

**Town of Darien  
Representative Town Meeting  
Rules Committee  
Regular Meeting  
Monday, February 22, 2010**

**Attendance:**

**Present:** Karen Armour, Liz Bacon, Marc Thorne, Gary Swenson, John Price, Seth Morton, Dennis Maroney, Mary Guimond, Mark Adiletta, Flora Smith, Mary Cleary

**Absent:** Joanne Hennessy, Anita Rycenga,

**Audience:** John VanderKieft, Frank Adelman

**Call to Order:** Ms. Armour called the meeting to order at 8:04 PM

**Approval of Minutes of the Meeting of February 8, 2010:** It was noted that Mrs. Cleary was absent from the Meeting. A change was requested to show additional comments from the moderator about the Tax Abatement Ordinance. Remarks attributed to Mrs. Smith were re-classified as general remarks in debate. Mrs. Rycenga asked that her remarks be extended to include reference to the need for a presentation of the facts at the RTM meeting. Minutes were then approved without objection.

**Reports from the Moderator**

Ms Armour noted that a cell phone tower lease, Holmes Boiler, and Tax Abatement would be on the March 15 agenda of the RTM.

**Tax Abatement Ordinance**

Ms Armour requested that items for Q&A for the Tax Abatement item be directed to her, preferably by Email, to be included on a list she will assemble. The purpose of the Q&A is to provide background and define terms for the debate.

Mr. Adiletta asked which towns have a Tax Abatement ordinance. He called for a summary of the background of tax abatement among Connecticut towns.

Ms Guimond asked if the item is an amendment to a prior document or a new item.

Ms Cleary asked what the procedure is if an RTM Committee wants to propose an amendment. It was noted that the committee could offer an amendment when recognized by the Moderator. Usually the Moderator would be notified in advance.

Ms Armour noted that the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen will both present at the RTM meeting, most likely in support of the Item.

Discussion ensued about procedure in Debate on the floor of the RTM. It was noted that the order of debate is:

- Primary committee moves Item and reports
- Secondary committees report
- Presentations by elected boards and officials
- Debate by the RTM body
- Debate by electors of the town

**Agenda Items**

Discussion continued about agenda items:

It was noted that the elimination of fees from The Code of Ordinances is not ready for the March 15 Agenda.

**Code Books** - It was noted that Ms Armour had obtained 13 copies of the Town Code books.

### **Tracking Tool for Pending Items (Attached)**

Mr. Morton introduced an Excel spreadsheet to be used as a tracking tool for Items pending before the Rules Committee. It was noted to add footer. It was noted to delete the Affordable Housing lease form the schedule. Also add 2010 Budget to the schedule.

### **March 15 RTM Agenda**

Mr. Maroney moved the following order for the March 15 Agenda.

- Board of Education Special Appropriation
- Cell Tower Lease
- Tax Abatement

It was felt the Health Department Code is not yet ready for the Agenda.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Ms Armour introduced a Summary of the Charge to the Advisory Committee on Charter and Code updates. Copy attached.

There was discussion on the progress of action on revising the Code of Ordinances. Ms Armour noted that progress is slow but steady.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Seth W. Morton  
Clerk