

**TOWN OF DARIEN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
NOVEMBER 21, 2016**

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

STAFF: Kate Clarke Buch, Town Administrator

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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

FRIST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

First Selectman's Report (see attached)
November 21, 2016

See attached.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Ms. Buch stated that the parking rangers had stepped up enforcement in the permit lots. A number of tickets were issued to people who had failed to add their new vehicles to their permits. She reminded permit holders that they needed to provide a copy of the registration for any vehicle they wished to add to their permit or they risked being ticketed. She asked that permit holders pay attention to the license plates listed on their renewals to make sure they were correct and complete. She also reported that the Consolidated Services Working Group would be meeting with Milliman on December 6th to review the report analyzing the Town and Board of Education's options regarding self-insurance and joint ratings for the groups.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Stevenson acknowledged the presence of Troop 53.

Discuss FY 2018 Budget Direction to Department Heads

Mrs. Stevenson stated that she felt the direction not to exceed a 2% increase for FY 2017 worked well and, based on current conditions, felt the same direction should be given for FY 2018 budgets.

Mr. Thorne agreed with the proposed direction. He also stated that if Department Heads felt confident that they can make some investments that reduce costs over the long-term, he wants to hear those proposals.

Mr. Richards stated that he thought 2% was a good target. He also stated that he did not want to stifle creative thought.

Mrs. Marks agreed with the others. She stated her concern about the uncertainty with Hartford. She stated that it will be a tough year to be able to give increases and that we it was critical that we keep the focus on long-term as well as short term.

Mr. Koons stated that Town is a small part of the budget. He voiced his concerns about the State and regionalization taking more of our local authority away. He stated that anything we could do for efficiency would be good.

Discuss and Take Action to Appoint a Member of the Board of Selectmen to the Blight Committee

**** MRS. STEVENSON MOVED TO APPOINT MR. RICHARDS AS THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BLIGHT COMMITTEE..**

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Discuss and Take Action to Authorize the First Selectman to Enter into a Contract with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for the Purpose of Receiving a Grant

Mrs. Stevenson read the following resolution.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FIRST SELECTMAN TO EXECUTE A GRANT CONTRACT FOR \$20,000 WITH THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

WHEREAS, the Town of Darien has applied for and been approved to receive a grant from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Board of Selectmen to accept this grant allowing the Public Works Department to purchase a new structure to house the Swap Shop; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Darien is required to complete a number of required forms with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to utilize the awarded funding; and

WHEREAS, the Darien Board of Selectmen wish to secure said grant funds for the Town; and

WHEREAS, it is the best desire the Board of Selectmen to enter into a grant contract with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Jayme Stevenson, the First Selectman is duly authorized to enter into and sign said grant contract on behalf of the Town of Darien.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The First Selectman is further authorized to provide such additional information and execute such other documents as may be required by the local, state or federal government in connection with said contracts and to execute any amendments, rescissions, and revisions thereto.

- ** MRS. MARKS MOVED THE RESOLUTION..**
- ** MR. RICHARDS SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Update on Senior Center Fees

Mrs. Buch provided the Board with a memo on the Senior Center Fees and gave a brief update on her discussions with the Senior Center Director. She reported that the Commission on Aging would be considering increases when developing their budget request for FY 2018. Board members briefly discussed fees and will await further updates if appropriate.

AGENDA REVIEW

It was requested that the First Selectman invite the Darien's State Legislators to a meeting. Mr. Richards also requested that the Commission on Aging be invited to a meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Executive Session November 7, 2016

- ** MR. KOONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 7, 2016 EXECUTIVE SESSION.**
- ** MR. RICHARDS SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Regular Meeting of November 7, 2016

Correct spelling of LeeLee Klein. Mr. Koons provided some grammatical corrections

- ** MR. RICHARDS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 7, 2016 REGULAR MEETING AS AMENDED**
- ** MR. THORNE SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Clarke Buch
Town Administrator

First Selectman's Report
November 21, 2016

- Congratulations to the victors of the 11/8 election...in particular our incumbent State and Federal delegation. I also want to welcome Jill McCammon and Tara Ochman to the Board of Education and Susan Gray to the Registrar of Voters office. We look forward to working with all of you in the coming year.
- Our LED streetlight conversion pilot is underway on the Post Road. You can view the proposed new lights on the Post Road, 500' in both directions from Renshaw Road. We appreciate your feedback by December 2nd. Please email or call my office or the Public Works Department with your comments. As a matter of information, the LED lights are 3000Kelvin in response to the American Medical Association concerns for public health from artificial light.
- Updates from the Monuments and Ceremonies Commission:
 - They've recently formed a cemetery sub-committee to help with the upkeep of town maintained cemeteries. If you haven't seen the extensive work done by Sharon Kells at the Noroton Cemetery, begun by Eagle Scout Alex Cohen, please drive by.
 - I recently met with the Monuments and Ceremonies Commission to discuss the cataloguing of town monuments. They are looking for interested and knowledgeable citizens to form a sub-committee to undertake this task. If you have interest in serving, please contact me and I will get you in touch with the commission.
 - On Saturday, December 17th, I invite all our residents to join us at the Spring Grove Cemetery for the Wreaths Across America wreath laying where we lay a wreath on each Veterans' grave. This is a very moving remembrance at the holidays for our fallen patriots.
- The Darien Human Service Department is accepting donations of toys and gift cards to make the holiday a little more joy-filled for some of our Darien families. If you wish, you can also participate in our Secret Santa program by "adopting" a family or a senior. For more information about the Secret Santa or gift giving program, please call or email the Darien Human Service Department. Donations of toys and gift cards can be accepted until December 18th.
- On Thursday, November 10th, Darien staff, business owners, elected officials, WestCOG, ConnDOT and UConn undertook a Road Safety Audit of 3 areas of our downtown. The process was to identify areas of needed improvement for pedestrian safety and traffic challenges. We studied the Post Road between Hecker and I-95, the Post Road in the Corbin Drive area and the Post Road between Tokeneke Road and Sedgewick. When the data is ready, we will present the findings to the Board of Selectmen and other interested groups. I want to thank everyone, in particular our local business people, for taking time to participate.
- We continue to experience significant drought and prolonged water emergency. Aquarion and the CTDPH are asking everyone to reduce water use by 15% inside homes and businesses. More information about ways to conserve can be found on our town home page link to the CTDPH.