

DRAFT - MINUTES
TOWN OF DARIEN
CONSOLIDATED SERVICES WORKING GROUP
SPECIAL MEETING
April 29, 2015

A special meeting of the Consolidated Services Working Group was held on Wednesday April 29, 2015. In attendance: First Selectman, Jayme Stevenson; Selectman, Jerry Nielsen; Board of Finance member Frank Huck and Liz Mao; and Board of Education member Michael Harman. Also in attendance were: Dr. Lynn Pierson, Interim Superintendent; Mike Feeney, BOE Director of Finance; Mike Lynch, BOE Director of Facilities; Town Administrator Karl Kilduff; Ed Gentile, Director of Public Works; Betsy Hagerty-Ross, BoE Chairman and Jack Whitehead.

CALL TO ORDER

Frank Huck, as the Chair of the CSWG, called the meeting to order at 11:47 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jerry Nielsen moved to approve the minutes of the October 29, 2014 and March 2, 2015 meetings, seconded by Jayme Stevenson.

NEW BUSINESS

REVIEW OF FACILITIES MANGEMENT:

Karl Kilduff provided a review of the facilities management walk-through with the Board of Education that led to the decision to not transfer facilities management for Town facilities to the Board of Education but upgrade the town's part-time position to a full-time position. The Town and Board of Education will continue to cooperate on specific areas of expertise, e.g. energy benchmarking, and seek to mutually support each other one a one-off and/or short-term basis where possible. The Town is also seeking to consolidate facilities management, town hall, police station, town garage, and parks&rec facilities under the supervision of Ed Gentile.

The town and board of education are also cooperating on purchasing and bidding of projects where possible, and leveraging in-house expertise when available (e.g. Board of Education receiving support from Sewer department regarding ejector pumps). The upcoming paving projects from the Town and Board of Education are a current example of trying to consolidate bids and coordinate timing. The Board of Education is also working with the Town on reviewing green custodial supplies.

The current working relationship has been successful at various levels but that any further improvement would require cooperation in the initial or early planning phase of projects, from Sidewalk planning, to Gas Facilities expansion or future Town Garage project, through the formalization of a quarterly standing committee. A suggestion was raised to create a standing

quarterly meeting between Town and Board of Education to discuss and coordinate facilities related matters.

REVIEW OF HEALTH CARE DISCUSSION:

Both the Town and the Board of Education have been successful with their strategies of trying to minimize the increase of healthcare costs, the Town through detailed negotiations with their long-term provider while the Board of Education has sought to minimize increased through the carrier bidding process. The uncertainty of the proposed Cadillac Tax in 2018 makes any current longer term strategy regarding consolidation of health plans and/or self-insurance consideration difficult. It was suggested that a review of the town and board of education health plans be revisited either on an annual basis or when there is greater clarity regarding the Cadillac tax.

NEXT MEETING:

Frank Huck proposed to circulate a draft document summarizing the effort of the Consolidated Service Work Group to document the efforts and successes of the Town and Board of Education to seek synergies where feasible and provide a starting point for any future efforts, in particular regarding Healthcare changes that need to be revisited with the introduction of the Cadillac tax.

ADJOURNMENT

Liz Mao moved to adjourn, seconded by Michael Harman. The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Harman