

MINUTES
OPC MEETING
December 16, 2010

First Selectman David Campbell called the meeting to order at 8:12 a.m. in Room 206 at Town Hall.

Present were First Selectman, David M. Campbell; Selectman, Jayme Stevenson; Board of Education Chairman, Kim Westcott; Board of Finance Chairman, Liz Mao; State Representative, Terrie Wood; P & Z Director, Jeremy Ginsberg; RTM Moderator, Karen Armour; and Town Administrator, Karl Kilduff.

Planning & Zoning

Substituting for Mr. Conze, Mr. Ginsberg conveyed that two 8-30g applications are still under consideration and that it's likely a decision by the Planning & Zoning Commission may be made on those applications as early as March.

Additionally, he noted that a vote on the proposed establishment of a Flood and Erosion Control Board could appear before the RTM for a vote at its March meeting. Having a separate Board from EPC to deal with flooding issues will alleviate conflicts that arise when the EPC deals with flooding issues in wetlands.

Mr. Ginsberg stated that the new Chipotle restaurant in Darien is scheduled to open tomorrow.

State Representative

Terrie Wood noted that on the State level paid sick leave for all employees, public and private, is still being considered. It was passed last year by both chambers but vetoed by the governor.

Under consideration at the Federal level is the Dream Act; a proposal to grant citizenship to illegal immigrants who were brought to this country as children. Among other issues, this could affect State University budgets as it would allow these students to pay in-state tuition.

Board of Education

Ms. Westcott lead a discussion on the Board of Education's projected deficit which is due, in large part, to the increasing costs of meeting special education needs. Ms. Mao noted that the BoF recognizes that the BoE must meet special education requirements.

Ms. Westcott stated that the BoE will be providing a report to the Planning & Zoning Commission on the effects of a proposed Hoyt St. housing development that could jeopardize the safety of Holmes students walking to and from school.

Contracts for administrators should be ready to be addressed by the RTM at its January 24th meeting.

Board of Finance

Ms. Mao mentioned that the BoF has considered the Allen O'Neil tax abatement agreement. The BoF is inclined to recommend its support to the RTM but it has not formally voted on the abatement as yet.

Ms. Mao said the BoF is looking to combine some budget meetings.

RTM Representative

Ms. Armour noted that the RTM got notice requesting an easement which needs to be approved by the BoS first and the BoS needs to make an 8-24 referral to P&Z.

Ms Armour also sought information about the timetable for bringing the request for facilities relocation bonding to the RTM. Perhaps this should be addressed at a special RTM meeting.

First Selectman

Mr. Campbell confirmed reports that the Town has received a moratorium to CGS 8-30g from the Department of Economic Community Development (DECD). He strongly relayed to the group that this moratorium is a reprieve, not a definitive solution. Darien supports affordable housing in the proper locations, but he noted that Darien will never be able to meet all the requirements of 8-30g. He stressed that it is imperative that the public understand the unfeasibility of the law and press legislators for a change that would result in reasonable affordable housing legislation; legislation that reflects an appreciation for the ability of a community to comply with the requirements.

Mr. Campbell announced that Atlas Fireworks, the same company that did Darien's fireworks in the past, met with a group of planners at the Darien High School last week. The company reviewed the site and determined that the high school location will work from their perspective. Additionally, they have acquired new technologies that eliminate all the on-site setup.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:48 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 20, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 206.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda O'Leary
Recording Secretary