

**TOWN OF DARIEN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 4, 2016**

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

STAFF: Kate Clarke Buch, Town Administrator

OTHERS: Dr. Tim McGrath, McGrath Consulting; Paul Guilbert, McGrath Consulting, Walter Casey

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Stevenson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. She asked everyone in attendance to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENTATION

McGrath Consulting

Dr. Tim McGrath the CEO of McGrath Consulting and Chief Paul Guilbert made the presentation.

Dr. McGrath said the report is not about deficiencies with Post 53. He said it is a very good BLS (Basic Life Support) service. Dr. McGrath said he did not find any deficiencies, but he did find opportunities to add to your team. He said the report is about when you want paramedics on the scene.

Dr. McGrath reviewed the current procedures when someone calls 911 with a medical emergency, including the time it takes to take information and transfer the call to CMED for Post 53 dispatching. Dr. McGrath said it takes Darien 55.29 seconds to transfer the call to CMED. He said the standards are 30 seconds.

Dr. McGrath also reviewed the average time for dispatch of the ambulance and paramedic, if one is called and the times for arrival on scene.

Dr. McGrath offered three future EMS Options:

- 1) Elimination of AEMT, no change in SEMS contract.
- 2) Hire in-town paramedic.
- 3) Hire in-town Paramedic under contract.

Dr. McGrath recommended option No. 3. Chief Guilbert discussed the possible costs of each option.

Ms. Marks asked what happens if a paramedic is out on call and another call comes in. She said the town would still need to call another paramedic from Norwalk or Stamford. Dr. McGrath said she is correct and it would be an additional cost. Chief Guilbert said sometimes the paramedic does not need to go to the hospital with the patient and this would enable the paramedic to remain in town.

Dr. McGrath opened up the presentation to questions.

First Selectman Stevenson said the report was generally excellent. She said she was appreciative and grateful for the things articulated about our dispatch. She wanted to know if quicker responses times translate to more favorable medical outcomes for the patients being treated. She said Dr. Douglas Gallo had stated that in town paramedics are not necessary.

Dr. McGrath said it is hard to determine. He said he could state that in his over 30 years of treatment people are alive today because of the intervention, but he said he cannot prove it. He said he respects Dr. Gallo's medical knowledge and his opinion, but does not agree with it.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Walter Casey 8 Webster Valley Road said he hopes it moves along quickly and it was long overdue. The 30.7% can be higher and he said it would be if it was being done correctly. Mr. Casey said from personal experience when BLS and ALS come at different times it delays going to the hospital and that is significant. He said the caller gets asked the same questions twice and it is as big a deal as the response time. Mr. Casey said Stamford Hospital has pride of ownership and they want to get more patients. He pointed out Governor Malloy is taxing hospitals and these folks are in a bind and getting patients pays the bills. He said he does not agree with Dr. Gallo and wondered why no doctors from Stamford Hospital are recommending we abandon SEMS and go to volunteer EMTs.

FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

First Selectman Stevenson said she wanted to congratulate Ms. Marks who was named Town Champion for her work at Laurel House in support of folks suffering from mental illness. She said we are very proud of her.

She said on March 23 she attended a legislative breakfast hosted by the Business Council of Fairfield County. Senate President Martin Looney, Senate Minority Leader Len Fasano, House Minority Leader Themis Klarides and Speaker of the House Brendan Sharkey were the panelists. She said partisan divide is wider than ever when it comes to fiscal policy.

On March 31, she attended a forum hosted by Director of Health David Knauf and Medical Director Dr. Caleb Moore and moderated by Mr. Jim Cameron on the Zika virus at the Darien Library.

On April 13, First Selectman Stevenson will join fellow CEO's at the Council of Small Towns Town Leader's Day at the Capital.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Ms. Buch stated Parks and Recreation won the first employee wellness challenge.

Ms. Buch said he met with the Chief of Police and Chiefs of Fire Departments about dispatch issues. She said the problems are not life threatening. The Fire Departments do have metrics that they will use to evaluate the success of the trial period with CMED. She said the hope is to start the trial in mid-April for a 30-day period and have results late next month or in early June and then have the funding removed from the budget and go to CMED

Ms. Buch said the town is going forward with the plan to fully civilianize the dispatch.

First Selectman Stevenson said she wanted to thank Ms. Buch, Ms. Pam Gery and Ms. Jen Charneski who really embraced the wellness challenge.

NEW BUSINESS

Discuss and Take Action on Tax Appeal Settlement

The settlement was from the case of 9 Old Kings Highway South, LLC v. The Town of Darien to amend the fair market value of the property to \$16,800,000 from \$18,861,900 effective with the grand list of October 1, 2013 in accordance with the stipulation for judgment.

- ** MR. RICHARDS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE TAX APPEAL SETTLEMENT FOR THE PROPERTY AT 9 OLD KINGS HIGHWAY SOUTH, LLC.**
- ** MR. KOONS SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Discuss and Take Action on Request for Special Appropriation for BOE Administrative Offices/Mather Center Building Project

The project had an overrun of \$1,150,991. Ms. Buch said this was partly the result a default of the general contractor and the bonding company. There were also additional fees for the architect and the project manager.

The Mather Center had hazardous material that had to be removed resulting in increased costs as well as other needed design changes.

Ms. Buch explained the funding sources for the transfer, including how the Town was applying a grant that was received from the State for the purchase at 35 Leroy. The balance of \$567,695 to fund the overrun will come from the general fund fund balance.

**** MS. MARKS MOVED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FOR SPECIAL APPROPRIATION FOR BOE OFFICES/MATHER CENTER BUILDING PROJECT.**

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
10811011-88811	Debt Service	401,932.54		31511013	BOE Central Office	338,670.00
31511993-43207	State Grant	181,363.46		31552013	Mather Center	812,321.00
10101011-49100	Fund Balance	567,695.00				
	TOTAL	1,150,991.00			TOTAL	1,150,991.00

**** MR. RICHARDS SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

First Selectman Stevenson said the outcome of this building project has been outstanding. She said the BOE is happy with their new home and the Senior Center is a model in the State of the Connecticut with over 1,300 members. She apologized to the taxpayers for the overage, but was proud of the outcome.

Goals and Objectives

First Selectman Stevenson recommended the members review and make any suggestions to her and Ms. Buch and they will put together a document.

Transfer

A transfer for hiring of a new staff position for Planning & Zoning was discussed.

**** MR. THORNE MOVED THE FOLLOWING:**

RESOLVED:

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

From:

To:

Acct. No.	Account	Amount		Acct. No.	Account	Amount
10704000-86600	Contingency	\$9,519		10201011-81001	Full Time Salary	\$9,519

- ** MR. RICHARD SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

REAPPOINTMENT

William Jessup to the Five Mile River Commission for a 4-year term beginning on July 1, 2016 and expiring on June 30, 2020.

- ** MS. MARKS MOVED TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENT OF MR. JESSUP.**
- ** MR. RICHARDS SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

AGENDA REVIEW

First Selectman Stevenson mentioned PIAC discussion and the issue concerning more parking for employees. Ms. Buch said Public Works is conducting an inventory of the spaces in the downtown lots.

Mr. Richards said all of the neighbors near Darien High School have agreed to have permanent lights installed subject to reasonable guidelines for use. He suggested the Board of Selectmen take a leadership role and review the guidelines.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Executive Session of March 21, 2016

- ** MS. MARKS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE SESSION OF MARCH 21, 2016 AS SUBMITTED.**
- ** MR. THORNE SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Regular Meeting of March 21, 2016

On page 2 second paragraph, Mr. Gentile came forward and spoke about the project “and the need to finalize the plan for town roads.”

Delete “and that this plan is being developed to be brought forth for a recommended plan”.

On page 2, change “Board of Finance/Board of Education” to “Board of Finance/Board of Selectmen”.

On page 2, change “Noroton Heights Center” to “Noroton Heights Shopping Center.” Add the following sentence. “Grant funding is being sought to create a left turn lane at the Noroton/West Avenue intersection.”

On Page 7, change “Board of Selectmen” to “Board of Finance”.

- ** MR. KOONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE AMENDED MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 21, 2016.
- ** MR. THORNE SECONDED THE MOTION.
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

April 18, 2016 Board of Selectmen 7:00 p.m.

April 18, 2016 Representative Town Meeting 8:00 p.m.

ADJOURMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

G. Venuto
Telesco Secretarial Services