

MINUTES
OPC MEETING
MARCH 19, 2010

First Selectman David Campbell called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. in Room 206 at Town Hall.

Present were Selectman, David Campbell; Selectman, Jayme Stevenson, Selectman, Jerry Nielsen, RTM Moderator, Karen Armour; Board of Finance Chairman, Murry Stegelmann, and Board of Education Chairman, Kim Westcott.

Board of Education

Mrs. Westcott stated that the Board of Education is in the beginning stages of its search for a new School Superintendent. There is an online survey that they are asking people to complete by March 25, 2010. Two days of focus groups are planned for the end of March to assist the BOE in determining an updated list of credentials for the new Superintendent.

Additionally, she noted that the Principal of Royle School, Neal Gallup, will be retiring and Keith Margolus, the current Assistant Principal of Ox Ridge, will be the new Principal for Royle School starting on July 1, 2010.

Also discussed was storm damage at the schools. Mrs. Westcott commented that she appreciated the regular updates on conditions during the school closures and the crews that worked hard to get the schools reopened including: Public Works, CL&P, and the Police Department.

Mrs. Westcott mentioned that the BOE remains concerned about the Special Education budget and the cost of Burden of Proof. Also, it was stated that Don Fiftal, the Superintendent has put a freeze on purchasing- even on purchases that have been encumbered.

Representative Town Meeting

Moderator Armour discussed the full RTM meeting that took place at Town Hall on March 15, 2010. It was attended by 65 RTM members and all the items discussed were passed. Among the items passed were Health Codes, the Cell Tower Lease and moving items from ordinances into regulations.

She requested that anyone with items to be addressed by the RTM should consider getting them onto the agenda for the May 10th RTM meeting. At that meeting, one item Mrs. Armour hopes to have on the agenda will be to get fees and fines out of ordinances and into regulations.

Board of Finance

Mr. Stegelmann stated he would like to see the RTM give authority to the Board of Finance to reissue bonds without RTM approval if a better rate is available. He advised that the money to cover storm cleanup will come from a contingency fund.

He recommended the Police Department move from a two year to three year turn-in cycle on police vehicles. He noted that there should be some thought given to which car company/vehicle will replace Ford Crown Victorias, which are no longer being built.

Additionally, Mr. Stegelmann discussed the Education Cost Sharing grant and stimulus funds directed to the Town for education. He suggested that the Board of Education and Board of Selectmen look into the cost benefits of self insurance for employees. Mrs. Westcott mentioned that there would not be enough time to consider it for this year but possibly for next year.

First Selectman David M. Campbell

Mr. Campbell confirmed that the need to prioritize capital expenditure projects is on the agenda for the next Board of Selectmen's meeting, March 22, 2010. Building costs and bond rates may make a new Police Station a more feasible building project than previously determined. Mrs. Stevenson commented that during the storm the Police Department sometimes had four or five officers working in two man stations.

Earlier in the month, Mr. Campbell hosted a First Selectmen's Luncheon where he conversed with fourteen local officials from Fairfield County about how they are addressing like problems and goals.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 15, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 206.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda O'Leary
Recording Secretary