

MINUTES  
OPC SPECIAL MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 29, 2016

First Selectman Stevenson called the meeting to order in Room 206 of Town Hall at 8:05 am.

Present were First Selectman Jayme Stevenson, Board of Education Chairman Michael Harman, Board of Finance Vice-Chairman Frank Huck, Chairman of Planning & Zoning Commission Susan Cameron and State Representative Terrie Wood. Town Administrator Kate Buch was also in attendance.

**Planning & Zoning**

The Planning & Zoning Commission has a vacancy and four candidates interested in serving. Candidates will be interviewed at the meeting on Oct. 4, 2016 and the Town Clerk will be present to swear in the selected commissioner the same evening. Ms. Cameron stated that the proposed zoning change for the Corbin Dr. property is still under review and she mentioned that even if the developer were to withdraw the application the zone change could be adopted in accordance with the new Town Plan of Conservation & Development. The commission will continue its work on applications including lights at DHS, a new Atria facility at Parkland Dr., Maplewood's plans to expand to the building next door and small subdivisions.

**State Representative**

Mrs. Wood attended a special session on September 28, 2016. At the meeting a bill was passed to keep Sikorsky Aircraft in CT which will give the company a \$220 million tax break in the interest of preserving jobs. A discussion on a proposal to regionalize health departments included revenue and how regionalization would hinder the personal connections local health departments have with their clients. Lastly, Mrs. Wood mentioned that the ECS grant funding issue is heading to the CT Supreme Court for a final decision.

**Board of Finance**

Mr. Huck reported on behalf of Chairman Zagrodzky. He noted that if the ECS grants were to be eliminated it would cost Darien tax payers approximately \$4 million dollars. Mrs. Stevenson asked that the BOF take up a discussion about whether it made sense to decline the grant funding.

While in California, Mr. Zagrodzky visited the offices of OpenGov and was impressed with the financial transparency its program provides. Ms. Buch said the town has committed to purchase OpenGov and she responded to Mr. Harman that the town's Director of Finance Jenn Charneski has been keeping the BOE Finance Director Mike Feeney aware of the program's value.

Mr. Zagrodzky sent his accolades on the new Stadium East at DHS.

**Board of Education**

Mr. Harman provided a general overview of: the start of school, enrollment, the application for lights, homecoming, new administrators and open houses. He also mentioned the rollout of Chrome Books in grades 4, 5, 6 and 7 and the benefit of having the experience of the new principal at MMS, Shelley Somers, who recently helped Greenwich navigate the

introduction of Chrome Books. Mrs. Wood asked if there might be a demonstration of Chrome Books she could attend and Mr. Harman said he'd look into it.

The Board will be working on the administration and teachers' contracts and awaiting the expected (late October) Facilities Building Conditions Report. Mrs. Stevenson asked that she be made aware of the date of the presentation.

### **First Selectman**

A new Human Resources Director, Laurie Dunn, has been hired. Mrs. Stevenson also announced that Mrs. Sarah Seeyle has resigned as moderator of the RTM and moved to a new community. Her dedicated work on the RTM was duly noted.

Items of interest mentioned by Mrs. Stevenson include: the near completion of the Gorhams Pond Dam Replacement and Restoration of Habitat, the Blight ordinance that is moving through the approval process, neighbors' concerns with the Abbey and Interval project, the Aquarion mandatory water ban and the opioid crisis.

The Abbey and Interval project is taking longer than expected. The DPW is working with the contractor to address some of the neighbors' concerns.

A mandatory water ban is in effect for Greenwich, Stamford, Darien and New Canaan. A State Water Emergency may be issued which would allow Aquarion to move water to needed communities.

The first meeting of the Public Works Garage Building Committee was held on September 27<sup>th</sup> as was the kick-off meeting for the Noroton Heights access study which will review and make recommendations for safe access to the Noroton Heights train station.

Mrs. Stevenson asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the July 28, 2016 meeting. Mr. Harman noted an amendment regarding the amount of money being returned by the BOE to the town. Terrie Wood moved to approve the minutes as amended. Mike Harman seconded and the minutes were approved with all in favor with the exception of Frank Huck who abstained. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda O'Leary  
Recording Secretary