

**TOWN OF DARIEN  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
AUGUST 8, 2016**

ATTENDANCE: First Selectman Jayme Stevenson; Robert Richards, Susan Marks, Marc Thorne, Charles Koons

STAFF: Kate Clarke Buch, Town Administrator

OTHERS: Mary Flynn, Chairman of Park and Recreation Commission; Pamela Gery, Director of Park and Recreation Commission; Duane Lovello, Chief of Police; Amy Doering, Mary Louise Morgan, Erika Morris, Marc Ioli, Susan Daly, Dennis Conetta, Lorene Bora; Cheryl Russell..

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Stevenson called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. and led the assembly in the pledge of allegiance.

Public Comment

Cheryl Russell first addressed the Board regarding a discussion a couple months ago that took place with the Town Counsel to allow the public to speak at times other than the Public Comment section during a meeting. She advised it was difficult to give input before a subject was spoken upon.

Ms. Russell noted she was speaking to the Park and Recreation topic on the agenda. She stated that on January 6, 2014 there had been a discussion by the Parks & Recreation Committee of the RTM regarding the proposed purchase of 4 Short Lane and the suggested use of the property. In October of 2014, the purchase was discussed again by the Committee. Ms. Russell wanted to stress that there were ideas to create a nature trail, volleyball court, etc. and err on the side of “less is more”; that the land should be nature oriented and user friendly. She concluded with reiterating she wished in the future the public could address each agenda item as it came up in a meeting.

PRESENTATION – Parks and Recreation Commission

Mary Flynn, Chairman of Park and Recreation Commission and Pamela Gery presented on the study of Weed Beach expansion.

Ms. Flynn recognized the members of the Commission present: Amy Doering, Mary Louise Morgan, Erika Morris, Marc Ioli, Susan Daly, Dennis Conetta, and Lorene Bora.

Ms. Flynn advised she was here to update the Board of Selectmen on Commission discussions and decisions regarding the amenities to be included in the Weed Beach extension. She also wanted to gauge the Board of Selectman's support of a town public pool at the location, although it had not yet been voted on by the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Pamela Gery noted they were redoing the master plan and they could have a professional look at locations with a pool and/or splash pad in mind.

First Selectman Stevenson thanked the Commission for all of the hard work done to date. She thinks it wise to take pause at this time and address the town pool. There seems to be great support for a pool, but also a lot of feedback, particularly from neighbors, surrounding the area, that are concerned. First Selectman Stevenson asked if it was possible to look at other properties within the Town's control.

Ms. Marks said she would like to see a study go forward. She thinks an overwhelming amount of young families want a pool and doesn't believe swimming in a pool and the Sound are the same. She would like to look at the possibilities and then address financials.

Mr. Richards advised his biggest concern was building the pool in a flood zone. If a professional got involved, the architecture of what needs to be done could be seen. He noted that money is a sensitive issue and what makes Darien great is that it is fiscally responsible. He concluded with, the more information the better.

Mr. Thorne has heard from both sides very strongly and needs to know more about construction and the operative costs of the pool. He is in support of working with a consultant.

Mr. Koons advised that, with all of the financial demands currently facing the Town, he is not in favor of moving ahead with a pool now at any location. He agreed, however, that it would be prudent to obtain additional information concerning possible alternate locations, estimates of construction costs as well as operating costs, all as part of a Parks & Recreation Master Plan update.

Ms. Marks thinks it is owed those in support of the pool to look for more information.

Mr. Thorne remarked that people have spoken about needing a public pool in terms of the waiting list at the clubs in town. He thinks it is a community need.

First Selectman Stevenson said it is not a hardship to do all the homework involved whether this is moved forward or not. The Commission would then be prepared with answers for questions that would likely come up through the approval process.

Lorene Bora spoke that she is not clear on the next steps going forward. She was under the impression there was some urgency to use the property purchased a number of years ago for public benefit.

First Selectman Stevenson advised, if the Commission is ready to move forward, they should come forward with a formal proposal and ask for a Building Committee to be formed. This evening's meeting was for purpose of discussion and would need more information to formalize further.

Dennis Connetta asked if, when looking for locations for a pool, is it to be used year round or only for the summer and a 10-12 week period.

First Selectman Stevenson advised that the issue of the swimming pool utilization was not for the Board of Selectmen to answer, but rather for the Parks and Recreation Commission to decide. She also recommends they speak with the Board of Education about their needs for a year-round swimming pool.

#### FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

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

- Moratorium Application has been filed with the state.
- Public Works Department and the Recycling Center Advisory Committee submitted and have been awarded a \$20,000 DEEP Waste Reduction Grant to replace the Swap Shop Tent with a more permanent structure.
- Hoyt Street sidewalk replacement project is underway from Christie Hill to Heather Lane. This will improve walkability to Holmes School. We have a number of other Public Works projects happening this month....road repaving, gas main, Aquarion water main replacement and Intervale drainage. We appreciate the patience of our residents while we complete these important improvements.
- Kate and I continue our work on the contract for SEMS paramedics and a special permit application to P&Z for use of 701 Post Road as our paramedic station.
- We will defer a discussion regarding the Edgerton property until later in the fall when the Darien Board of Education district master plan is complete.
- I extend a public 'thank you' to Sharon Kells for undertaking a significant cleanup of the Noroton River Cemetery, started by Eagle Scout Alex Cohen. Sharon is a descendent of the Waterbury family and has the right to maintain the cemetery property. Our public works department was also helpful in removing debris. Drive by and take a look. The cleanup project and some very interesting history was the focus of last week's Darien Times, Life Times section.
- This morning, David Knauf and I met with representatives of the Norwalk Health Department and Norwalk Community College to discuss a possible bike route from the Darien Train Station to NCC. We will be meeting again in September and will be including representatives from Stamford, New Canaan, Westport and Norwalk to discuss inter-town connectivity for bike routes.

## TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Ms. Buch advised at their meeting next month, she hopes to have a completed report regarding the Pedestrian Infrastructure Advisory Committee recommendations. She confirmed the website is updated and live.

### New Business

#### Discuss and Take Action on:

- a) Appoint a Member of the Board of Selectman to the Consolidated Services Working Group

**\*\* MR. RICHARDS MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF MR. THORNE TO THE CONSOLIDATED SERVICES WORKING GROUP.**  
**\*\* MR. KOONS SECONDED THE MOTION.**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

b) Discuss Building Committee Guidelines

Ms. Buch passed out some information on the topic.

First Selectman Stevenson spoke to the idea of forming a permanent building committee. She has also heard the rationale for not making the committee permanent and would like to defer this discussion to the next meeting when the information can be looked over.

c) Discuss and Take Action a Policy for Scheduling the Former Children's Room at 35 Leroy Avenue

A copy of the Special Permit was distributed to the board. Mr. Richards commented he thinks this is a great idea as the Board of Education uses the room most. He asked how often the public makes use of this space.

Ms. Buch advised it does happen, but does not know the frequency.

**\*\* MR. KOONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST.**  
**\*\* MR. RICHARDS SECONDED THE MOTION.**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

d) Discuss and Take Action on a Request for a Special Appropriation for the Purchase of Body Cameras

Chief Duane Lovello, Chief of Police addressed the fact that this request was not supported during the last budget cycle, but since then a number of departments have deployed use and they are back for another request. Chief Lovello then read a statement on the request.

First Selectman Stevenson asked if the population who would wear the cameras included the Tokeneke security. Chief Lovello said they are not in the count. She asked what other municipalities have adopted the body cameras? Chief Lovello said Norwalk, New Canaan, Westport, the State Police and some State University departments. Chief Lovello advised all of the data would be managed externally. They did discuss storing the data in-house, but the amount of data is too massive and requires redundancy, making it impractical to handle ourselves.

Mr. Richards asked the Chief in his opinion, what he sees as the main purpose of the cameras. Chief stated that it was for investigative purposes as well as documenting actions. Chief Lovello advised the new platform contains 8 triggers that would activate the cameras, and will work with the current in-car platform.

First Selectman Stevenson asked what happens when version 3 of the cameras comes out. Chief Lovello advised that the equipment would be upgraded automatically

Ms. Marks asked what the back up plan would be were the camera to malfunction. Chief Lovello advised that during these circumstances there would be more than one officer present, making a multiple point of failure not likely to occur.

Chief Lovello concluded that in his opinion, this is a best practice move for the town. Mr. Richards asked how the officers felt about the cameras. Chief Lovello advised that the vast majority see this as a benefit.

First Selectman Stevenson then read the resolution for the public.

**\*\* MS. MARKS MOVED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST.  
\*\* MR. THORNE SECONDED THE MOTION.  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

e) Transfers

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

Ms. Buch confirmed these are all fiscal 2016. She gave a brief explanation of each transfer.

8/24/15

e. Transfers

**Employee Benefits**

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

**From:**

**To:**

Acct. Number	Account Name	Amount	Acct. Number	Account Name	Amount
10701001-82100	Medical Insurance	80,863	10701001-82108	Accrued Leave Redemption	102,685
10701001-82106	Social Security	19,485			
10701001-82104	Long Term Disability	1,715			
10704000-86600	Contingency	622			
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$102,685</b>		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$102,685</b>

**Post 53**

Resolved: That the following transfer of appropriations is approved for referral to the Board of Finance: Post 53

**From:**

**To:**

Acct. Number	Account Name	Amount	Acct. Number	Account Name	Amount
10305010-82049	Equipment Maintenance	4,898	10305010-82056	C-Med Emergency Communications	4,898
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,898</b>		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,898</b>

**Post 53**

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

**From:**

**To:**

Acct. Number	Account Name	Amount	Acct. Number	Account Name	Amount
10704000-86600	Contingency	31,099	10305010-82007	Paramedic Services	31,099
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$31,099</b>		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$31,099</b>

**Parks & Rec**

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

**From:**

**To:**

Acct. Number	Account Name	Amount	Acct. Number	Account Name	Amount
10601011-81002	Part Time	1,514	10601011-82007	Professional Services	12,734
10601011-81001	Full Time Admin	3,395			
10603001-81001	Full Time Parks	3,000			
10605001-82041	Facility Repair	4,825			
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,734</b>		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,734</b>

8/24/15

**Administration – Support Services**

**RESOLVED:**

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

**From:**

**To:**

Acct. Number	Account Name	Amount	Acct. Number	Account Name	Amount
10102021-82016	Mailing	8,253	10102021-82024	Copier Lease	18,450
10704000-86600	Contingency	10,197			
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18,450</b>		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18,450</b>

**Employee Benefits**

**RESOLVED:**

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

**From:**

**To:**

Acct. Number	Account Name	Amount	Acct. Number	Account Name	Amount
10701001-82110	Actuarial Services	6,000	10701001-82109	Unemployment Compensation	9,410
10701001-82106	Social Security	3,410			
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$9,410</b>		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$9,410</b>

**Risk Management**

**RESOLVED:**

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

**From:**

**To:**

Acct. Number	Account Name	Amount	Acct. Number	Account Name	Amount
10703611-82523	Blanket Accident/Fire	15,600	10703611-82521	General Property & Crime Insurance	3,362
10703611-82525	Worker's Compensation	13,322	10703611-82522	Boiler & Machinery	44
			10703611-82526	General Liability Insurance	14,802
			10703611-82527	Auto Insurance	451
			10703611-82528	Umbrella Liability	9,860
			10703611-82529	Public Officials Liability	403
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$28,922</b>		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$28,922</b>

First Selectman Stevenson suggested the Board approve all of the transfers in one motion.

**\*\* MR. KOONS MOVED TO APPROVE ALL TRANSFERS.  
\*\* Mr. THORNE SECONDED THE MOTION.  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS

- a) Discuss and take action on the reappointment of Susan Daly to the Parks & Recreation Commission for a three-year term from April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2019

**\*\* MR. RICHARDS MOVED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST.  
\*\* MS. MARKS SECONDED THE MOTION.  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### AGENDA REVIEW

First Selectmen Stevenson wanted to take a pulse from the Board about whether or not to ask the RTM for a more robust noise ordinance.

Mr. Richards advised he shares this problem and asked what the ordinance was currently. First Selectman Stevenson advised it is from sunup to sundown.

Ms. Marks brought up the Darien Fire Department horn, saying it faces the neighborhoods and could this be added to the discussion. First Selectmen Stevenson advised she believes it should be discussed but wanted to note that it is exempt from rules as it is for emergency and public protection.

First Selectman Stevenson wanted to give a public reminder that the next Special Meeting would not be on August 22nd, but the 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Regular Meeting of July 25, 2016

Mr. Koons submitted a change to Ms. Buch.

**\*\* MR. RICHARDS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.  
\*\* MR. KOONS SECONDED THE MOTION.  
\*\* MOTION PASSED WITH ONE ABSTENTION (MR. THORNE).**

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

August 22, 2016 Board of Selectman 7:00 p.m.

August 25, 2016 Board of Education 7:30 p.m.

Adjournment

\*\* **MR. RICHARDS MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.**

\*\* **MR. THORNE SECONDED THE MOTION.**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Leah Mink  
Telesco Secretarial Services