

MINUTES
OPC MEETING
NOVEMBER 19, 2009

First Selectman David Campbell called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m. in Room 206 at Town Hall.

Present were Selectman Jerry Nielsen, Selectwoman Jayme Stevenson, RTM Moderator Karen Armour; Board of Finance Member Martha Banks, Board of Education Chairman Kim Wescott; Planning & Zoning Commission Chairman Fred Conze; and Administrative Officer Karl Kilduff.

First Selectman Campbell noted that State Representative Terrie Woods could not attend the meeting.

Planning & Zoning Commission

Chairman Conze advised the group that the Commission was facing three lawsuits. Specifically, he listed the Allen O'Neal appeal which was described as close to settlement, Oak Crest suit which was also described as close to settlement, and a suit involving the Stefanoni's which was likely to still require action from judges in the New Britain court.

He also noted that Whole Foods as making progress.

Board of Education

Chairwoman Wescott highlighted that the schools were in session for Veteran's Day with a special education program to remember veterans in lieu of closing the school.

She also discussed a budget preview given by the Superintendent of Schools which will require that the BOE make tough decisions. Good pricing was gained for electricity with the Town. The bus contract was being assessed for savings, space at the High School was also being assessed to accommodate new students, State mandates on education were also a factor in the upcoming budget and finally State revenues for special education reimbursement and the education cost sharing grant.

Board of Finance

Board Member Banks stated that the Board of Finance authorized the issuance of bonds for the High School project and a new communications console for the Police Department. The debt would likely be structured to smooth out the debt profile of the Town by deferring principle payments in the early years.

It was also noted that the Board is working on its 5-year forecast which increases a large mil rate increase if the major construction projects were to proceed and the Board of Education were to get the projected funding increase.

The group had a general discussion on the state of Town revenues in the forecast and the impact of special education requirements.

Representative Town Meeting

Moderator Armour emphasized the upcoming State of the Town meeting on December 7. The order of speakers would put the First Selectman last to keep the RTM in attendance and to give a “big picture” overview.

She added that the meeting would include action on the possible acquisition of 33 Cherry Street with FEMA grant funds.

Other pending issues discussed was the affordable housing tax abatement ordinance and a possible open space ordinance.

First Selectman

First Selectman Campbell noted that he was continuing with his orientation. He added that he is concerned about the town’s budget for the next fiscal year.

The 2010 meeting schedule was set for the third Thursday of the month at 8:00 a.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karl Kilduff
Recording Secretary