

**Representative Town Meeting, Town of Darien
Town Government Structure and Administration Committee**

**Special Meeting to Discuss a Resolution before the RTM
7:15pm Room 119, Town Hall**

MINUTES – June 8, 2015

Present:

Frank Kemp (Chair), Lloyd Plehaty (Vice Chair), Caroline Luz (Clerk), Marli Hayes, Patrick Keane, Joseph Miceli, Clara Sartori, Bert von Stuelpnagel.

Absent:

Christopher Camuti, Eugene Coyle, Kenneth Fiveson, Harry McLachlin and Cecelia Mundt.

As a quorum was present, the meeting was called to order at 7:15pm by Chairman Kemp, who noted that since this was a Special Meeting, the topics of discussion would be limited to those specified on the Agenda.

The Committee discussed the resolution that would be considered by the RTM: "Revising Appendix B, Part III – Sec. 2 of the Darien Code" – relating to the rescheduling of RTM meetings in the event of inclement weather or failure to obtain a quorum.

Chairman Kemp reviewed the rationale for the change, recalling that in January of this year a series of snowstorms prevented the RTM from meeting to consider a contract that had been negotiated between the Darien Board of Education and the Darien Education Association. As a result of the Town Ordinances' current restriction (i.e. an RTM meeting can only be rescheduled for "the following Monday") the RTM was unable to meet within the 30-day time frame specified in the contract. As a result, the agreement became effective and binding at the end of the 30 day period, without specific consideration by the RTM.

The Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of the resolution that would give the Moderator the ability to reschedule the meeting to another date, removing the specification that the meeting be "the following Monday."

Mr. Plehaty moved to Adjourn, the motion was seconded, and the meeting was Adjourned at 7:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank B. Kemp, Chairman

Attached: Report to the RTM

Good evening - Town officials, RTM Members, Darien Residents and Guests. My name is Frank Kemp and I am Chairman of the Town Government Structure and Administration Committee.

At this time I would like to move Item 15-16 – Consideration and action on change to Darien’s Code of Ordinances regarding rescheduling of RTM meetings.

Without objection, I move to waive the reading of the Resolution.

At a Special Meeting held earlier this evening, June 8, 2015, with 8 of 13 members present, TGS&A considered and voted unanimously to recommend this item to the RTM.

As background: you may recall that the RTM’s January 26th meeting was rescheduled to February 2nd, due to inclement weather – a ripping good snowstorm. Then, one week later, on February 2nd, we were hit by another snowstorm, and that meeting had to be cancelled. We finally met at the next regularly scheduled meeting, on February 23rd. Well, just like school-kids, we all enjoy snow-days. However, a topic on the agenda for the two snowed-out meetings was the newly negotiated contract between Darien Board of Education and the Darien Education Association. This contract had been filed with the Town Clerk on January 6, with a standard clause that required the RTM in 30 days – that is 30 days from January 6th - to: 1) approve the agreement, 2) reject the agreement, or 3) “Take no action,” which would cause the agreement to become effective and binding at the end of the 30 day period – a period that began on January 6.

According to the Rules, which we are recommending be modified this evening, the Moderator had no choice but to reschedule the first snowed-out meeting for the “following Monday.” When that second meeting was itself snowed out – a third meeting was considered. However, that third meeting was not called, since it would have been beyond the 30-day time frame for consideration of the contract. In this instance the RTM was recorded as having “Taken No Action” – which resulted in the agreement, the teachers union contract, becoming effective and binding at the end of the 30 day period.

So, the purpose of this proposed modification to the Code of Ordinances is to resolve this problem, by giving the Moderator some discretion in the selection of alternate dates for a rescheduled RTM meeting, provided that notice of such rescheduling is given in a reasonable manner.

The TGS&A Committee asks that you vote “Yes” and ratify item 15-16 for the change to the Town ordinances that will present a resolution to this matter.

Thank you.