

MINUTES  
TOWN OF DARIEN  
REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING  
TOWN GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC HEARING  
JULY 26, 2010

**Attendees:** Sarah Seelye (Chairperson), Eugene F. Coyle, Frank B. Kemp, Lloyd Plehaty

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 8:04 p.m. by Chairperson Seelye.

Ms. Seelye noted that the meeting was being broadcast “live” on Channel 79, and recorded for subsequent replay on Channel 79.

Ms. Seelye noted that the announcement of the meeting was published in the Darien News-Review of Friday July 16, 2010, and that its purpose was to receive the public’s comments on two proposed amendments to the Town Charter:

- a revision to the requirements for publishing the budget in the newspapers, and
- a revision to the procedures for purchasing, contracting and expenditures.
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She called on Mr. Kemp to provide the background and rationale for the matters under consideration.

Procedures for Publishing the Budget

Mr. Kemp reviewed the background of the request for change to the procedures for publishing the annual budget, citing the timing problems that had caused additional expenses in the spring of 2010. He noted that the language in the revision would be compatible with a change State law, if and when the State allows publication of this material on the Town’s web site.

There were no questions from the meeting’s attendees (there were two).

Purchasing Procedures

Mr. Kemp reviewed the background of the request for change to purchasing procedures, citing the implementation of policies recognized as “best practices” among state and town operations. The proposed revisions allow the recognition of factors in addition to the current policy of solely recognizing the bid with the lowest price.

There were no questions from the meeting’s attendees, other than a query from A. J. (Jim) Cameron, concerning Section 46(f) (3) – as to whether the section is “vague and open to abuse” and as to whether this would expose the Town to suits for slander from a rejected bidder.

Mr. Cameron’s question was noted and forwarded to Town Council for comment. (Note that Town Council subsequently replied that the paragraph in question is standard language in most purchasing ordinances and essential to the changes under consideration.)

There being no further questions, Ms. Seelye noted that the matter would again be available for public questions and comments at the RTM meeting, scheduled for Monday, September 27, 2010.

**Adjournment:** With no additional business, Frank Kemp made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Gene Coyle. The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 pm by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah Seelye, Chairwoman  
Town Government Structure and Administration Committee

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