

**TOWN OF DARIEN  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2011**

**ATTENDANCE:** 1<sup>st</sup> Selectwoman Jayme Stevenson; David Campbell; David Bayne; Gerald Nielsen; John Lundeen

**STAFF:** Karl Kilduff, Administrative Officer

**OTHERS:** Chris Noe;  
Fred Conzi, Chairman Planning & Zoning Commission;  
Jenny Schwartz, Darien Housing Authority;  
Jan Pierret

**CALL TO ORDER**

1st Selectwoman Stevenson called the meeting to order at 7:50 p.m.

**FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT**

1st Selectwoman Stevenson said it was her pleasure to be serving the Town of Darien as it's 43rd 1st Selectman. She thanked the Darien voters who came out and voted for the 5 Selectman this past Tuesday. She said it is their honor and privilege to serve the Town. She extended a warm welcome to the returning Selectman on the Board and a special welcome to Selectman John Lundeen.

1st Selectwoman Stevenson provided an update on the potential referendum. Petitions were received at the Town Clerk's office this past Friday, and the signatures are expected to be verified by mid-week. The Board will then have a meeting to set a date and time for a potential vote if there are enough signatures to go ahead.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Chris Noe read from his prepared letter, a copy of which is attached.

Mr. Fred Conzi, Chairman of the Planning & Zoning Commission, offered his congratulations to the Board. He spoke about the Allen O'Neill project and the vote that is on the agenda tonight for an appointment to the Darien Housing Authority. He said that most of what will transpire with the project will take place with the current board over the next two years. He said the mandate given from the Planning & Zoning Commission to the Board of Selectman was to make sure that the project had curb appeal. He explained that they wanted the project to look like any other neighborhood in town. He said he feels that this is a great project on a lot of different levels.

Ms. Jenny Schwartz read from her prepared letter, a copy of which is attached.

Ms. Jan Pierret said she has been familiar with the DHA for 5 years. She said she has attended their meetings and understands the business at hand. She has an interest in being a commissioner because she is a neighbor. She feels that having a neighbor on board to insure the timeliness of what is going on is important to the project. She wants to insure that the project is the best it can be, and that things run smoothly. She said she has the interest to serve on the DHA because she finds it important to be involved with the community, as she had been with the RTM.

### NEW BUSINESS

a) Discuss and Take Action on Appointment of Board Clerk

**\*\* MR. NIELSEN MOVED TO APPROVE THAT THE DARIEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN HEREBY APPOINTS TELESCO SECRETARIAL SERVICES TO SERVE AS THE CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN.**

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

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

b) Discuss and Take Action on Appointment of Acting First Selectman in case of the temporary absence or illness of the First Selectman

**\*\* MR. BAYNE MOVED TO APPROVE THAT THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN HEREBY APPOINTS DAVID M. CAMPBELL TO SERVE AS ACTING FIRST SELECTMAN FOR A PERIOD OF TWO (2) YEARS IN THE CASE OF THE TEMPORARY ABSENCE OR ILLNESS OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN.**

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

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

c) Discuss and Take Action on Board of Selectmen Meeting Schedule for 2012

**\*\* MR. LUNDEEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2012.**

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

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

d) Discuss and Take Action on Approval of Improvements to Post 53 Premises per Lease Agreement

**\*\* MR. NIELSEN MOVED TO APPROVE THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE LEASE AGREEMENT**

**BETWEEN THE TOWN OF DARIEN AND THE FRIENDS OF POST 53, INC., THE DARIEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN HEREBY APPROVE OF THE PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO THE POST 53 FACILITIES.**

**\*\* MR. LUNDEEN SECONDED.**

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

**AGENDA REVIEW**

Mr. Bayne asked to have an update of the Hoyt Street survey results.

**APPOINTMENTS/RE-APPOINTMENTS**

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

- a) Jan Pierret to the Darien Housing Authority for a 5-year term beginning on July 1, 2007 and expiring on June 30, 2012.

1<sup>st</sup> Selectwoman Stevenson explained that this is a partial term.

**\*\* MR. CAMPBELL MOVD TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF JAN PIERRET TO THE DARIEN HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR A 5-YEAR TERM BEGINNING ON JULY 1, 2007 AND EXPIRING ON JUNE 30, 2012.**

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

**\*\* MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR (4) VOTES IN FAVOR (BAYNE, CAMPBELL, NIELSEN, STEVENSON) AND ONE (1) VOTE ABSTAINED (LUNDEEN).**

- b) Geri Genovese to the Commission on Aging for a 3-year term beginning on April 1, 2011 and expiring on March 31, 2014.

**\*\* MR. LUNDEEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF GERI GENOVESE TO THE COMMISSION ON AGING FOR A 3-YEAR TERM BEGINNING ON APRIL 1, 2011 AND EXPIRING ON MARCH 31, 2014.**

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

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

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

- a) Bruce Sargent to the Pension Board for a 3-year term beginning on July 1, 2011 and expiring on June 30, 2014.

**\*\* MR. BAYNE MOVED TO APPROVE THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF BRUCE SARGENT TO THE PENSION BOARD FOR A 3-YEAR TERM BEGINNING ON JULY 1, 2011 AND EXPIRING ON JUNE 30, 2014.**

**\*\* MR. CAMPBELL SECONDED.**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

November 14, 2011	Annual Meeting of the RTM at 8:00 p.m.
November 15, 2011	Board of Finance Regular Meeting at 7:30 p.m.
November 15, 2011	Planning & Zoning Commission General Meeting at 8:00 p.m.
November 16, 2011	Parks & Recreation Commission Regular Meeting at 7:30 p.m.
November 22, 2011	Board of Education Regular Meeting at 7:30 p.m.
November 22, 2011	Planning & Zoning Commission Public Hearing at 8:00 p.m.
November 28, 2011	Organizational Meeting of the RTM at 8:00 p.m.
November 28, 2011	Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting at 7:45 p.m.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* MR. BAYNE MOVED TO ADJOURN.**  
**\*\* MR. CAMPBELL SECONDED.**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Marr  
Telesco Secretarial Services

Monday, November 14, 2011  
Jenny Schwartz  
8 Saddle Ridge Road

My comments are related to agenda item 5(a), the appointment of a new Commissioner to the Darien Housing Authority.

I served as the Chairman of the DHA from 2007 until May of 2011. I stepped down 13 months prior to the expiration of my term because one phase of the redevelopment of AON was successfully completed, and the next phase was about to begin. The next phase, the relocation and construction, was expected to last about three years. I did not want to commit to another term, because I am in the process of starting a new company, and I knew I would be leaving the AON project in the very capable hands of the existing Commissioners.

From my experience, I understand what is required to be a DHA Commissioner. The job of a Commissioner is to help the DHA fulfill the charge and mission of providing affordable housing. Much of the Board's time is spent performing the duties of a landlord for DHA's two affordable housing properties. A Commissioner deals with housing policy issues and tenant matters on a day-to-day basis, and works with the State to comply with the affordable housing rules and regulations. At times, there are very sensitive social services issues that may arise. Recently, the redevelopment of AON has caused many to think of DHA as a developer. DHA is not a developer but rather has partnered with a team of experts to rebuild the AON site.

In order for the DHA to continue serving its mission and complete the next phase of the AON redevelopment, I believe there are several re-appointments that should be considered first. The Commissioners who currently serve but have not been reappointed are Jan Raymond, Joe Warren and Kass Bruno.

The AON redevelopment project will be closing on its funding in the near term, and the DHA enters a critical stage of the redevelopment; the relocation of its residents. The existing Commissioners have intimate knowledge of the families of AON. This knowledge will be key in implementing a relocation plan that is sensitive to the needs of these Darien families. Keeping the existing Commissioners in place will ensure a smooth relocation process. To leave their future uncertain, or worse, to replace any of these Commissioner at this juncture would be a mistake, and would send the wrong message to the public.

Finally I would like to comment on tonight's agenda item, appointing Ms. Jan Pierret as a DHA Commissioner. As many are aware from the numerous public meetings held regarding AON, Ms. Pierret has been an **outspoken** opponent of the redevelopment of Allen O'Neill, the Commissioners of the DHA, and the AON co-developer partner, Arthur Anderson. Ms. Pierret has:

- Spearheaded petitions to stop the redevelopment;

- o Created a facebook page called "Save the Fitch Home For the Soldier's Parade Ground", which opposes the redevelopment;
- o Written several Letters to the Editor in the Darien Times opposing the redevelopment;
- o Filed an FOI lawsuit against the DHA with respect to the 2009 CHFA funding application; and
- o Created and administered the [www.norotonheightsalliance.com](http://www.norotonheightsalliance.com) website, which opposed the redevelopment plan.

I would encourage you to read the correspondence over the last 5 years from Jan Pierret regarding AON, the Commissioners, the DHA, and Arthur Anderson, which are all on file in the Housing Authority office.

I firmly believe Ms. Pierret has the freedom to express her views about AON, and there are several forums in which she can do that. However, the BOS should instead reappoint Jan Raymond, Joe Warren and Kass Bruno who have the necessary experience to see this project to the finish line.

Thank you for your time.

Jenny Schwartz