

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

March 7, 2011

A special meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on March 7, 2011. First Selectman David Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. Present were Selectmen Bayne, Nielsen, Stevenson and Sullivan.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Discuss and Take Action on a request to the Board of Finance for a transfer and special appropriation for the BOE Central Offices/Mather Community Center project.

Mr. Bayne began the discussion with a question about why there were two amounts requested. Mr. Campbell relayed that he feels there needs to be a clear design prepared before the project is presented to the RTM and the initial transfer would cover the cost of those plans.

Mr. Bayne questioned why funding for architectural fees was being requested prior to an RTM vote since it was not done in a similar fashion for other Town projects such as Weed Beach and the new Darien Police Station. Mr. Campbell stated that he believes there is a lot of misinformation and controversy over this project that a clear architectural plan would eliminate.

The group discussed 35 Leroy Ave. Ms. Sullivan questioned a comment from Ms. Stevenson's Facility Utilization Highlights, February 2011 that stated: "The RTM disagreed with the exclusive use of the property for affordable housing." Ms. Stevenson responded that the RTM voted to purchase the property with a stipulation that a "Best Use Study" be completed. Mr. Bayne stated he sees the cost of purchasing 35 Leroy as part of the cost of the completed project. Mr. Nielsen disagreed and noted that the value of previously owned Town properties was not included in the projected cost of other projects such as the Darien High School.

Mr. Bayne expressed concern that the cost of the architects could run more than the transfers requested. Mr. Nielsen responded that the transfers have a "not-to-exceed amount" for professional fees. Mr. Bayne remains concerned that the costs would exceed the requested amounts. First selectman Campbell assured Mr. Bayne that the final architect contract will be for services performed only.

Mr. Bayne said he would vote against the transfers for the same reasons he voted against them last week, as did three Board of Finance members. He feels it is a costly project that is not in the Town's best interest.

Ms. Sullivan stated that she also intended to vote against the transfers for this project because she felt some requests for information were ignored or denied and that more options should be considered. Ms. Stevenson responded that there have been ample opportunities to review information in quarterly reports, performance measures and professional reports on senior activities/needs and that in the end; all information indicates that this is a common sense project that will solve problems and infrastructure needs. Ms. Sullivan believes the senior citizens' needs are being met through several organizations in Town among them: the Senior Center, the library and the YMCA.

Mr. Nielsen moved to approve the motion; Ms. Stevenson seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 3 to 2. Mr. Campbell, Ms. Stevenson and Mr. Nielsen voted in favor of the motion. Ms. Sullivan and Mr. Bayne voted against the motion.

b.) Discuss and Take Action on Bulk Pickup.

The group discussed the reasons Bulk Pickup was being considered as opposed to the traditional Town Spring Cleanup. Mr. Steeger, Director of Public Works, described how the Bulk Pickup will work and how his Department plans to make the public aware of the new pickup procedures. Mr. Bayne inquired as to whether private roads could schedule pickups and was told no. Mr. Steeger explained that by Town Charter Town vehicles are restricted to public roads.

Ms. Sullivan moved to approve the motion; Mr. Nielsen seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of 5 to 0.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Stevenson moved, seconded by Mr. Nielsen, to adjourn the special meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Linda O'Leary
Executive Secretary