

**TOWN OF DARIEN  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
FEBRUARY 27, 2017**

ATTENDANCE: First Selectman Jayme Stevenson; Susan Marks, Robert Richards; Marc Thorne;  
Charles Koons

STAFF: Kate Clarke Buch, Town Administrator  
Ed Gentile, Public Works Director

**CALL TO ORDER**

First Selectman Stevenson called the meeting to order at 7:08PM and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No one from the public commented.

**PRESENTATION BY WILLIAM CAVERS, COASTAL COMMISSION**

Mr. Cavers said that the Darien Advisory Commission on Coastal Waters has been working with Save the Sound on their Unified Water Study, and that it is an effort by Save the Sound to measure the water quality in the bays and harbors around Long Island Sound, and they do a report card which reports on the ecological health of the Sounds open waters. He said that under the program, local citizens are to follow uniform sampling protocols to regularly monitor key water health indicators at pre-selected sample sights, and once tracked for three years the results will be published by Save the Sound in the Long Island Report Card. He said that one of the key parts of the program is that the funding for the required equipment and supplies is being arranged through the Long Island Sound Funders Collaborative, and Darien should not incur any costs for its participation in the study other than for the spillover costs for which there are grants available through the Long Island Sound Funders Collaborative.

He said that the volunteers from Darien High School are the most important element, and that the Coastal Commission has recruited three volunteer science teachers to lead on the water sampling, and they will be trained by Save the Sound. He said that the teachers are enthusiastic about offering this volunteer activity to students interested in Environmental Science and to date, two student volunteers

have signed up and others are expected to join. He said that the Darien Boat Club has volunteered to provide a boat launch and driver through the study period. He said that the study is open-ended, but at anytime if they choose not to participate there is no commitment and would simply just need to return their equipment back to them.

First Selectman Stevenson requested that they formally reach out to Dr. Brenner to give him more detail about what they are asking of their staff and students, and to also keep the Harbor Master involved. She also requested and at the end of the year that they come back and give a report to the Board of Selectmen on how things are going.

- \*\* FIRST SELECTMAN STEVENSON MOVED TO APPROVE THAT THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN SUPPORTS THE ADVISORY COMMISSION OF COASTAL WATERS TO ORGANIZE AND MANAGE DARIEN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE SAVE THE SOUND UNIFIED WATER STUDY.**
- \*\* MR. RICHARDS SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT**

First Selectman Stevenson read her report and provided it for the record, as follows:

1. Testimony on the following legislation:
  - SB 763- Oppose- An Act Concerning Workers' Compensation Coverage for Police Officers, Firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. She said that she opposed this because there is no way to quantify what the financial impact would be on the town.
  - HB 5760- Support- An Act Requiring Education on the Risks of Opioid Addiction and Proper Storage and Disposal of Opioid Medication.
  - HB 7027-Oppose-An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2019, and Making Appropriations Therefore(Governor's Budget)
2. The Board of Selectmen may wish to give the Board of Finance direction on how best to respond to the Governor's proposed budget. Other municipalities are grappling with the same question and there is no unified approach at this point in time.
3. Distribution of Governor Malloy's Executive Actions:

- Governor's Guidance to Law Enforcement and School Districts regarding immigration matters- meeting with Chief Osborne and Dr. Brenner this week to discuss a local action plan as recommended by the Governor.
  - Governor's Order protecting Transgender Students in Connecticut Schools.
4. 2/23- I attended an infrastructure round table with Senator Murphy in Greenwich to discuss Connecticut's priorities for potential Federal Infrastructure Funding.
  5. Old Town Hall Homes Update- The DHA and developer partner are hoping to secure funding between April and October so the redevelopment can go ahead. Project funding has been impacted by the uncertainty of federal tax credit market.
  6. 2/13- Organized a meeting with the Federal Rail Administration and my fellow Chief Elected Officials for Greenwich, Stamford, Norwalk and Westport to gather more information on their Northeast Corridor Future Tier I Plan. Bottom line- the plan is very conceptual and all future projects will require local and regional approval. Positive item in the plan is to bring the NEC to a state of good repair. More concerning, however, are the possible alternate tracks with embankments and aerial structures through Darien.
  7. Noroton Heights Study- public outreach (150 responses for far) and will continue to outreach. Draft of current conditions should be ready this week. Community will have the opportunity to participate in a "visioning" session. Stakeholder meetings are taking place. Any other suggested stakeholders?

First Selectmen Stevenson said that a fourth grade student from Tokeneke School contacted her suggesting that Darien should have a Christmas Market.

### **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Ms. Buch reported that they are starting the monthly passes for the pay station lots, and that ten people have signed up and that they are about done with the wait list purging, and should be sending out new permit letters to people at the top of the wait list later this week. Ms. Marks asked how many new parking permits will be issued. Ms. Buch said she does not know the numbers off hand, but they will be issuing 10 permits in each lot this week, and that there were a reasonable number of people that did not renew. She said that they struggle to fill the Leroy West Lot on a daily basis, and that one of the things she would like to talk about next week is possibly using the back section of the lot, and selling employee permits for the merchants in the downtown area to free up some of the spaces for customers. She said that they have been working on a strategic IT plan and have disturbed a comprehensive survey to all the department heads, and lastly they will be starting negotiations with AFSCME next month.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Discuss and Take Action on Approval for the Darien Chamber of Commerce to hold Darien Sidewalk Sales & Family Fun Days on July 6-8, 2017.

First Selectmen Stevenson said that she received the letter of request and that she encourages them to hire police officers to help with crossing the Post Road.

**\*\* MR. RICHARDS MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM**

**\*\* MR. THORNE SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- b. Discuss and Take Action on Items related to the 35 Leroy Avenue Roof Project.

- i. Appointment of Board of Education to serve as Building Committee for Project.

First Selectmen Stevenson said that it is very customary to have the Board of Education serve as the building committee on some of the smaller capital projects, and that she has no concerns, and would be happy to support the Board of Education being the building committee

**\*\* MR. THORNE MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**

**\*\* MS. MARKS SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- ii. Authorize Board of Education to apply for School Construction Grant.

Dr. Brenner said that the project's cost is estimated at \$360,000 and the maximum reimbursement rate from the State is 10.4%.

**\*\* MS. MARKS MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**

**\*\* MR. RICHARDS SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- iii. Authorize Board of Education to have schematic drawings prepared.

First Selectmen Stevenson asked if the funds for this are included in the \$360,000. Dr. Brenner said they are.

**\*\* MR. RICHARDS MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**  
**\*\* MR. KOONS SECONDED THE MOTION.**  
**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- c. Discuss and Take Action to Approve a Special Appropriation for Redesign of the Noroton Avenue/West Avenue Intersection.

Mr. Gentile provided an update on the project. Approximately nine months ago we were designated to receive a grant in the amount of \$1.2 million dollars. Part of that process now requires that we get the design done. He said that they have retained a firm to start the design, and are now in the process of negotiating their fees. He said that their original estimate came in at \$160,000. First Selectman Stevenson asked if this is the extent of Darien's contribution. Mr. Gentile said from what he has been told, this is the extent. Mr. Richards asked if they run into issues with easements or design is there anything that can threaten the grant. Mr. Gentile said he thinks the grant is secure for at least the rest of this calendar year. First Selectman Stevenson said getting this funding approval is actually a critical juncture to show the town willingness to participate and will secure the funding.

**\*\* MR. RICHARDS MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONTRIBUTION FROM FUND BALANCE OF \$160,000 TO GO TOWARD THE DESIGN OF THE NOROTON WEST INTERSECTION.**  
**\*\* MR. THORNE SECONDED THE MOTION.**  
**\*\* HE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- d. Transfers

- i. Darien Fire Department

Ms. Buch said that the warning lights are not working on one of their pieces of equipment and that the equipment cannot be used.

**\*\* MR. RICHARDS MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**  
**\*\*MS. MARKS SECONDED THE MOTION.**  
**\*\*THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- ii. Debt Service

Ms. Buch said that a refunding was done in April of last year. The budget was based on the schedule of debt service prior to the refunding. She said that they are moving \$75,000 from interest to principal.

- \*\* MR. KOONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**
- \*\* MS. MARKS SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

iii. Risk Management

Ms. Buch said this is reallocating what was in the budget between lines of coverage and that there is no overall change to the premium or to the budget.

- \*\* MR. KOONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**
- \*\* MR. RICHARDS SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **AGENDA REVIEW**

Ms. Marks said at the F&B subcommittee meeting the Chairman had mentioned that they would be having a lot of budget meetings, and would have participants from the Board of Education and Board of Selectmen attend the meeting. She asked if he had reached out to let them know when the subcommittee meetings are. First Selectman Stevenson said that she would reach out to him and remind him that if he wants Board of Selectmen representation to let her know.

### **APPOINTMENTS**

- a. Reappointment of Jeffrey Williams to ZBA for a three year term from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2019.

- \*\* MR. RICHARDS MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**
- \*\* MR. KOONS SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- b. Appointment of Robert Hill to the Sewer Commission for a three year term from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2019.

- \*\* MR. KOONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**
- \*\* MR. THORNE SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

Executive Session of February 6, 2017.

- \*\* MS. MARKS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.**
- \*\* MR. RICHARDS SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Regular Meeting of February 6, 2017.

Mr. Koons said to make the following corrections:

On Page 3, Item d, to add "AND NEW PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM" to the motion.

On Page 3, Item d, to add" and a new public address system.

On Page 4, Item e, to change "parks and Recreation" to Parks & Recreation" and to add "it was" and "back"

- \*\* MR. RICHARDS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED.**
- \*\* MR. KOONS SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Special Meeting of February 13, 2017.

First Selectman Stevenson said on page 1 to change "State budget" to "Governors proposed State budget"

- \*\* MR. RICHARDS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.**
- \*\* MR. THORNE SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

February 28, 2017	Board of Education 7:30PM
March 7, 2017	Board of Finance 7:30PM
March 13, 2017	Board of Selectman 7:00PM
March 14, 2017	Board of Finance Public Hearing on Budget 7:30PM

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March 20, 2017	RTM 8:00PM
March 21, 2017	Board of Finance 7:30PM
March 27, 2017	Board of Selectmen 7:00PM
March 28, 2017	Board of Finance 7:30PM
March 28, 2017	Board of Education 7:30PM

\* The Board of Selectmen and Board of Education budgets will be presented at this meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* MS. MARKS MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**\*\* MR. RICHARDS SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:00PM

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd  
Telesco Secretarial Services