

MINUTES  
OPC SPECIAL MEETING  
JULY 28, 2016

First Selectman Stevenson called the meeting to order in Room 206 of Town Hall at 8:02 am.

Present were First Selectman Jayme Stevenson, Board of Education Chairman Michael Harman, Board of Finance Chairman Jon Zagrodzky, Chairman of Planning & Zoning Commission Susan Cameron, State Representative Terrie Wood and RTM Moderator Sarah Seelye. Selectman Susan Marks and Town Administrator Kate Buch were also in attendance.

**First Selectman**

Mrs. Stevenson noted various projects beginning soon or already underway including: road repaving, Aquarian water main replacements, gas expansion and LED street light acquisition. The purchase of the property at 41 Hecker Ave. may be ready to go before the RTM in September thanks in large part to the diligence of Kate Buch and Town Attorney Wayne Fox.

Mrs. Stevenson discussed proposed changes to COG and MPO structures. She also mentioned that blight and noise concerns continue to be an issue for some residents. Sarah Seelye commented that she is meeting with Frank Kemp and Wayne Fox to discuss an appeals process for a possible blight ordinance. Mrs. Seelye suggested the BOS review the noise concerns and forward a proposed ordinance to the RTM.

**RTM Moderator**

The RTM prepares to meet in September. Members of the RTM are moving forward with a Blight Ordinance and they will await a BOS referral for a noise ordinance.

**State Representative**

Mrs. Wood distributed a packet "2016 Major Acts" that she will be circulating at her legislative wrap-up session tonight beginning at 6:30 pm at the Darien Library. The State budget deficit continues to concern Mrs. Wood. She feels that the CT State Employee Pensions are inconsistent with other states and that as they are now they place an unfair burden on taxpayers.

**Planning & Zoning**

The Planning & Zoning Commission has adopted the Town Plan of Conservation & Development and approved plans for Old Town Hall Homes. Ms. Cameron stated that the commission is close to approving zoning and map amendments for Noroton Heights, with development applications expected to begin in November. The commission also anticipates receiving a zone change application for the downtown Baywater Properties project next week and the development application near the end of the year. Atria is planning an assisted living facility at Parklands. The Atria facility will also have a memory care component. Proposed lighting at DHS will be on the August 8, 2016 agenda. Finally, Ms. Cameron announced that Darien has filed for its second 8-30g moratorium.

### **Board of Finance**

Mr. Zagrodzky stated that the BOF is redesigning the five-year plan. The goal is to be able to readily access budget information and the impact of cost savings and expenditures for the near and long term. He hopes to make the document available for individuals who are not on the BOF to use too. Mrs. Stevenson and Kate Buch said they have been looking into OpenGov, which is a program designed to allow detailed real time and past budget information to be more readily accessible to the general public.

The BOF has updated the language in the Town and Police pension plan documents so they are consistent with the language in contracts. Lastly, Mr. Zagrodzky mentioned that the Consolidated Services Working Group (CSWG) has hired a consultant to build a fact based study of the health usage for the Town, BOE and Library employees.

### **Board of Education**

Mr. Harman commented that the new school year begins on September 1<sup>st</sup> with strong enrollment as predicted. There was a need to create one additional section at Ox Ridge. The BOE will be returning approximately \$240,000 in surplus to the town. Mr. Harman also mentioned that the Board will begin work on the administration and teachers' contracts.

Mr. Harman announced that Shelley Somers has been hired to replace Dr. Debi Boccanfuso as the MMS principal. Ms. Somers comes from the Greenwich school district with the distinction of being named 2015 Connecticut PTA Middle School Principal of the Year.

Mrs. Stevenson took a moment to add some additional comments to her report. She and Jeremy Ginsberg met downtown with ConnDOT and UConn representatives regarding pedestrian safety, a road safety study will be completed prior to the proposed new development by Baywater Properties. A pre-bid was held for the NH platform replacement project; an application is being prepared for P&Z to use 701 Post Road as an EMS dispatch center; the town is moving forward with a paramedic services contract and finally, the town is about to go live with a redesigned website.

Mrs. Stevenson asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 24, 2016 meeting. Sarah Seelye moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Susan Cameron. The minutes were approved as amended by a unanimous vote. Terrie Wood moved to adjourn, seconded by Sarah Seelye and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:59 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda O'Leary  
Recording Secretary