

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING FINAL MINUTES
January 15, 2014

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 15, 2014, in the first floor conference room of Independence Hall.

Members Present: First Selectman Michael C. Tetreau, Selectman Kevin P. Kiley, Selectman Cristin McCarthy Vahey
Others Present: Mark Barnhart, Genny Reilly, Phil Dwyer, Tom Cullen, Soundview, Gerry Speno, Karen Parks, Tom Dubrosky, Meg Grosso, Mike Jehle and sons and Craig Kimball

1) CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Tetreau called the meeting to order at

2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

New Chief of Staff Tom Dubrosky led the pledge.

3) MINUTES

To consider and act upon the minutes of Regular Meeting of January 8, 2014
Selectman Kiley made a motion to approve the minutes. Selectman McCarthy Vahey seconded the motion. Selectman McCarthy Vahey made an amendment to change 7 pm to 5 pm in item 10 and change 7:02 pm to 5:02 pm in item 11. Selectman Kiley seconded the amendment which carried 3-0. The main motion, as amended, carried 3-0.

4) FAIRFIELD MUSEUM AND HISTORY CENTER DIRECTOR

To hear an update from the Director of the Fairfield Museum and History Center
Director Mike Jehle said the Museum is pleased to be part of the Town's 375th anniversary celebration. He discussed special exhibits and programs commemorating the community's diversity. He said the Museum has about 20,000 objects in its collection and about 10,000 pieces of archives in its library. About 15,000 people visit the Museum each year. It is an important cultural engine and economic driver. Mr. Jehle highlighted some of the upcoming exhibits. He said the Museum focuses on educational programming and has about 5500 students each year visit. Half are from Fairfield; the other half are from other communities. Mr. Jehle discussed upcoming events surrounding upcoming town holidays. In October, the Museum will hold a formal birthday gala at the museum. The Museum's goal is to preserve history and create a future engine for civic engagement.

First Selectman Tetreau said Mr. Jehle has done a tremendous job in putting Fairfield on the map in these tough economic times. He thanked the Museum for taking the lead in the Town's 375th anniversary celebration. He said he appreciates the Museum's maintenance of historic structures in town. Selectman McCarthy Vahey stressed the power of history and how the Museum connects all the pieces of the past into today and the future. She said she appreciates the efforts of Mr. Jehle and the Museum. Selectman Kiley thanked the Museum for seeing and feeling our history and for being a good partner of the Town.

5) FAIRTV OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE

To hear an update from the FairTV Operational Committee
First Selectman Mike Tetreau said Chair Jim Kennelly had a work emergency and could not be at the meeting. First Selectman Tetreau explained this proposed ordinance goes to the RTM and the ordinance can define FairTV's place in town government.

He said the BOS wanted to review and give feedback on this proposed ordinance even though there is no required BOS vote. First Selectman Tetreau asked if the Selectmen wanted to submit a document to the RTM with questions from today's meeting. The Selectmen agreed to have a discussion and submit their questions to the RTM. Selectman Kiley said the current FairTV committee remains a BOS appointed committee so the BOS has a responsibility to give feedback. First Selectman Tetreau said the ordinance would take effect after the June 30, 2014 date stated in the Charge.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey asked what the framework was used to create the document. What was its genesis and what was the roots of its background? Selectman Kiley asked if the document got a thorough legal review. First Selectman Tetreau said the Town Attorney and FairTV Chair met and had a brief review but he wasn't sure if anything from that discussion was put in this document. Selectman Kiley asked how this document conforms with the Town Code. Selectman Kiley would like the legal opinion of an attorney and wants to know how the town would work with the ordinance going forward. Selectman McCarthy Vahey said the RTM L&A review will be important. Selectman Kiley reiterated he hopes there is attorney review before L&A reviews the draft. Selectman McCarthy Vahey asked what is common practice in neighboring communities. Selectman Kiley said he attended the last FairTV Committee meeting. He asked how the entity is viewed and how does it run. He wants to see a more consistent process on how its budget is managed.

First Selectman Tetreau said the Committee is a town entity and has to follow town guidelines. He asked when the budget is presented to a town body how the money is spent and how financial oversight is provided. Selectman McCarthy Vahey asked how other towns handle this financial and budget process and what has been affected in other communities and how it has worked with other towns in keeping the Committee independent and responsible to taxpayers. Selectman Kiley said the Committee has to work on guidelines on what is fair and appropriate. First Selectman Tetreau asked if this draft crosses any legal boundaries. He asked how it fits with the other public access channels. Selectman Kiley said he's torn on the BOS putting together this Committee but has not vote. First Selectman Tetreau said he had asked the CFO for a more consistent grant approval process. He said the RTM should consider an overview step on finances. Selectman McCarthy Vahey reiterated if the RTM approves this, it becomes part of the Town Code, not the Town Charter.

6) COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

To hear an update on the Affordable Housing Plan

Director Mark Barnhart said Chair Steve Grathwohl regrets he could not attend this meeting. Mr. Barnhart spoke on Mr. Grathwohl's behalf and gave an update on the 25th anniversary of the first and only adopted plan that reflects the current housing needs of the town. Grant money will help with this plan. Since the town didn't receive that grant money until November, Mr. Barnhart wasn't ready to give a February report as planned. Fairfield was one of ten communities in the State chosen for this grant. Mr. Barnhart said consultant proposals have been solicited. Planimetrics was chosen and considerable progress was made with data compilation. Planimetrics is looking at other similar communities and using past tools used in Fairfield housing. Outreach is being performed with various groups in town. There will be a public workshop in March. The goal is to find the number and right types of housing for current and future residents. This is a long-term proactive plan. Mr. Barnhart will come before the BOS in May or June with a report after going before TP&Z.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey said there has been many successes in Fairfield, but there is still a lot of work to do. She appreciates the comments on types of housing and creating a vision. She asked if focus groups included Operation Hope and FHA. Mr. Barnhart said yes but there will be further conversations. Key stakeholders have been spoken to but he hopes to talk to more groups and make everyone part of the process. Selectman McCarthy Vahey suggested talking to neighborhood associations.

First Selectman Tetreau hopes this plan will help keep seniors in place and housing will be senior-friendly. Selectman Kiley said this is important but complicated. Housing should be affordable and take into consideration the impact on neighborhoods. Mr. Barnhart said Fairfield was on the forefront of housing in the mid 80s to early 90s and he hopes to rekindle that same approach.

7) **BOARD OF EDUCATION NON-RECURRING CAPITAL (subject to Board of Education approval)**

To hear, consider and act upon the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Town of Fairfield hereby appropriates the sum of \$978,766 to fund the costs associated with the following non-recurring capital projects – partial roof replacement at Mill Hill Elementary School, \$461,614; replacement of two boilers at North Stratfield Elementary School, \$364,652; and replacement of one boiler at Fairfield Warde High School, \$152,500.

Selectman Kiley made a motion to approve the item. Selectman McCarthy Vahey seconded the motion.

BOE Chair Phil Dwyer explained Dr. Title couldn't be present because he was with his son who had surgery and is in recovery. Mr. Dwyer gave a history of these projects. He said the BOE unanimously approved these items but they do not represent the needs of all the buildings. Rather, they are the next projects listed in the waterfall chart.

Selectman Kiley said less was spent last year and asked if that runs the risk of falling behind on these types of maintenance projects. Mr. Dwyer said the BOE is comfortable with this schedule and needs are addressed in a particular order. The BOE wouldn't allow buildings to be unsafe or fall in disrepair. Mr. Dwyer said the town should look at the operating maintenance budgets which have been squeezed.

Tom Cullen, Director of Operations for Fairfield's Public Schools, referred to a report on these projects. He said there was a ten year warranty on roofs at Mill Hill with a maintenance prevention program that helped. Four portions of the roof need to be replaced. Reimbursement will be about 18%. Selectman McCarthy Vahey asked if the roof replacement affects the capital planning of the school. Mr. Cullen said it will not affect any potential addition. Selectman McCarthy Vahey asked if the BOE/Central Office spoke to Ed Boman about green initiatives. Mr. Cullen said yes. Selectman Kiley asked for a briefing on roof warranties and how successful the town has been. Mr. Cullen said the Town has been extremely successful with claims.

Mr. Cullen discussed North Stratfield School and said the boilers will still be dual fuel. The underground tanks are gone. He has seen savings in utilities with the new boilers.

These two new boilers are hot water. Selectman Kiley asked if there is anything out there that is not a boiler. Mr. Cullen said there is a condensing type boiler but the school rooms are too small to fit a third boiler even though they save more energy and are better for the environment. Selectman McCarthy Vahey asked if Mr. Cullen and Mr. Boman discussed this new boiler. Mr. Cullen said Sal Morabito and Mr. Boman discussed these options. Mr. Cullen also spoke to the DPW Director.

Mr. Cullen then discussed FWHS. He said the last boiler failed inspection. The BOE funded \$15,000 in minor repairs for this winter but a new boiler is needed.

First Selectman Tetreau said he is concerned there is no bonding resolution for these items that have no source of appropriation. He is concerned in setting a precedent without a funding source and suggests holding the item until a funding source is in place.

First Selectman Tetreau made a motion to postpone the item to a date certain of January 29, 2014. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion.

Selectman Kiley and First Selectman Tetreau support the project but Selectman Kiley insists a bond resolution be included with this item to be consistent with past practice. Selectman McCarthy Vahey asked if there are any timing issues in postponing the item. First Selectman Tetreau said no. Selectman McCarthy Vahey requested the CFO attend the next meeting to explain his reasoning for not providing a bond resolution with this item. She too supports this project. Mr. Dwyer stressed this getting on the February 4, 2014 BOF agenda.

The motion to postpone the item carried 3-0.

8) TAX COLLECTOR

To consider and act upon tax refunds as recommended by the Tax Collector in the amount recommended.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve the item. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made an amendment to remove the period and a comma and \$6,812,34 after the word recommended. Selectman Kiley seconded the amendment which carried 3-0.

The main motion, as amended, carried 3-0.

9) To hear, consider and act upon any communications.
There were no communications.

10) To hear, consider and act upon any other business which shall properly come before this meeting.
There was no other business.

11) ADJOURN

Selectman Kiley adjourned the meeting at 6:29 pm. Selectman McCarthy Vahey seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Board of Selectmen
January 8, 2014
Page 5

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer S. Carpenter
Recording Secretary
