

MINUTES  
OPC MEETING  
September 16, 2010

First Selectman David Campbell called the meeting to order at 8:06 a.m. in Room 206 at Town Hall.

Present were First Selectman, David M. Campbell; Selectman, Gerald Nielsen, Jr.; Selectman, Jayme Stevenson; Superintendent of Schools, Stephen Falcone; Board of Education Chairman, Kim Westcott; Board of Finance member, Liz Mao; State Representative, Terrie Wood; Director of P & Z, Jeremy Ginsberg; RTM Representative, Mary Guimond.

**Planning & Zoning**

Mr. Ginsberg stated that the YMCA has received approval from the Planning and Zoning Commission to build a gymnastics center at its Post Road location. October 2<sup>nd</sup> is the deadline for neighbors to appeal the decision. If no appeal is made, the work is scheduled to begin in January and should be completed in two years.

Additionally, the Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on September 28<sup>th</sup> on a proposed Mini dealership to occupy the space previously occupied by the Cookhouse Restaurant. An application for a deck at Giovanni's was denied last night by the Zoning Board of Appeals.

The P&Z Department has spent time dealing with two projects brought forth by the Stefanonis. One of those projects is a proposed development at the corner of Tokeneke Road and Pheasant Run. The P&Z Commission will look to the Board of Finance for funds to complete any consultant reviews that may be needed in response to this project and public hearings regarding the development will be scheduled for October, November and/or December.

Mr. Ginsberg discussed the Department of Justice inquiry of Darien's Inclusionary Zoning Regulations. Darien expects to hear from the State DECD on its moratorium application in October and remains hopeful that the Town will meet the required points for a moratorium. Mr. Campbell noted that out of over 130 communities across the state not exempt from 8-30G, Darien is one of only four or five to submit an application for a moratorium.

At 8:13 a.m., Representative Wood arrived.

**Board of Education**

Dr. Stephen Falcone conveyed that the start of the school year went very well. He credited this in part to the well established school principals working throughout the district. A slightly higher enrollment than was projected required moving a teacher from Holmes to Royle, but no additional teachers needed to be hired to cover the increased student population. Some usual start-of-year school bus issues were addressed by various staff members because the position of Transportation Coordinator was eliminated.

Dr. Falcone mentioned that the capital projects in the schools went well. One project was a new boiler at Holmes and another was the renovation of space at the high school to create three additional classrooms. Finally, Dr. Falcone expressed enthusiasm for the new Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Matthew Byrnes, who is scheduled to begin working for Darien in early October.

At 8:30 a.m., Dr. Falcone left to attend another meeting.

Ms. Westcott commented that it will benefit the Board of Education to have a pool in town that can be used by students and will satisfy Title IX requirements. It was also noted that the Board of Education is in negotiations with representatives of several employee groups.

### **RTM Representative**

Ms. Guimond mentioned that the Town Government Structure and Administration (TGS&A) has done a good job of “cleaning up” ordinances. Some charter changes will also be considered at the Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> RTM meeting.

Ms. Guimond conveyed what information she felt the RTM members would be looking for, and needed, to help them make their decision about proposed Senior/Community Center and BOE moves. The BOS will make a presentation at the September 27<sup>th</sup> RTM meeting and address the concerns relayed by Ms. Guimond.

### **State Representative**

Terrie Wood informed the OPC members that the new session begins in January and that the State has a projected deficit of 3.5 billion dollars.

### **Board of Finance**

Ms. Mao stated that the Board of Finance took care of basic transfers and such during its August meeting. She also commented that the BOF has talked about the Weed Beach building project but has not come to a decision about the project yet. Ms. Mao expressed a desire to have BOS members come to a BOF meeting to discuss capital project expenditures.

### **First Selectman**

Mr. Campbell announced that he has proposed two additional candidates, Dot Kelly and Rocco Genovese, to serve on the Police Department Building Committee as community representatives.

The Board of Selectmen will vote on Monday, September 20, 2010 to request \$275,000 from the Board of Finance for architectural plans for the BOE and Senior/Community Center spaces.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 21, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 206. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda O’Leary  
Recording Secretary