

MINUTES

TOWN OF DARIEN

REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING

TOWN GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

January 10, 2011

Present: Michael Burke, Shedd Glassmeyer, Frank Kemp, Joi Reiner Gallo, Spencer McIlmurray, Seth Morton, Diana Nizolek, Jan Pierret, Lloyd Plehaty, Sarah Seelye (Chairperson)

Absent: Preston Beale, Gene Coyle, Holly Kelly, Sam Schoonmaker,

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. With 10 of 14 members present there is a quorum.

1. Flood

Need a separate group to tackle all the issues

S. Morton presented overview of issues on flood erosion issues. Several reasons contribute to the stalemate of going forward with flood resolution including lack of definition on how to proceed, deflation of interest. Group suggested it should be parsed out to lighten the load from EPC. Group discussion concluded that further definition and clarification is needed from BoS.

2. Clarification of Pension Funding Language

Memo received from Nancy Markey, Dir of HR regarding the pension board. Change in number of years is requested. The change from 10 to 5 years of service for new employees over 55 for normal retirement. Rules requested this for March agenda. Warning with full explanation on the RTM rules agenda. N. Markey should make the presentation, then TGSA.

J. Gallo will chair pension subcommittee with D. Nizolek as co-chair. Will seek pension board for help.

3. Ordinance and Charter Changes

Letter to department heads regarding changes to ordinances and one change to charter. Sixty days until it goes to RTM but not time sensitive. Public hearing for charter will be in summer.

J. Gallo and D. Nizolek to follow up.

4. 2-32 Easements

Currently covers highways, sewer, this would add parking lots, sidewalks. BoS can accepting deeds and grants i.e. municipal parking lots. Discussion to add 2-32 Easements to scope of what BoS can approve without having to go to RTM.

S. Morton chair subcommittee for review

5. Emergency Powers

Charge to define an emergency. Researched other towns emergency procedures including Fairfield, Stamford, Greenwich, Norwalk, New Canaan, Wilton and Weston. Investigated how things are communicated and budgeted. Darien uses deficit spending. Questions arose:

- What is emergency?
- What is order of succession?
- What practices during emergency?
- How is it covered?
- How they work or recommended to work in town?

S. McIlmurray and H. Kelly chairing subcommittee. Will follow up with synopsis and update.

6. Leash law

Town council will handle. Next meeting will discuss further. Update presented to RTM in March.

7. Charter Revision

Suggestions provided by L. Plehaty.

Items discussed include to define super majority, typically 2/3, clarify what 2/3 means.

Categorize in group:

- Contextual
- Procedural
- Other

Group should re-organize the charter so it is easier to manage and understand. This should be presented in Public hearings in categories not complete charter. Re-org RTM schedule -

Move State of the Town meeting from Dec. to June

Continue charter revision section by section to create a new, organized and easy to understand charter. Suggestions on how to proceed include:

- Migration path to transfer from old charter to new charter
Present sections of old charter with
- Make charter changes effective at future date
- Started with an organization chart for document
- Present new charter in sections with redlined old charter for reference
- Require review by legal council to ensure bases covered
- Statement to RTM at March meeting to present general approach on the Charter revision undertaking

Adjournment: With no additional business J. Gallo made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by D. Nizolek. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm by unanimous consent

Recorded by Jan Pierret