



TOWN OF BRANFORD

OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTWOMAN

For Immediate Release

May 8, 2007

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Additional Legal Counsel Added to Defend Town in Tabor Case

First Selectwoman Cheryl Morris announced today additions to the legal team involved in the litigation involving the Tabor property. There are two parts to the lawsuit, one involving the evaluation of the property which will be heard on June 26, 27, and 28th, and the other matter which is a claim filed by New England Estates, LLC, claiming damages for interference with their contractual rights and other issues.

In the case of the evaluation suit (the eminent domain matter), David Reif of McCarter and English, who previously handled the file as trial counsel will be the lead counsel to be second seated by Mr. Doyle of the Marcus Law Firm. In the matter of New England Estates, David Monz, an environmental litigation expert of Updike, Kelly and Spellacy, will serve as trial counsel and will also be second seated by Mr. Doyle of the Marcus Law Firm.

Both of these litigation matters were initiated during the DaRos Administration and the taking of the property occurred during the Opie Administration. The Opie Administration took the property through eminent domain for \$1.2 million. The previous property owners purchased the land for \$2.3 million in 1991. New England Estates, the plaintiffs in this law suit, are now claiming damages in an amount of \$21 million for the alleged wrongful taking of a 77 acre parcel on Tabor Drive. The town officials at that time, including DaRos, may very well have acted in good-faith but may not have properly justified the public necessity of taking the property by eminent domain. This is an issue that the court will have to determine.

It is now up to my administration to do battle as best possible to protect the interests of the people of Branford and attempt to minimize any award or judgment that may be issued against the Town as the result of the actions of previous administrations.

My administration is committed to defending this litigation and I am confident that the legal team that I have selected to represent Branford will provide the best possible outcome for the Town.

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