

MINUTES
OPC MEETING
April 17, 2011

First Selectman David Campbell called the meeting to order at 8:09 a.m. in Room 206 at Town Hall.

Present were First Selectman, David Campbell; Selectman, Jerry Nielsen, Board of Education Chairman, Kim Westcott; Board of Finance Chairman, Liz Mao; Planning & Zoning Commission Chairman, Fred Conze; RTM Moderator, Karen Armour and Town Administrator, Karl Kilduff.

Board of Finance

Ms. Mao stated that the Board of Finance had passed the Town budget and it would be voted on by the RTM at its next meeting scheduled for May 9, 2011. In the budget was a recommendation to partially fund the BOE deficit by drawing down the special education contingency fund reserve. Ms. Westcott complimented the Board of Finance on having the foresight to create a contingency fund and for taking the initiative to use the fund at this time. The feedback on the budget that Ms. Mao has received from residents thus far has been positive.

Ms. Mao attended a meeting of the Police Department Building Committee on April 20, 2011 and was impressed with how smoothly the committee is running the project. They are on budget and on schedule at this point. She also praised Mr. Nielsen for the support the project has received from Nielsen's.

RTM Representative

Ms. Armour stated that the Parks and Recreation Commission will hold a public hearing on the dogs issue in two weeks. Recent compromises have been reached between the parties that will be considered at the hearing.

Ms. Armour noted that some of the items on the RTM agenda for May 9, 2011 are: the budget, fees, the BOE deficit and acceptance of the fitness trail gift for Weed Beach.

Board of Education

Ms. Westcott mentioned that special education costs remain an unknown for next year. There was some discussion of fuel costs for the schools and finally, Ms. Westcott stated that teacher negotiations begin in August.

Planning & Zoning Board

Mr. Conze conveyed that a group of representatives from Darien including: David Campbell, Town attorneys, members of Planning & Zoning Commission and the Planning & Zoning Department had been in court to address the proposed development at the corner of Leroy Ave. and West Ave. They have met with Judge Levine to convey a development plan which would allow for increased density as long as all other zoning codes were adhered to. A court date has been set for January on this matter.

First Selectman

Mr. Campbell mentioned that he has made several trips recently to Hartford to attend meetings on Affordable Housing and the State budget. There is hope that by working together with the many communities throughout the State that are being adversely affected by 8-30g that an amendment agreement can be reached.

Funding for Town fireworks is in place and the committee is hoping that the Firemen's Foundation will agree to run the fireworks. The fireworks company plans to run a test of fireworks at the DHS site in May on an evening to be determined.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 19, 2011 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 206.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda O'Leary
Recording Secretary