was another tough budget year, but those items to be funded were important, like the Intervale drainage project.

First Selectman Stevenson noted that department requests had been cut by over \$2.2 million during the process and that departments have been asked to do more with less. She added that in the past, the Town reduced its size only to discover that it was not meeting public demand for services and had to add back staff. Feedback from the public does not suggest service cuts. Regarding sidewalks, First Selectman

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Stevenson was happy with the process to develop a policy that takes subjectivity out of the process

First Selectman Stevenson continued noting that she was aware of the impact to Darien from the State's budget and how it impacts the level of local services.

First Selectman Stevenson thanked the Board of Finance for their participation in the budget process thus far and for their comments. She also thanked the staff for their efforts and improvement to the budget document.

Mr. Lundeen questioned possible cuts to the number of vehicles requested by the Police Department. After some debate, the Board felt that it should advise the Board of Finance of their desire to see the request reduced, but would defer to the lengthy vehicle review conducted by the Board of Finance in the past to make the actual reduction. The Board continued discussing the consequences of cutting capital items only to have them resurface in future years.

He shared the concerns of others losing control of budget expenses, but felt Darien was facing same issues of many municipal leaders.

No further changes to the budget were discussed.

- b) Discuss and Take Action on a Resolution to approve the 2013-2014 Annual Budget and Six-Year Capital Plan and submitting the same to the Board of Finance for their consideration

First Selectman Stevenson read the resolution aloud:

WHEREAS, since its presentation on January 28, 2013, the Board of Selectmen have reviewed and evaluated the Town Administrator's Proposed Budget for fiscal year 2013-14 and the six-year capital plan; and

WHEREAS, following completion of this review a number of changes and modifications have been made to the budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Darien Board of Selectmen hereby approve the modified annual budget for 2013-2014 and the six-year capital plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2013-2014 budget and six-year capital plan be submitted to the Board of Finance for their consideration.

GENERAL FUND

General Operating Fund	\$29,602,027
Debt Service	10,792,318
Transfers out to Other Funds	<u>2,266,324</u>

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TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$42,660,669
<u>OTHER FUNDS</u>	
Sewer Fund	\$3,242,764
Parking Fund	\$769,000
Reserve Fund	\$3,781,840

Mr. Campbell moved, seconded by Mr. Nielsen, that the budget be approved and submitted to the Board of Finance. The passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Karl F. Kilduff
Town Administrator