

**TOWN OF DARIEN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
APRIL 18, 2016**

ATTENDANCE: First Selectman Jayme Stevenson; Charles Koons, Susan Marks,
Robert Richards, Marc Thorne.
STAFF: Kate Clarke Buch, Town Administrator;
Presenters: State Representative Terrie Wood;
Jon Zagrodzky, Chairman, Board of Finance

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Stevenson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the assembly in the pledge of allegiance.

PRESENTATION: State Representative Terrie Wood

State Representative Terrie Wood presented a legislative update on municipal aid, spending gap, proposed acts on revenue sources, unfunded mandates, cost-effective regional/shared services, energy efficiencies, public health and safety. (A summary chart of budget implications is included on page 8, and the full update is posted on Town website.)

Representative Wood fielded questions and comments and acknowledged those in attendance from the Board of Finance and RTM and urged all to take seriously the implications of the Governor's proposed budget cuts.

First Selectman Stevenson thanked Representative Wood for the presentation and called attention to tonight's agenda that includes an important discussion on the impact of the proposed reduction in state grants.

First Selectman Stevenson noted that all Town legislative representatives were invited to attend tonight's meeting, and only Bob Duff replied that he could not attend tonight or May 2 as the state Senate is in session. First Selectman Stevenson noted that Senator Carlo Leone had responded and was helpful with providing information on how the delegation is fighting hard to restore municipal and education aid.

Public Comment - None

FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

First Selectman Stevenson read her report and provided it for the record, as follows:

- On April 6, Jeremy Ginsberg and I presented to the League of Women Voters on affordable housing in Darien, 8-30g and the pending second moratorium application.
- I attended the Connecticut Council of Municipalities Legislative Committee meeting on 4/12 and the Council of Small Towns Leaders Day at the Capital on 4/13. I've provided you with COST's list of priority legislation. The Governor's budget proposal stripping Darien and 10 other Fairfield County towns of all ECS funding was the pressing topic in Hartford but want to point your attention to a number of other potentially costly mandates. HB 5262 (cancer assumption), SB 134 (PTSD for first responders), SB 221 paid family medical leave, HB 5604 (regional efficiencies), HB 5544 (consolidation of PSAPs) may all create additional costs to towns. On a positive note, there are 7 bills in the house and senate that aim at curbing the crisis of opioid abuse.
 - WestCOG is aggregating a list of unfunded mandates for the legislature to consider for potential relief to cities and towns in a compromise to the Governor's and sustained legislative budget cuts. A compendium of state mandates on municipalities can be found here: <http://www.ct.gov/opm/cwp/view.asp?A=2985&Q=383072>
- Publicly thank Darien boy scouts and their parents for helping EMD Marc McEwan inventory and organize shelter supplies at Darien High School during school vacation week.
- Bulk pick up by appointment is underway. Appointments can be scheduled between 4/5-6/8 for Tuesdays and Wednesdays by applying online through the town's QAlert system found on the home page at the Citizen Service Request link. One appointment per household per year.
- Friday, April 22nd is Earth Day and this weekend is our annual town-wide spring cleanup sponsored by the Beautification Commission and the Darien Chamber of Commerce. Work assignments, bags and gloves will be given out on Saturday morning between 8-9am in the parking lot behind Gofer Ice Cream. Rain date is Sunday.

Shop Local News:

I want to welcome the newest member to the Darien Chamber and local business community – the Darien Butcher Shop. Shop owner, Peter Crawford, was raised in Darien and is a highly accomplished chef and restaurateur and we are thrilled he's brought his experience and passion for great food back to Darien. The Darien Butcher Shop joins Le Boudoir, Performance Physical Therapy and Wellness, C2 Education and soon-to-open *The Bar Method* on the growing list of high quality retailers in Darien. I strongly recommend you join me in shopping and dining locally – this is the best way to help our downtown thrive.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Ms. Buch reported that the process to implement on-line services related to parking permits is underway. More information will be forthcoming at the next Parking Authority meeting.

New Business

Approval for the VFW to hold the 12th Annual Push 'n-Pull Parade on July 4, 2016

**** MR. RICHARDS MOVED TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION:**

The Board of Selectmen of the Town of Darien hereby grants permission to the VFW of Darien for the 12th annual Push-N-Pull Parade to take place on July 4, 2016, subject to the requirements of the Darien Police Department and the Parks and Recreation Dept.

**** MS. MARKS SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Darien High School Lights

First Selectman Stevenson provided a background on the item and noted that the agenda item is actually a discussion of a negotiated settlement with neighbors.

Selectman Marks read her statement and provided it for the record as follows:

On April 4th, at the end of our Board of Selectmen meeting, Mr. Richards gave us an agreement that he had been working on with a handful of Darien High School neighbors that contained guidelines for permanent field lights. As an elected official meeting and talking with constituents is a vital aspect of the job. Negotiating a set of guidelines with a handful of neighbors about Lights is totally inappropriate for a member of the Board of Selectmen.

Individual Selectmen are not empowered to negotiate on behalf of the Town, The Board of Selectman, Board of Education, or P & Z. Further, by presenting guidelines in writing, into the record without awareness of the first selectman or town counsel — could introduce risk to the town or future legal consequences and personal liability. Last year DAF came to the Board of Selectmen for an informal discussion about the lights. I said I was in support of the concept of lights. I am still in support of the lights and want the needs of the entire community taken into consideration not just 8 neighbors. The Board of Education and P&Z are the 2 Boards that should work on the details. Therefore, I will not discuss the specifics in the agreement Mr. Richards submitted to the Board of Selectmen. It is a non-starter for me.

There was discussion and comments from the Selectmen. Mr. Thorne noted that while the situation is one that has been frozen, he looks forward to progress and discussion at the appropriate time when the item is on the agenda. Mr. Koons stated that it is not in the purview of the Board of Selectman until the item is forwarded on the agenda from the Board of Education and Planning & Zoning.

Mr. Richards explained the reasons and his rationale for assisting with an agreement of compliance from the neighbors that does require the Board of Selectman to participate in the contract. He noted that he feels strongly on the stalemate situation and lack of progress and reported that a third meeting is coming up on the schedule with the Darien Athletic Foundation.

First Selectman Stevenson stated that she has met with Mr. Richards to underscore procedural concerns. She further explained that once P&Z receives the application from the Board of Education this will be on the agenda for the Board of Selectmen, and the Board will add its voice when the time comes. Also it was noted that the protocol for items to be put on the agenda is during Agenda Review discussion and agreed upon through the First Selectman's office.

Resolution Approving an Historical Preservation Grant Application

First Selectman Stevenson waived the reading of the resolution. Ms. Buch noted that the resolution is to authorize grant applications.

- ** **MR. RICHARDS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION AS PRESENTED.**
- ** **MR. THORNE SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SUBMISSION OF A HISTORIC RECORDS PRESERVATION GRANT TO THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut has established a grant program to aid local governments with the preservation of historic records and records management; and

WHEREAS, through the Town Clerk's Office, the Town of Darien is eligible for this grant program; and

WHEREAS, the Town Clerk of the Town of Darien intends to use awarded grant dollars to support the continued preservation of historic records by restoring two volumes of Darien's Land Records, specifically Volumes 55 and 57 dating to 1926 and 1927

WHEREAS, the Town Clerk has prepared an application that requests \$4,000 for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Selectmen wishes to secure such grant funding for the needs of the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Darien Board of Selectmen hereby authorize and direct the First Selectman to sign and file an application and contract with the State Library for an Historic Documents Preservation Grant.

Recommendations from EMS Study

First Selectman Stevenson provided a background on the history of the item and an overview of the deliberations over the past decade on the issue. She highlighted the McGrath Consulting recommendations for improved response times, including a recommendation to contract for in-town paramedic services. The issue of where to house the paramedic was discussed.

Mr. Ron Hammer came forward to answer questions and field comments on sleeping quarters and parking modifications. Dr. Gallo was in attendance and he came forward to provide his comments on the gap between desired services of the Town, Post 53 response time, dispatch, data collections and protocols.

There was discussion and consensus of the support of the Board to pursue an RFP.

**** MR. RICHARDS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION:**

The Board of Selectmen of the Town of Darien hereby agrees to develop and distribute a Request for Proposal (RFP) seeking provision of in-town paramedic services to the Town of Darien.

**** MR. KOONS SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

APPOINTMENT/REAPPOINTMENTS

Advisory Committee on Darien Government Access TV

ITEM WAS DEFERRED.

Parks & Recreation Commission

**** MR. THORNE MOVED TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENT:**

Mary Flynn to Parks & Recreation Commission for a 3-year term beginning on July 1, 2014 and expiring on June 30, 2017.

**** MR. KOONS SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Agenda Review - Item was deferred.

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings - Item was deferred

Discussion with Board of Finance Regarding Impact of Potential Reduction in State Grants On Proposed Budget For FY 17

Mr. Jon Zagrodzky, chairman of the Board of Finance, spoke regarding the impact of the proposed cuts. He urged the Board, and members of RTM and Board of Education in attendance, to recognize the importance of taking the action by the state seriously and preparing a budget contingency plan now.

He noted that the first step was to acknowledge and correct an error in BOE Priority II Capital projects, which were inadvertently included in the budget passed by the Board of Finance on April 7.

Mr. Zagrodzky stressed that his contingency plan took a balanced approach by deferring certain capital projects rather than changing the Board of Education's or the Town's Operating Budgets. The following provides a preview of his recommendation to the Board of Finance*:

Municipal Revenue Sharing Account (Sales Tax Sharing)	\$ 206,411
ECS Funding	\$1,111,472
Capital Projects Deferred:	\$ 802,500
Board of Education Priority II Projects:	
Track Repair:	\$100,000
Window Replacement at Holmes School	\$ 15,000
Library Improvements at Royle School	\$ 60,000
Reseal Parking Lines at Tokeneke School	\$ 7,500
Town Hall Generator	\$250,000
BOE Storage Facility	\$250,000
Carpet Replacement at Middlesex School	\$ 65,000
BOE Truck Replacement	\$ 55,000

The balance of the loss in state funding would be made up through an increase in the Town's mill rate, to 15.80 from the originally proposed 15.73. The resulting tax increase, compared to the FY 16 mill rate of 15.35, would be 2.9%

*Full disclosure and documentation to be provided at the Board of Finance meeting.

Adjournment

- ** MR. KOONS MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.
- ** MR. RICHARDS SECONDED THE MOTION.
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Knox,
Telesco Secretarial Services

Attachments: Legislative Update –
Budget Impact of Governor's Revised Budget for State Grants

HB-5044 – APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE MIDYEAR ADJUSTMENTS FOR FY 17

- Reduces Education Cost Sharing (ECS) funding by \$41.62 million from the original FY 17 appropriation and eliminates the hold harmless provision, resulting in significant reductions in education funding for 55 smaller communities;
- Reduces municipal aid under the Pequot Mohegan grant program by \$3.55 million;
- Reduces State Property PILOT payments, from the original FY 17 appropriation, by \$16.4 million;
- Reduce the Colleges and Hospitals PILOT payments, from the original FY 17 appropriation, by \$9.6 million;
- Restores funding for the Municipal Set Aside program, which the Governor's budget had proposed suspending;
- Maintains for FY 17 the \$20 million lapse in municipal aid associated with the Municipal Opportunities and Regional Efficiencies (MORE) Commission;
- Restores of \$1,153,793 in FY 17 for the Housing Tax Abatement program, which the Governor had proposed cutting;
- Restores \$8 million in funding for Special Education under the Excess Cost - Student Based grant;
- Restores funding for Student Transportation (public and non-public school), which had been reduced in the Governor's budget, but transfers costs from the General Fund to the Special Transportation Fund; and
- Requires the Department of Public Health to reduce, on a pro rata basis, payments to full-time municipal and district health departments in an aggregate amount equal to \$310,636 in FY 17.

Budget Impact of Governor's Revised Budget for State Grants

Grant	Darien					Governor's Revised Budget		
	FY2015 Adopted Budget	FY2016 Adopted Budget	FY2016 Expected	FY2017 BOS Proposed	FY2017 BOF Approved	FY2017 Governor's Revised Budget	v FY16 Expected	v FY17 BOF Approved
LOCIP	111,022	111,194	112,832	112,832	112,832	112,832	-	-
MRSA Sales Tax Sharing	-	-	-	246,849	246,849	40,438	40,438	(206,411)
PILOT Grant	101,875	108,952	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mashantucket Pequot Fund	7,776	8,858	9,708	9,265	9,265	9,265	(443)	-
Town Aid Grant	334,138	335,085	336,590	336,590	336,590	336,590	-	-
ECS (Educational Cost Sharing) Grant	1,616,006	1,616,006	1,372,149	1,372,149	1,111,472	-	(1,372,149)	(1,111,472)
School Transportation Grant	324	288	252	288	288	246	(6)	(42)
Total	2,171,141	2,180,383	1,831,531	2,077,973	1,817,296	499,371	(1,332,160)	(1,317,925)
				FY2015 Received	FY2016 Budget	FY2016 Expected	FY2017 Budget	
Excess Cost Grant								
• Directly netted against BOE Special Education expenditures								
• Amounts taken from page 91 of BOE Recommended Budget				2,839,907	1,800,000	2,409,000	2,300,000	