

MINUTES  
OPC MEETING  
December 20, 2012

First Selectman Jayme Stevenson called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m. in Room 206 of Town Hall.

Present were First Selectman, Jayme Stevenson; RTM Chairman, Sarah Seelye; Board of Education Chairman, Betsy Hagerty-Ross; Planning & Zoning Chairman, Fred Conze; State Representative, Terrie Wood and Karl Kilduff, Town Administrator.

FIRST SELECTMAN

Mrs. Stevenson reported that data is still being collected on the total costs to the town from Hurricane Sandy damage, but estimates at this time indicate costs will run about \$1,000,000. The town should collect approximately 75% of the costs not covered by insurance.

The town is entering into the budget process with some possible changes to the meeting schedule. It is believed that the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance members would benefit from some combined meetings to avoid repetition and add clarification on budget discussions.

The First Selectman has been in close contact with Dr. Falcone, Superintendent of Schools and Duane Lovello, Police Chief, to discuss the safety of our schools in light of the tragic events last week in Newtown, CT. A police presence at each school was put in place for the pre-vacation week. The library has put together a list of resources to help parents and children deal with the emotional aftermath of the shootings. Mrs. Stevenson stated that that information will be posted on the Town's website. Mrs. Wood noted that on the State level, additional funding is being allocated to support mental health counseling in the Newtown area.

Finally, Mrs. Stevenson said that the community prayer service held on December, 19, 2012 at the First Congregational Church was an opportunity for residents to come together in support each other and those affected by the Newtown, CT shootings.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mrs. Hagerty-Ross mentioned that Dr. Falcone's email messages after the Newtown shootings were well received by parents. A staff meeting was held first thing Monday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, to allow teachers the opportunity to review procedures and prepare for students' reactions to the tragedy. Also, the staff recognizes that some students may find it difficult to return to school after the holiday break. The schools are prepared to support students in whatever manner may be needed. Facilities director, Mike Lynch, plans to review schools' security systems and suggest any changes that may be effective in making schools safer. If suggestions are made, they will be reflected in the Board of Education budget. The BOE budget meetings begin on January 3, 2013.

A new Facilities and Capital Expenditures Committee has been created and some items on its immediate agenda include: consideration of the Edgerton property for school use, safety at the schools and options for new facilities.

Finally, she noted that there is a continued push for additional turf fields, especially at the high school.

#### PLANNING & ZONING CHAIRMAN

Mr. Conze suggested that the Board of Education use the director of Planning & Zoning, Jeremy Ginsberg, as an advisor to ongoing and new building projects.

Eight or nine applications for building projects in Noroton Bay should be processed in the next two months.

The results of the Stefanoni case on Hoyt Street are expected later today.

#### RTM

Mrs. Sarah Seelye was pleased with the State of the Town meeting that was held on December 10, 2012. She mentioned the possibility of extending an invitation to Terrie Wood to speak at next year's meeting.

Mrs. Seelye will ask members of the RTM to follow BOE facilities meetings on TV 79 so they may be informed about decisions they may be asked to make.

Lastly, it was announced that the large budget books will be available to RTM members on-line. Hard copies may be requested.

#### STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Mrs. Wood communicated that due to a bi-partisan effort some progress is being made on the State's deficit reduction plan. She discussed some of the items in the State's budget that will be affected by the reduction plan. One noted portion of the budget that received its first slight increase in funding in five years is community based social services.

The new legislative session begins on January 9, 2013. Mrs. Wood has been named the Ranking Member on Social Services; she will also serve on the Appropriations Committee and the Regulations Review Committee (reviews legislation that may impact our area).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:03 a.m.  
The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 17, 2012 at 8:30 a.m. in Room 206.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda O'Leary  
Recording Secretary