

**TOWN OF DARIEN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JANUARY 9, 2017**

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

STAFF: Kate Clarke Buch, Town Administrator

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Stevenson called the meeting to order at 7:01 p. m. and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Member of the public came forward.

FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

Happy New Year! I'm looking forward to a productive and collaborative 2017. We are certain to have many challenges ahead of us particularly regarding the state of the State's plans to address their fiscal crisis.

I want to thank the Tree Conservancy for all the trees they are planting around town, some of which are on town property.

The water emergency continues. We ended 2016 with precipitation 24% below normal and our reservoirs are below 50% capacity when they are usually above 80% this time of year. We won't know until April if we will go into the irrigation season below normal so efforts are underway to do advanced drought and conservation planning in anticipation of a deficit. Eric Joosten has graciously agreed to serve as the town's representative to an Aquarion/DPH Water Conservation Task Force. Aquarion continues to ask consumers to reduce in home water consumption by 20%. Conservation efforts to date are making a positive difference.

On the next 3 Thursdays, January 12, 19, and 26th, the Darien Health Department is presenting "Darien How Healthy Are We?" ... in which we will discuss the outcomes of our community health needs assessment and the most significant health issues facing our town. This Thursday, January 12th, the program will be dedicated to the Opioid Crisis and will feature Gary Mendell from Shatterproof as our Keynote Speaker along with Dr. Robert Zembroski from the Center for Functional Medicine. January 19th will be dedicated to Substance Abuse, Impacts and Consequences and will feature Chief Lovello, Alan Mathis from Liberation Programs and Malcolm Spears Jr., author of the "Biggie Chronicles." January 26th will be dedicated to Chronic Disease and Stress in Darien and our speakers will include John Hamilton, CEO of the Recovery Network, Trey Laird, Co-Founder of The Lighthouse and Dr. Zembroski. There will be panel discussion and Q & A each evening. We hope you will attend all of these important

discussions. The Programs will be held at the Darien Library beginning each evening at 7:00 p. m. I want to thank our community partners... The Darien Police Department, the Darien Library, Community Fund of Darien, The Depot, Liberation Programs, Shatterproof, Darien Center for Functional Medicine Recovery Network of Programs, the Life Solutions Center and Whole Foods.

On January 25, 2017, the League of Women Voters Legislative Breakfast will be held from 9:00 a. m. to 11:00 a. m. at the home of Joyce Critelli. All members of the delegation will be present.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Ms. Buch stated that parking renewals are ongoing and January 26, 2017 is the last day to renew permits. After the 26th, citizens can go on the wait list. Ben Barnes has sent out notification that ECS funding to Darien will be cut. Ms. Buch stated that she spoke with Terrie Wood and that there is no indication that the Town Aid Road grant will be cut.

Ms. Buch distributed copies of the department budget requests. She asked the Selectmen to review department requests and notify her of which department heads will not have to come before the board. She stated that this year there will be one budget book so there will be no need to transfer pages from one book to another.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Discuss and Take Action on Request to Waive Bidding Requirement to Replace 1 Marked Police Vehicle

Ms. Buch stated that on December 23, 2016, a 2016 Police Interceptor Utility was involved in a two-vehicle collision at the intersection of Noroton Avenue and Ledge Road. She stated that Chief Lovello has requested authorization to proceed with the purchase of a new Police Interceptor Utility to replace the vehicle lost in the collision. On November 28, 2016, the Town of Darien utilized competitive bidding to purchase two marked patrol vehicles. The successful bidder is willing to extend the bid price to a third vehicle. A resolution will be necessary to add the third vehicle to the order.

Ms. Stevenson read the resolution as follows:

Re: Waiving the Requirement for Competitive Bidding for the Replacement of a Totaled Patrol Vehicle

Whereas, on December 23, 2016, a marked patrol vehicle was in a collision and has been deemed a total loss, and

Whereas, on November 28, 2016, the Town of Darien utilized competitive bidding to purchase two marked patrol vehicles, and

Whereas, the successful bidder is willing to extend the bid price to a third vehicle.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the requirements for competitive bidding for the replacement patrol vehicle is waived.

- ** MR. KOONS MOVED TO WAVE THE REQUIREMENT FOR COMPETITIVE BIDDING FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF A TOTALED PATROL VEHICLE.**
- ** MR. RICHARDS SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

b. Discuss and Take Action to Authorize the First Selectman to Apply for and Administer a Neglected Cemetery Grant

Ms. Buch stated that the State has established a grant program to aid local governments with the cost of maintaining neglected cemeteries. The Town of Darien has applied for the grant and the Public Works Department intends to use the awarded grant dollars to restore a rock wall, remove fallen trees, and clear the trees from Leeds Cemetery. She stated that Leeds Cemetery is located on Hoyt Street. The Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance both must pass resolutions authorizing the application for and administration of the Neglected Cemetery Grant.

Ms. Stevenson read the resolution as follows:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SUBMISSION OF A NEGLECTED CEMETERY GRANT TO THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut has established a grant program to aid local governments with the cost of maintaining qualifying neglected cemeteries; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Darien is eligible for this grant program; and

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut has awarded \$2,000 to the Town of Darien for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Selectmen wishes to secure such grant funding for the needs of the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Darien Board of Selectmen hereby authorize and direct the First Selectman to apply for and to administer a Neglected Cemetery Grant.

- ** MR. RICHARDS MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE FIRST SELECTMAN TO APPLY FOR AND ADMINISTER A NEGLECTED CEMETERY GRANT.**
- ** MR. THORNE SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

c. Discuss and Take Action to Appoint an Acting First Selectman for 2017

Ms. Stevenson read the motion as follows:

THE DARIEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN HEREBY APPOINTS SUSAN MARKS TO SERVE AS ACTING FIRST SELECTMAN FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR IN THE CASE OF THE TEMPORARY ABSENCE OR ILLNESS OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN.

**** MS. STEVENSON MOVED TO HEREBY APPOINT SUSAN MARKS TO SERVE AS ACTING FIRST SELECTMAN FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR IN THE CASE OF THE TEMPORARY ABSENCE OR ILLNESS OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN.**

**** MR. KOONS SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH ONE ABSTENTION (MS. MARKS.)**

d. Discuss and Take Action to Authorize the First Selectman to Apply for Inter-town Capital Equipment (ICE) Grant

Ms. Buch stated that the grant is for Personal Protective gear which consists of 18 sets of bullet proof vests and helmets for firefighters. Stamford is taking the lead and submitting the application on Darien's behalf. Darien has budgeted \$7,200 and has a 25% match. The useful life of the equipment is five years, and the town is responsible for maintenance. After the five years are up, the town will be responsible for covering the cost to replace the equipment. Ms. Stevenson stated that the Fire Department should know that replacement of the equipment in five years is not a lock, and the Board of Selectman will need to be notified of how the equipment was used.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SUBMISSION OF INTERTOWN CAPITAL EQUIPMENT PURCHASING INCENTIVE (ICE) PROGRAM GRANT TO THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut has established a grant program to aid local governments with the cost of jointly acquiring of equipment or vehicles necessary to the performance or delivery of a required government function, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Darien is eligible for this grant program; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Darien would join with the Town of Greenwich, City of Stamford, and City of Norwalk in this application; and

WHEREAS, the grant would allow the Town to participate in the acquisition of Tactical Personal Protective Equipment for emergency responders; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Darin has budgeted appropriate matching funds for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Selectmen wishes to secure such grant funding for the needs of the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Darien Board of Selectmen hereby authorize and direct the First Selectman to file an application and contract with the State of Connecticut for this grant.

- ** MS. MARKS MOVED TO AUTHORIZE AND DIRECT THE FIRST SELECTMAN TO FILE AN APPLICATION AND CONTRACT WITH THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT FOR THIS GRANT.**
- ** MR. RICHARDS SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

AGENDA REVIEW

Ms. Marks asked that a summary be prepared of parking renewal rates, and the number of permits that were not renewed. Ms. Buch stated that a summary will be presented in February – after the January 26th deadline.

Mr. Thorne asked for an update on the proposed park adjacent to Town Hall. Ms. Buch stated that an easement across Hecker Avenue for fiber optic cable is holding up the process.

Ms. Stevenson asked Mr. Koons when we would be poised for a Building Committee Update. Mr. Koons stated that we are almost there with the draft of the Guide to Construction Project Management. He stated that he and Rusty Shiner are meeting Thursday and that a draft will go out to the Review Committee and Ms. Buch by next Monday.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Executive Session of December 19, 2016

- ** MS. MARKS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION OF DECEMBER 19, 2016 AS SUBMITTED.**
- ** MR. THORNE SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH ONE ABSTENTION (MR. KOONS.)**

Regular Meeting of December 19, 2016

- ** MR. THORNE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 19, 2016 AS SUBMITTED.**
- ** MR. RICHARDS SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH ONE ABSTENTION (MR. KOONS.)**

Ms. Stevenson stated that she plans on meeting with our representatives even if has to take place in Hartford. She can bring one other member of the board with her to the meeting. Ms. Marks stated that it is good that the meeting will take place. Our representatives will be providing information but a meeting in Darien would have informed the whole community through Channel 79. Mr. Richards stated that the letter from Ben Barnes appears to be a request rather than already finalized and that he hopes our delegation is indeed speaking out on behalf of Darien.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Jack Davis stated that our representatives cannot be in too much of a shock over the cut to ECS funding. He stated that when they approved the budget, they knew they were in a hole. None of them fought for Darien. Our representatives need to be here to meet with the Board of Selectman. If not, do they really represent us?

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

January 10, 2017 Board of Education 7:30 p. m.
January 17, 2017 Department Heads/Board of Selectmen 8:45 a. m.
January 17, 2017 Board of Finance 7:30 p. m.
January 23, 2017 RTM 8:00 p. m.
January 24, 2017 Board of Education 7:30 p. m.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. RICHARDS MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
**** MR. THORNE SECONDED THE MOTION.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Blaney
Telesco Secretarial Services