

Representative Town Meeting
Town of Darien, Connecticut
Rules Committee

Minutes

Regular Meeting, January 8, 2018
7:30pm, Room 213

Present: Seth Morton (Moderator), Patti Bumgardner (I), Jack Davis (II), Adele Conniff (III), Frank Kemp (IV), Joe Miceli (IV), Joanne Hennessy (V), Gary Swenson (VI)

Absent: Lois Schneider (I), Barbara Thorne (II), Monica McNally (II), Mark Adiletta (V), Ted Hawkins (VI)

The meeting was called to order at 7:33pm by Moderator Morton.

Minutes of the November 20, 2017 meeting were approved as modified by Swenson with seven approving and Morton abstaining.

Discussed and assigned committees for members appointed 12/11/17.

District III

Petr Marousek - Planning, Zoning & Housing

Scott Zimmerman - Public Works

District V

Britton Costa - Public Works

Fred Hebert - Planning, Zoning & Housing

Lindsay Kelly - Town Government Structure & Administration

David Martin – Finance & Budget

Motion to approve by Swenson, seconded by Hennessy. Unanimously approved with Morton abstaining.

It was noted that District V is now full and they had two more people than spots available when they held their caucus.

Town and Police Pension Plans (7 Pension Plans)

Jack Davis, Chair of Finance and Budget explained that there was no monetary change and that it was just bookkeeping. He said that over the last three years, Darien capped all their town related employee pension plans. Darien is still on a defined benefit plan. Greenwich moved their employees to a defined contribution plan about ten years ago. Darien has a few people that were grandfathered based on their position and the cap.

The first resolution covers the Police Pension Plan.

Public Health & Safety was assigned as the **Primary** Committee.

Finance and Budget was assigned as the **Secondary** Committee.

The second resolution covers 6 other pension plans.

Finance and Budget was assigned as the **Primary** Committee.

Swenson made a motion to move the resolutions and Conniff seconded it. It was unanimously accepted with Morton abstaining.

A motion was made by Miceli to set the order of the agenda for the next RTM meeting on February 26, 2018. Hennessey seconded it. It was unanimously approved with Davis and Morton abstained.

Other Business

District II had a caucus. Nina Miller chaired it and there were 30- 40 people in attendance. The district sent out postcards to all registered voters in their district and the district paid for the cost and the town paid for the mailing. They discussed a number of relevant issues in

Darien. Nina will give that feedback at the next RTM meeting. Kate Buch will speak on how the budget works at the next RTM meeting since we have so many new members. Jack Davis recommended we have a presentation on Solar Panels when Public Works is ready to present it.

It was noted that there is an upcoming important WestCog meeting on the Noroton Heights Train Station. It was discussed how they need to hear from us to so we can keep control locally in Darien. There had been talk about them co-oping a half mile around the train station. Jack Davis said that was shut down by SB1 two years ago but we should attend the meeting for more updated feedback.

Joe Miceli asked about the water supply. It will be put on a future agenda for Public Works to give us an update.

There was a lengthy discussion on term limits, guidelines to setting up committees, the document from 1992, the composition of the Rules committee and how other towns in our area do things. We discussed the difference with Stamford's steering committee and how our Rules committee is reactive but their Stamford city reps generate their ordinances. Frank Kemp volunteered to do a briefing paper to look at the occurrence of the RTM form of government within the state and how committee members are supported.

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:43pm by Swenson and seconded by Conniff. It was accepted by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Bumgardner, (standing in as Clerk for Mark Adiletta)