

**TOWN OF DARIEN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 2012**

ATTENDANCE: 1st Selectwoman Jayme Stevenson; David Bayne;
David Campbell; John Lundeen; Gerald Nielsen

STAFF: Karl Kilduff, Administrative Officer

OTHER: Phoebe Cush, Jennie Beal, Cammie Kirby, Emily Combe,
Depot Student Governing Council;
Ms. Ellen Kirby, Exec Dir YWCA Darien/Norwalk;
Ms. Susan Coutermash Fieber; Mr. Charles Miller; Mrs. Carol Miller;
Ms. Laura Thompson; Mr. Dan Bianco; Ms. Alice Bianco

CALL TO ORDER

1st Selectman Stevenson called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.

REPORT FROM DEPOT STUDENT GOVERNING COUNCIL

Ms. Phoebe Cush, President, Ms. Jennie Beal, President, Ms. Cammie Kirby, Secretary, and Ms. Emily Combe gave their report on the Depot Student Governing Council. They thanked everyone for their support. They said that the student governing board meets once a week. The students organize events at the Depot for Darien High School. They work with the DCA, the Kiwanis Club, and the Darien Youth Commission. They organize the road race and the arts festival, among other events. This is a way to give back to the community for the support they receive. The girls also mentioned SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions), whose members counsel teens to make better decisions, and FIRP, whose members work with recovering addicts, as additional groups that are a part of the Depot Student Governing Council.

FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

1st Selectman Stevenson said she attended the Green Team's monthly meeting. She wished to publicly acknowledge them for their work, time and money that they give to Darien.

She also wished to thank Mr. Karl Kilduff and Ms. Kate Buch, among other Town Department Heads, for the Performance Measures Meeting held on Saturday, January 21, 2012.

She said that she will bring back to the Board more information on the revised Charge for the newly formed Advisory Committee on Communications.

1st Selectman Stevenson spoke about the Deer Management Committee, saying that they cease to exist as they have not come before the Board for re-appointment in over 6 years. She read the following prepared statement into the record:

“First Selectmen’s Opinion on the reauthorization of the Deer Management Committee

The Board of Selectmen must decide on whether to reconstitute the Deer Management Committee. While we are not here tonight to discuss and take any action, I want to share my thoughts with you.

First, I would like to publicly thank the members of the Deer Management Committee who have been dedicated to their mission of public education about and the management of deer through an annual cull. Many of our volunteers have dedicated themselves for years to this very controversial cause and have suffered repeated and unjustified personal attack in the press. The town truly appreciates your years of work.

After discussions with Town Counsel, members of the former Deer Management Committee, the town’s Health, Parks and Recreation and Police Departments, I have come to the conclusion that we can deliver this service in a more efficient way while eliminating the town’s legal liability created by the annual deer cull. I am by no means acquiescing to the public pressure from animal rights activists. I do believe that a carefully controlled deer cull is one of several important tools to address the all too numerous deer-on-car accidents, a variety of tick-borne illness and the damage that an over abundant deer population can cause to our natural environment.

I would like to propose that a member of the former Deer Management Committee interviews for a position on the Advisory Board of Health to provide a conduit for public information on the health issues created by an overabundant deer population. Further, I believe the town should have the ability, along with private home owners, to contract for a deer cull service when we feel that service is needed. Contracting for this service is common practice in many other towns and mirrors our current Parks and Recreation practice of contracting to eradicate geese in our town parks. I would like to add that the Green Team has given their consensus approval of this idea and welcomes the opportunity to help with public education initiatives on the subject.

I welcome constructive and tempered input on this issue.

Jayne Stevenson
First Selectman, Darien
1/23/2012”

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER’S REPORT –
PRESENTATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER’S PROPOSED BUDGET**

Mr. Kilduff presented the proposed budget, a copy of which is attached. He said that the past 4 years have been full of fiscal uncertainty, and the budget held flat for those 4 years. The Town responded to many challenges, even with reduced funding. Additional resources need to be brought in to continue the level of service. The Board of Ed's budget has grown 15% while the Town's budget has remained at 0. Operating expenses have a 4.1% increase, and debt service is expected to increase by 12.9%. Commodities and electric costs are down, while petroleum is up. Healthcare costs are expected to increase by 11%.

Mr. Kilduff concluded the presentation by saying that resources will remain limited, and \$3.3M has already been cut from the budget.

1st Selectman Stevenson requested to see a list of the items that were cut from the budget.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Discuss and Take Action on Approval of YWCA Darien/Norwalk Race Against Racism in April 2012

Ms. Ellen Kirby, Executive Director of the YWCA for Darien/Norwalk, presented information on both the Race Against Racism and the Push-n-Pull Parade. She said the Race Against Racism is a new event, while the Push-n-Pull Parade is in its 8th year. She said that both events have been approved by the Parks & Recreation Department and the Police Department.

- ** MR. BAYNE MOVED TO APPROVE THE YWCA DARIEN/NORWALK RACE AGAINST RACISM IN APRIL 2012.**
- ** MR. LUNDEEN SECONDED.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- b) Discuss and Take Action on Approval for the Push-n-Pull Parade on July 4, 2012

- ** MR. NIELSEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE PUSH-N-PULL PARADE ON JULY 4, 2012.**
- ** MR. BAYNE SECONDED.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- c) Discuss and Take Action on Assessment Appeal Settlements

This was tabled until the next meeting.

- d) Transfers

Public Works Department

RESOLVED:

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

From:

<u>Acct. No.</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1070400-86600	Contingency Fund	\$65,193
	TOTAL	\$65,193

To:

<u>Acct. No.</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>
10402144-82041	Fac Repair & Maintenance	\$65,193
	TOTAL	\$65,193

**** MR. NIELSEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF \$65,193 FROM THE CONTINGENCY FUND TO THE FACILITY REPAIR & MAINTENANCE FUND FOR EXPENSES RELATED TO TROPICAL STORM IRENE.**

**** MR. CAMPBELL SECONDED.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

RESOLVED:

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

From:

<u>Acct. No.</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1070400-86600	Contingency Fund	\$53,000
	TOTAL	\$53,000

To:

<u>Acct. No.</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>
10402144-82036	Tree maintenance	\$53,000
	TOTAL	\$53,000

**** MR. LUNDEEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF \$53,000 FROM THE CONTINGENCY FUND TO THE TREE MAINTENANCE FUND FOR EXPENSES RELATED TO TROPICAL STORM IRENE.**

**** MR. CAMPBELL SECONDED.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Kilduff said he would provide the balance of the Contingency Fund account to the Selectmen.

AGENDA REVIEW

1st Selectman Stevenson said they will have a review of the lighting project on Hoyt Street on an upcoming agenda, as well as another review of the charge for the Advisory Committee on Communications.

APPOINTMENTS/RE-APPOINTMENTS

Consider and take action on the following **appointments**/re-appointments:

- a) Vickie Riccardo to the Environmental Protection Commission for a 3-year term beginning on July 1, 2011 and expiring on June 30, 2014.
- b) Robert Vilter to the Advisory Commission on Coastal Waters for a 1-year term beginning on January 1, 2012 and expiring on December 31, 2012.
- c) Andy Matthiesen to the Advisory Board of Health for a 1-year term beginning on January 1, 2012 and expiring on December 31, 2012.
- d) Rachel Martin to the Social Services Commission for a 3-year term beginning on January 1, 2011 and expiring on December 31, 2013.

**** MR. LUNDEEN APPROVED THE APPOINTMENTS OF VICKIE RICCARDO TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION FOR A 3-YEAR TERM BEGINNING ON JULY 1, 2011 AND EXPIRING ON JUNE 30, 2014; ROBERT VILTER TO THE ADVISORY COMMISSION ON COASTAL WATERS FOR A 1-YEAR TERM BEGINNING ON JANUARY 1, 2012 AND EXPIRING ON DECEMBER 31, 2012; ANDY MATTHIESEN TO THE ADVISORY BOARD OF HEALTH FOR A 1-YEAR TERM BEGINNING ON JANUARY 1, 2012 AND EXPIRING ON DECEMBER 31, 2012; AND RACHEL MARTIN TO THE SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION FOR A 3-YEAR TERM BEGINNING ON JANUARY 1, 2011 AND EXPIRING ON DECEMBER 31, 2013.**

**** MR. CAMPBELL SECONDED.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Regular Meeting of January 9, 2012

The changes to the minutes of the January 9, 2012 meeting are as follows:

On page 1, under 1st Selectman's Report, 1st paragraph, 2nd and 3rd sentences, change "Kiki Carpen" to "Kiki Karpen".

On page 3, 2nd paragraph, last sentence, change "SPUR" to "Spur".

On page 4, the 2nd paragraph should read as follows: “More discussion took place about the charge of the new committee, and it was mentioned that the existing charge from the DGAT Committee is incorporated into the charge of the new committee. There was discussion with Jim Cameron of TV79 about whether there should be modifications to that portion of the charge.”

On page 4, change “Government Access Committee” to “Darien Government Access TV Committee”.

On page 4, under c) Discuss Hoyt Street Sidewalk Follow-Up, add “Director of Public Works” after Mr. Bob Steeger.

On page 5, 3rd paragraph, 2nd sentence, change “Mr. Joe Ouellette” to “Mr. Joe Auellette”.

On page 5, 3rd paragraph, last sentence, change “until everyone is satisfied” to “until further information is obtained”.

**** MR. BAYNE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 9, 2012 MEETING AS AMENDED.**

**** MR. NIELSEN SECONDED.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

January 24, 2012	Planning & Zoning Commission Public Hearing at 8:00 p.m.
January 24, 2012	Board of Education Regular Meeting at 7:30 p.m.
February 7, 2012	Planning & Zoning Commission Planning Meeting at 8:00 p.m.
February 13, 2012	Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting at 7:45 p.m.

OTHER BUSINESS (Any items added to the agenda require a two-thirds vote.)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Susan Coutermash Fieber, 566 Hoyt Street, said she is a Darien native and has lived at this address for 17 years. She is very concerned with the proposal for sidewalks along Hoyt Street because she will not be able to shovel snow or rake leaves to keep it clear. There are problems along the road with garbage, especially glass bottles. She said with or without sidewalks, tragedies will occur. It is a heavily traveled street which the police patrol regularly.

Ms. Carol Miller, 580 Hoyt Street, agrees with Ms. Fieber about the sidewalk concerns. Ms. Miller’s husband, Charles, says he sees a few people walking to the train station. He said the New Canaan portion of the road to the train station is the unsafe part.

Ms. Laura Thompson, 502 Hoyt Street, Mr. Dan Bianco, 514 Hoyt Street, and Ms. Alice Bianco, 510 Hoyt Street, expressed similar concerns as their neighbors did, and all were in opposition to the proposed sidewalk installation. A signed petition from residents along Hoyt Street was provided by the group.

ADJOURNMENT

- ** MR. BAYNE MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.**
- ** MR. NIELSEN SECONDED.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Marr
Telesco Secretarial Services