

**TOWN OF DARIEN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2009**

ATTENDANCE: 1st Selectwoman Evonne Klein; David Bayne;
Callie Sullivan; Linda Santarella, Seth Morton

STAFF: Karl Kilduff, Administrative Officer

OTHERS: Andrea Sangrey, Manager of Community Development Services;
Murray Stegelman; Bruce Orr, Chairman of Finance and Budget

CALL TO ORDER

1st Selectwoman Klein called the Regular Meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1st Selectwoman Klein asked for questions and at this point there were none.

FY2009-2010 BUDGET PRESENTATION

1st Selectwoman Klein asked the members of the Board of Selectmen to go to the audience to watch the budget presentation.

Mr. Kilduff made his presentation on the Budget for July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.

1st Selectwoman Klein and Mr. Morton complimented Mr. Kilduff on the contents of the Budget Binder.

Mr. Kilduff said that the budget will be impacted for the next two years which will effect major projects.

He stated that interest income is down.

He made mention that the *Financial Times* reported CT at number 30 for the States that are struggling. This puts CT toward the bottom.

Revaluation is being implemented. State grants-in-aid will be down.

He mentioned that the Governor presents her budget in February.

Core services will be preserved. Many departments have reduced their budgets.

The oil commodities price swing has been good.

Library costs have increased.

The proposed budget increase is 1.14 % (percent), or \$433,592.00.

DARIEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN

JANUARY 21, 2009

Page 1 of 6

Protective Services such as police services have increased.
Library costs and Human Services also have contributed to the increase.
Capital expenditures will be reduced and Town is preserving existing assets.

1st Selectwoman Klein thanked Mr. Kilduff for a well prepared report. Mrs. Sullivan also shared the same feelings.

1ST SELECTWOMAN'S REPORT

1st Selectwoman said that the budget was a challenge.
On January 28, the Budget will be reviewed line by line for each department. They will invite questions from the floor.

She said that on Saturday will be a performance measures meeting which will take place all day. She had received many e-mails that in the past residents felt rushed and that not enough time was allowed for questions. She said that it will not be that way on Saturday. If need be, the meeting can resume on Sunday. The staff is not compensated for attending this session. Mrs. Klein said that a custodian will need to work and be paid at time-and-a-half rate.

Mrs. Santarella didn't recall meetings being rushed in previous years.
Mr. Morton said there will be sensitivity to questions from the F & B. He went on to say that if the session continues on Sunday, that it will be a weighty session.
RTM is invited to Saturday's meeting.
Mrs. Sullivan suggested a sign-in sheet be provided.
1st Selectwoman Klein said that allocating one day would not be insufficient, and suggested it go to Sunday if necessary.
She believes if there is constructive criticism, that is good.
Mr. Bayne suggested posting the Budget on the Town website.
Mr. Morton said that the Board of Selectmen's budget is available to the public and that it is a public document.

Mr. Stegelman suggested bringing soft copies of the budget to the meeting and not necessary to print in color.
Mr. Orr said that more dialogue needs to take place and now is the time.

1st Selectwoman Klein moved on to Flood Mitigation and that a final report will be forthcoming in February. She said that the drainage project is 50 % (percent) completed. She mentioned that flooding is not important to the DEP. Their focus is to protect the environment. She went on to say that homes, sewer lines, brooks, etc. are all important.

She also said that the RTM expenditures are way up. Snow removal costs are much higher this year than at this point last year.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Mr. Kilduff was complimented on his Budget presentation. He went on to say that under the economic conditions it was a hard process to navigate through.

The construction for the new police department facility has been halted.
The Police Chief should attend a Board of Selectmen's meeting.
On February 2, there will be a Transfer discussion.

Mr. Kilduff said that three grants were approved

- Senior Center
- Art Center
- STEEP Grant.

NEW BUSINESS

**** 1ST SELECTWOMAN MADE A MOTION TO REMOVE AGENDA ITEM
a) Discuss Land Acquisition Request by Save the Wetlands TO FEBRUARY 2
AGENDA.**

**** MRS. SULLIVAN SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

A follow up will be made with Planning and Zoning on the application regarding 305 Middlesex Road building. There is frustration among neighbors.

b) Discuss Affordable Housing Plan

A revised Draft dated January 27, 2009 was distributed. Mrs. Sullivan began a discussion about the Executive Summary on page 3 and the Policy Statement on page 4 that are in conflict. It needs to be re-written to be complementary. The language on page 4 needs to be changed.

Mr. Morton pointed out that in his reading the document there is repetition on strategies in several places. He said that the report needs to be tightened up. Areas of concern will be e-mailed to Andrea. Andrea said they will re-work the Plan.

Mr. Morton said that Exhibit 10 in the report is excellent. Mrs. Sullivan agreed, and said that it should be put on a Poster.

1st Selectwoman Klein said that there are no comments yet from the Planning and Zoning department.

c) Discuss and Take Action on Availability of Assessment Information on the Town's Website

Mr. Kilduff provided a memorandum from Tony Homicki, Assessor, on Public Access to Assessors data. Three towns assessment information are profiled within the report. The towns are:

Warwick, Rhode Island, Newington, Ct, and Manchester, CT.

Mrs. Sullivan liked Warwick's record details.

Mr. Bayne suggested that no names be listed for Darien.

While a picture will add interest, Mr. Kilduff will get a cost for property details with and without pictures.

Mrs. Sullivan believes photos are important. "It has assessment appeal", she said.

Mr. Morton agreed that a picture is a plus.

Mrs. Klein said that the municipality samplings in the memorandum were all good.

The Newington example had the most appeal.

Mr. Kilduff will report back on the cost of including a picture.

**** MR. MORTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE NEWINGTON, CT MODEL TO USE FOR DARIEN'S ASSESSMENT INFORMATION.**

**** MRS. SULLIVAN SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

d) Transfer

TRANSFER REQUEST

From:

To:

| Acct. No. | Account Name | Amount | | Acct. No. | Account Name | Amount |
|----------------|------------------|-------------------|--|----------------|---------------|-------------------|
| 10407011-82054 | Sewer use charge | 1,619.00 | | 10407011-82053 | Potable Water | 2,619.00 |
| 10401011-82050 | | 1,000.00 | | | | |
| | TOTAL | \$2,619.00 | | | TOTAL | \$2,619.00 |

**** 1st SELECTWOMAN KLEIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE ABOVE TRANSFER REQUEST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,619.00.**

**** MRS. SANTARELLA SECONDED.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

AGENDA REVIEW

- Budget Discussion
- Police Chief – February 2, 2009 meeting
- Affordable Housing Plan – clean copy

Mrs. Santarella said that the snow removal on sidewalks has to be managed. There needs to be better shoveling for the elderly.

There was discussion on volunteers to help with this chore.

Mrs. Klein said that shoveling could be a good project for Eagle Scouts.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Regular Meeting of January 5, 2009

**** MR. BAYNE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CORRECTED MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 5, 2009 MEETING AS LISTED BELOW.**

**** MRS. SULLIVAN SECONDED.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Page 1 – Add Absent: Seth Morton

Page 2 second from last paragraph – second line - a merger with...

Page 2 – second from last paragraph, third line - delete sentence ~~This will then dilute....~~

Page 2 – last paragraph re-do sentence to read - Mr. Bayne questioned whether Mr. Jacobs gave any consideration to merge Add sentence. Mr. Jacobs said “no”.

Page 3 Under Report from David Bayne

First sentence - reword - Entire construction costs including the bathhouse ...

Fourth sentence ... for the architects are \$27,500 to create design drawings.

Page 5 – fifth sentence - add ... Congressmen Israel & Shays.

New Business – first paragraph add last name ... he would speak with Fred Conze.

Page 5 Last paragraph Mr. Morton *suggested* the change - “The Risk of Doing Nothing”.

Page 6 third paragraph - ... report was one of urgency,

Page 6 fifth paragraph - The Town ... housing over the past five years.

**** MR. BAYNE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CORRECTED MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 12, 2009 MEETING AS LISTED BELOW.**

**** MRS. SULLIVAN SECONDED.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Regular Meeting of January 12, 2009

Page 1 – Add Absent: Seth Morton

Page 1 – Under REPORT, fourth paragraph ... if ready for DEP meeting....

Page 2 – Second paragraph from last under 1st Selectwoman’s Report.

There are concerns from residents on Flood projects that were not included.

Page 3, first paragraph – ...Kilduff answered in the negative as the economic analysis is already approved.

Next sentence to be deleted - ~~Properties are to be appraised....~~

Page 3, fourth paragraph – Mr. Bayne questioned the value of the \$9,000 cost before proceeding.

DARIEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN

JANUARY 21, 2009

Page 5 of 6

Page 4, fourth paragraph from bottom – Mrs. Santarella made a correction that the sentence “What If Darien Does Nothing?” on page 17 be changed to This was Mr. Morton’s suggestion, not hers.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| February 2, 2009 | Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting at 8:00 p.m. |
| February 3, 2009 | Planning & Zoning Planning Meeting at 8:00 p.m. |
| February 9, 2009 | Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting at 8:00 p.m. |
| February 10, 2009 | Planning & Zoning General Meeting at 8:00 p.m. |
| February 10, 2009 | Board of Education Regular Meeting at 7:30 p.m. |
| February 10, 2009 | Board of Finance Regular Meeting at 7:30 p.m. |
| February 11, 2009 | Parks and Recreation Regular Meeting at 7:30 p.m. |

OTHER BUSINESS

- ** 1ST SELECTWOMAN MADE A MOTION TO ADD A REPORT BY MRS. SULLIVAN TO THE AGENDA.**
- ** MRS. SANTARELLA SECONDED**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mrs. Sullivan invited the Board to the CARE (Community of Accountability & Respect for Everyone) Luncheon that will take place at Wee Burn Country Club on January 30 at 12 Noon. Author, Stephen G. Post will be the Keynote Speaker . He authored, *Why Good Things Happen to Good People*. His book will be available for purchase and will autograph copies at the luncheon. CARE’s campaign hope is to make a positive culture change in Darien.

1st Selectwomen Klein again thanked Mr. Kilduff for an excellent job on the budget work.

ADJOURNMENT

- ** 1ST SELECTWOMAN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.**
- ** MS. BAYNE SECONDED.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Hohlweck
Telesco Secretarial Services

DARIEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JANUARY 21, 2009
Page 6 of 6