

MINUTES  
OPC MEETING  
JUNE 18, 2015

First Selectman Jayme Stevenson called the meeting to order in Room 206 of Town Hall at 8:35 a.m.

Present were First Selectman Jayme Stevenson; Board of Education Chairman Betsy Hagerty-Ross; Planning & Zoning Chairman Susan Cameron; Board of Finance Chairman Elizabeth Mao, and State Representative Terrie Wood. Also in attendance were Selectman Susan Marks, Board of Education Vice-Chairman Michael Harman and Town Administrator Karl Kilduff.

**Board of Education**

Mrs. Stevenson offered her congratulations to the BOE on a very successful school year. Mrs. Hagerty-Ross also felt that it had been a good year for the school district, which culminated with the DHS graduation ceremony on June 16, 2015. Appreciation was expressed for Dr. Lynne Pierson and the other staff that will be leaving the district. Dr. Brennan begins on July 1, 2015 as Superintendent of Darien Schools.

**Board of Finance**

Mrs. Mao reported that the Board of Finance will take action on bond sales July 21, 2015. The Board decided to issue ten year bonds to even out the debt service. Mrs. Mao reviewed some points of the Town Hall employees' 4-year union contract, which the Board approved.

It was noted that Kathy Larkins, tax collector for Darien, is doing an outstanding job and that Darien's uncollectable taxes are extremely low. Finally, many small and big capital accounts have been closed out resulting in an additional \$198,594 to the Capital Contingency Fund.

**Planning & Zoning Commission**

Ms. Cameron stated that her commission continues work on the Town Plan of Conservation & Development. When the Darien Revitalization Inc. was making plans to renovate downtown, the Architectural Review Board (ARB) developed guidelines for commercial mixed-use properties and Mrs. Cameron met with the Chairman of ARB, Susan Lawrence, to discuss how these guidelines may affect future proposed developments. The guidelines are available on the ARB page of the Town's website.

Questions were raised about the development at the corner of Leroy Ave. and West Ave. Mrs. Cameron explained the background of that project including how the resulting five units of affordable housing were calculated.

**Selectman**

Mrs. Marks, at the request of Mrs. Stevenson, provided details on the upcoming Fourth of July fireworks in Darien. Fireworks information is available on the homepage of the Town's website under News & Information.

### **State Representative**

Mrs. Wood expressed regret over the June 3, 2015 passing of the State Budget which she voted against. The group discussed the budget (the amount of money to be spent) and implementers (how the money is spent). Mrs. Wood is deeply frustrated by the impact this budget will have on taxpayers and businesses this year and for years to come. A joint BOS/BOF meeting with Senators Leone and Duff and State Representatives Wood and Tong will hopefully be scheduled so that they may have an opportunity to present the rationales for their budget votes.

### **First Selectman**

Mrs. Stevenson reported that Pam Gery has begun her work as the new Director of Parks & Recreation and an announcement should be made soon about the hiring of a new Human Resource Director.

The Pedestrian Infrastructure Advisory Committee (PIAC) members are expected to be appointed at the next Board of Selectmen's meeting on Monday, June 29, 2015. The request was originally for a seven member committee, but with justification the Board may consider making it a nine member committee.

Mrs. Stevenson continues to work with Eversource to bring natural gas lines to Darien.

Over the past ten years Ingrid Gillespie has worked tirelessly with Communities 4 Action to address substance abuse issues. She has also devoted her expertise to the Human Services Planning Council and the Thriving Youth Connected Community Initiative. Mrs. Stevenson was honored to attend a recent ceremony of appreciation for Mrs. Gillespie.

Lastly, First Selectman Stevenson would like a blight ordinance to be considered.

Mrs. Stevenson called for a motion to approve the OPC minutes of May 21, Susan Cameron moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Betsy Hagerty-Ross and approved by a vote of 4-0. Terrie Wood abstained. Mrs. Stevenson called for a motion to adjourn; Mrs. Hagerty-Ross so moved seconded by Liz Mao and approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda O'Leary  
Recording Secretary