

**TOWN OF DARIEN  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING  
FEBRUARY 4, 2013**

**ATTENDANCE:** Jayme Stevenson, First Selectman; David Campbell, David Bayne, Gerald Nielsen, John Lundeen

**STAFF:** Karl Kilduff, Administrative Officer

**CALL TO ORDER**

First Selectman Stevenson called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. A quorum was present.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET**

First Selectman Stevenson asked if there was anyone present who wished to speak on the budget.

Ms. Holly Schultz of Hoyt Street came forward to speak about the issue of sidewalks. A neighbor, who could not attend, had requested that she submitted a letter that the neighbor had written. Ms. Schultz submitted a copy of that letter to the Board of Selectmen.

Ms. Schultz stated that she had mailed a letter to the editor about the sidewalks and had also contacted Ms. Stevenson earlier about her letter. She said that she appreciated that in the last year, a sidewalk policy has been developed and currently there are seven projects under consideration. However, she added that it was important that public safety be the highest criteria. Ms. Schultz then spoke about the ranking criteria. She said that she had an information packet for the Board members with an alternative formula for the ranking process.

Ms. Schultz addressed her safety concerns at the train station on Hoyt Street. She said that a comprehensive plan was need for pedestrian safety that would include footpaths, bike paths and sidewalks. She had compiled a list of names of residents that have expressed interest in pedestrian safety. The residents would be interested in serving on a Sidewalk Committee. After a large survey was done, it became apparent that sidewalks were a priority for the residents. Ms. Schultz then asked what the status was on the other projects that were not included in the group of seven projects under consideration. She said that a Sidewalk Committee could assist in dealing with these issues. Ms. Schultz said that while she was pleased with the progress that has been made, she would like to see the project move forward by allocating the funds for the engineering portion of the project.

Ms. Schultz then distributed copies of her information packet to the Board of Selectman.

Ms. Sophie Bender came forward and said that she was present in support of Ms. Schultz's comments. She said that she was a commuter and had almost been hit by a car near Hoyt Street.

Mr. Jim Fletcher of Barringer Road, came forward to support the sidewalk along Hoyt Street. he said that he had started waving his briefcase and yelling at cars. It gets more dangerous the later at night that it is. He suggested that signs warning about pedestrians be installed.

Mr. Hegoney of Phillips Road came forward and said that he had been clipped by a car recently while walking along Hoyt Street. He said that he had been doing the commute for six years. Many of drivers aren't expecting pedestrians and some drivers even swerve towards pedestrians.

Mr. Lundeen asked if Mr. Hegoney had reported the accident to the police. Mr. Hegoney said that he had not since all he saw was the car's headlights coming towards him and could not describe the vehicle at all.

First Selectman Stevenson said that the particular section where Mr. Hegoney had been hit was actually in the Town of New Canaan. New Canaan will not be contributing to the sidewalk project unless Darien can find State and Federal funding.

First Selectman Stevenson asked if anyone else wished to address the Board on the issue of the Town Administrator's Budget. Hearing none, First Selectman Stevenson close the public hearing at 8:06 p.m.

### **FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT**

First Selectman Stevenson then read the following into the record:

- New Memorial Day Parade Committee chaired by Sara Franseze has begun preparation for this year's even. Thank [sic] the volunteers who have stepped forward to help the Monuments and Ceremonies Commission ensure that this wonderful Darien tradition will continue.
- Fireworks are scheduled for Friday, June 28<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- On Thursday 1/31, we had a partial activation of our EOC to help facilitate the recovery from the most recent wind/rain storm. We had 1100 CL&P customers without power at the peak and the utility was able to restore power to all but 25 by later that same evening. We worked very closely with the utility to clear several roads that were impassable as quickly as possible. Fortunately, no critical facilities lost power in this storm and school was able to open on a 90 minute delayed schedule.
- The Board of Selectmen's budget season officially began last Monday night with the Town Administrator's presentation of the budget to this board. We continued our process this past Saturday with a review of the larger budget centers. I want to thank the Board of Finance for

participating with us on Saturday and hope that this new procedure was both helpful and efficient.

- Gail Weinstein, First Selectman from Weston, and I will be testifying before the State Housing Committee this Friday on Behalf of SWRPA's legislative initiatives to modify CT Statute 8-30g. Gail and I represent a growing bipartisan group of community leaders who believe meaningful modification to 8-30g is needed.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

Mr. Kilduff reported that the administration continues their efforts to modifying the budget. There have been meetings with various insurance companies. FEMA will be back in town later during the week regarding Super Storm Sandy.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Cheryl Russell of the Park and Recreation Committee came forward to report that the Committee had voted to request the Selectmen restore the sand at Pear Tree Beach.

Mr. John Amatruda of Hoyt Street, came forward to speak about the issue of sidewalks. He said that he deals with various weighting systems and often there are way to change it subjectively. He then spoke about the current system and pointed out that right now, it is a fairly good time to move forward with estimates or competitive bidding. He said that there was a fiscal issue here and the Board needs to consider which is the best way to use the funds cost effectiveness.

First Selectman Stevenson asked if anyone else wished to address the Board. Hearing none, First Selectman Stevenson close the public comment portion of the meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Discuss Sidewalk Installation Policy**

First Selectman Stevenson said that it was important to both the Board and herself to come to some agreement about the issue and remove the subjectivity. Mr. Steeger was present to answer questions about the sidewalks. First Selectman Stevenson said that the seven projects that were under consideration were the ones that came to the attention of both the Board and the Darien Police. She added that she agreed with Mr. Amatruda about the ranking.

Mr. Steeger reminded everyone that Mr. Bayne had stated that if public safety was the highest priority, then the ranking system should be adjusted. That adjustment has been made. He said that the department has contacted SWPRA and the department would like to find more measurable criteria. The initial seven projects were reformulated with the adjustment.

Mr. Lundeen asked if the width of the shoulder of the road and the average speed of the vehicles had been factored in. Mr. Steeger said that he could measure the shoulders but he had no way to measure the speed of the vehicles. First Selectman Stevenson said that she had studied this in depth and referred to the State DOT regulations and formulas.

Mr. Bayne asked if the Town knew if there were incident where the driver was distracted by the pedestrians and had an accident. Mr. Steeger said that unless that was noted on the accident report he had no way to know. Mr. Bayne had several questions about how the data was compiled and the density of the census tract. Discussion followed.

The discussion then moved to the various criteria listed in the report. Mr. Lundeen said that he would like to know about the role of Planning and Zoning in this issue. Sue said that the Master Plan development was underway and she would bring it up.

It was pointed out that while there was significant input from neighbors who want the sidewalk on Hoyt Street, and some who were against it, but there had been little input from the residents at the other six projects. First Selectman Stevenson said that the group at Leroy had been in contact with the Police Department about getting a sidewalk through the established procedure. She said that she would ask that group to come to the Board to give their input.

### TRANSFERS

#### **Waste Management:**

#### **RESOLVED:**

**That the following transfer of appropriations is approved for referral to the Board of Finance:**

<b>FROM:</b>			<b>TO:</b>		
Acct. No.	Account	Amount	Acct. No.	Account	Amount
10704000-86600	Contingency	\$5,005	10405154-83012	Public Info Material	\$5,005
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,005</b>		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,005</b>

Ms. Dot Kelly came forward and to give a brief overview of the Transfer Station Advisory Committee request for funding the recycling program. A key issue is to have a leaflet with a good design. Funding for weatherproof stickers would be a bonus. The haulers have been very receptive. Public Works has come up with an easy way for the haulers to unload. First Selectman Stevenson had some questions about where the single stream recycling was going. Discussion followed about the details.

First Selectman Stevenson said that the original goal was to increase revenue at the Transfer Station. She said that it appears that single stream recycling has the potential to do that. She added that she would support that request, but felt that a bit more information would be needed on the sticker proposal. Mr. Bayne suggested that the graphic design portion move forward along with the newspaper ad, and that Ms. Kelly come back with more information on the weather proof stickers.

**\*\* MR. CAMPBELL MOVED TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF THE SUM OF \$2779.30 FROM ACCOUNT NO. 10704000-86600 (CONTINGENCY) TO ACCOUNT NO. 10405154-83012 (PUBLIC INFORMATION MATERIAL) TO COVER THE COST OF DESIGN FEES AND DIGITAL DOCUMENTS FOR A LOGO AND EDUCATIONAL BROCHURE (\$1,855.00) AND THE COST OF A ONE SIDED, COLOR NEWSPAPER INSERT (\$924.30).**

**\*\* MR. NIELSEN SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR IN FAVOR (CAMPBELL, BAYNE, NIELSEN AND STEVENSON) AND ONE AGAINST (LUNDEEN).**

**Pedestrian Signage:**

**RESOLVED:**

**That the following transfer of appropriations is approved for referral to the Board of Finance:**

<b>FROM:</b>			<b>TO:</b>		
Acct. No.	Account	Amount	Acct. No.	Account	Amount
30111014-908600	BoF Contingency	\$3,400	TBD	Pedestrian Signage	\$3,400
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,400</b>		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,400</b>

Ms. Stevenson said that she had been working with Lt. Anderson at the Police Department to create a high visible sign for those who travel Route 106. She said that she was working with the Town of New Canaan about the sign placement and that the final placement would be determined by the State Department of Transportation.

Mr. Bayne asked if there had been any progress on lighting on Hoyt Street. Ms. Stevenson said that the neighbors wanted an all inclusive project, but that she felt that it would be better to move forward with the simple changes such as striping and lighting. She said that typically street lighting is done on alternate poles, but there had been some concern about the wattage originally proposed if the lights are on every pole. The proposed wattage has been reduced from 150 to 75.

**\*\* MR. NIELSEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE REFERRAL OF THE TRANSFER REQUEST OF \$3,400 FOR PEDESTRIAN SIGNAGE TO THE BOARD OF FINANCE AS SUBMITTED.**

**\*\* MR. BAYNE SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **AGENDA REVIEW**

A question was asked about the Edgerton status. First Selectman Stevenson said that she was still waiting to hear a decision from the Board of Education. Until the BOE makes their request known, the Darien Aging Commission is on hold. Ms. Stevenson said that it would be the administration's desire to demolish the building if it becomes vacant. Mr. Kilduff said that the utilities will be totally shut down when the building is vacated.

Ms. Stevenson said that the Transfer Station Advisory Committee had been given the task of analyzing how the transfer station system has changed in the last five years and evaluating the business model.

### **APPOINTMENT/REAPPOINTMENT:**

Consider and take action on the following **appointment:**

**a) Eric Joosten to the Environment Protection Commission for a 3 year term beginning on July 1, 2012 and expiring on June 30, 2015.**

**\*\* MR. BAYNE MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF MR. ERIC JOOSTEN TO THE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION COMMISSION FOR A 3 YEAR TERM BEGINNING ON JULY 1, 2012 AND EXPIRING ON JUNE 30, 2015.**

**\*\* MR. NIELSEN SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Consider and take action on the following **re-appointment:**

**a) Amy Squyres to the Aging Commission for a 3 year term beginning on April 1, 2013 and expiring on March 31, 2015.**

**\*\* MR. BAYNE MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF MS. AMY SQUYRES TO THE AGING COMMISSION FOR A 3 YEAR TERM BEGINNING ON APRIL 1, 2013 AND EXPIRING ON MARCH 31, 2015.**

**\*\* MR. NIELSEN SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

**Regular Meeting of January 7, 2013**

**\*\* MR. BAYNE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 7, 2013 AS SUBMITTED.**

**\*\* MR. NIELSEN SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 7, 2013 AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Regular Meeting of January 14, 2013**

The following corrections were noted:

Page 5, **MOTION**: please change the following:

**FROM:**

**\*\* MR. NIELSEN MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD THE FOLLOWING ITEM TO THE AGENDA:**

Laurie Williams reappointment to the SWERPA Commission for a 3-year term beginning on January 1, 2013 and expiring on December 31, 2014.

**\*\* MR. BAYNE SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**TO:**

**\*\* MR. NIELSEN MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD THE FOLLOWING ITEM TO THE AGENDA:**

Laurie Williamson reappointment to the SWERPA Commission for a 3-year term beginning on January 1, 2013 and expiring on December 31, 2014.

**\*\* MR. BAYNE SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Page 5, **MOTION**: please change the following:

**FROM:**

**\*\* MR. NIELSEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENT OF LAURIE WILLIAMS REAPPOINTMENT TO THE SWERPA COMMISSION FOR A 3-YEAR TERM BEGINNING ON JANUARY 1, 2013 AND EXPIRING ON DECEMBER 31, 2014.**

**\*\* MR. BAYNE SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**TO:**

**\*\* MR. NIELSEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENT OF LAURIE WILLIAMSON TO THE SWERPA COMMISSION FOR A 3-YEAR TERM BEGINNING ON JANUARY 1, 2013 AND EXPIRING ON DECEMBER 31, 2014.**

**\*\* MR. BAYNE SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Page 5, paragraph 2, line 2, please change the following from:

“in view of the one month anniversary of this tragedy”

“in view of the one month anniversary of the Newtown tragedy”

Page 5, third paragraph, please change the following:

**FROM:**

Mr. Lundeen stated that he agrees wholeheartedly that his resolution is an effort on a small town effort to support this legislature in a bipartisan way.

**TO:**

Mr. Lundeen stated that he agrees wholeheartedly with this resolution and appreciates the fact that we have been able, in Darien, to support this legislative priority in a bipartisan way.

**\*\* MR. NIELSEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 14, 2013 AS CORRECTED.**

**\*\* MR. BAYNE SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

February 4, 2013

Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting at 7:45 p.m.

February 5, 2013

Planning and Zoning Commission Planning Meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Town of Darien  
Board of Selectmen  
Regular Meeting  
February 4, 2013

February 12, 2013	Board of Finance Regular Meeting at 7:30 p.m.
February 12, 2013	Board of Education Regular Meeting at 7:30 p.m.
February 12, 2013	Planning and Zoning Commission General Meeting at 8:00 p.m.
February 13, 2013	Parks and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting at 7:30 p.m.
<b>February 19, 2013</b>	<b>Board of Selectmen Special Meeting at 7:45 p.m.</b>
February 25, 2013	Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting at 7:45 p.m.

**OTHER BUSINESS (Any item added to the agenda requires a two-thirds vote.)**

There was no additional business to discuss at this time.

**ADJOURN TO BUDGET REVIEW.**

**\*\* MR. BAYNE MOVED TO ADJOURN TO BUDGET REVIEW.**

**\*\* MR. CAMPBELL SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services