

SPECIAL BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING FINAL MINUTES
January 29, 2014

A special meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 29, 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: Genny Reilly, Veronica Mollica and family, Kendra Bollinger, Chief Richard Felner, Art Reid, Scott Bisson, Gerry Speno, Soundview, Karen Ronald, Phil Dwyer, Judy Ewing, Mike Zembruski, David Becker, Gerry Lombardo, Chris DeWitt, Meg Grosso, John Calandriello, Scott Bartlett, Joe Michelangelo, Catherine Albin, Lt. Roger Caisse, Bob Mayer

1) CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Tetreau called the meeting to order at 4:34 pm.

2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following the pledge of allegiance, First Selectman Tetreau held a moment of silence for former DPW worker Bob Firgeleski who had passed away.

3) RECOGNITION-Random Acts of Kindness Week

First Selectman Tetreau read a proclamation declaring Random Acts of Kindness Week, February 10-16, 2014. He issued it to resident Veronica Mollica who launched this idea last year. Ms. Mollica spoke about reasons for doing this and hopes it inspires others. During this week, including February 14, she will give out balloons, hugs and flowers to strangers around town. She hopes to work the schools and community to create a movement.

Selectman Kiley thanked Ms. Mollica for bringing out this awareness and agrees with her that kindness begins a home. Selectman McCarthy Vahey also agreed that kindness begins at home and with community leaders. First Selectman Tetreau thanked Ms. Mollica for stepping up and showing the incredible bonds of our community.

Ms. Mollica thanked the Selectmen and said she wants this to be a an ongoing dialogue.

4) RESIGNATIONS

Shellfish Commission David L. Thornton, (R), 1146 Valley Road, term 11/10 – 11/15
(Resignation Date: 1/9/2014)

First Selectman Tetreau thanked Mr. Thornton and noted there is now an opening on this Commission.

5) LIBRARY DIRECTOR-To hear an update from the Director of the Fairfield Public Library Town Librarian Karen Ronald gave the Selectman a 375th anniversary program calendar. She briefly discussed the library's history. She discussed programs and services like the digital surge and bridging the digital world in the physical world. She said people of all ages use the library.

The library is considered a people's university and connects people to resources they want. Ms. Ronald discussed a grant the library is applying for to help young children with technology, math and science.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey thanked Ms. Ronald and said she had attended the library's open house. She is impressed with the library's diversity and how it works together with the community. Selectman Kiley thanked Ms. Ronald and asked her if the library's technology is secure. Ms. Ronald said it is. Selectman Kiley asked if the library helps residents with tax returns. Ms. Ronald said it has for decades. First Selectman Tetreau mentioned the 375th anniversary bookmarks and the One Town, One Book event.

6) NOT-FOR-PROFIT COMMITTEE-To hear an update from the Not-For-Profit Committee The Not-For-Profit Committee Chair, Chris DeWitt, gave the Selectmen the Committee's recommendations. He thanked the Committee and named each member. He said in November 2012 he presented initial recommendations to the BOF on how to proceed with the Town's budget director. He said Selectman McCarthy Vahey, a member, had briefed the BOS. There was a Committee meeting last night with a 4-0-1 vote on presenting the recommendations to the BOS which formed this Committee.

Mr. DeWitt read each of the five recommendations. He said many non-profits attended last night's meeting. He suggests a cost-benefit analysis. Some non-profits asked for the town to provide objectives and criteria to agencies seeking funding. Referring to recommendation three on forming an independent third party, Mr. DeWitt said the BOF are no means experts on making decisions on non-profit allocations. He asked what benefits the Town gets from non-profits. He read recommendation five again and said this is working and should continue. The Committee won't disband, but Mr. DeWitt offered his services going forward.

Selectman Kiley asked if the Committee's work is complete. Mr. DeWitt said no but is seeking input from the Selectmen. Selectman Kiley asked what would differ now versus next year. Mr. DeWitt said the criteria and objectives are more long-term and so is the independent third-party suggestion. Selectman Kiley asked Mr. DeWitt to provide to the Selectmen a list of all the mandated versus unmandated non-profits. Selectman Kiley thanked all of the agencies for providing services to the town which he noted the town or residents cannot otherwise provide. He stated he does not want any of the Not-For-Profit Committee's recommendations done too quickly given the town is approaching budget season.

First Selectman thanked this Committee. He said in essence these agencies are partners with the town; they are paying for services the town cannot provide but needs. First Selectman Tetreau said he met one-on-one with each non-profit and asked for value statements asking who they serve and what Fairfield gets out of their service. He said the town's funding to these agencies is not a donation but funding to help these agencies provide special services to residents that the town cannot afford to. First Selectman Tetreau said he's been impressed with what the Town has been getting back from these agencies. Mr. DeWitt agreed that some services are not duplicated by the Town. First Selectman Tetreau said very few are duplicated by the Town. First Selectman Tetreau asked if the Committee meet with each non-profit individually.

Mr. DeWitt said no; the Committee was focused on process. First Selectman Tetreau suggested moving some non-profits to the BOE budget. First Selectman Tetreau asked if any of the non-profits who attended the recent meeting have any issues with the Committee's recommendations. Mr. DeWitt said just on the criteria and objectives. First Selectman Tetreau asked how a town body like the RTM decides on a lump sum. Mr. DeWitt said the Committee suggested the First Selectman and the Committee make that decision. First Selectman Tetreau asked if there was feedback asked from the non-profits. Mr. DeWitt said no, nor had the Committee previously reached out to non-profits. First Selectman Tetreau said from a process point, he suggests the Committee asks the non-profits how these recommendations can work and what their concerns are. Selectman McCarthy Vahey said she met with Greenwich's social services to learn how they partner with non-profits. She said measurable outcomes are important. Selectman McCarthy Vahey said she had abstained on the Committee's vote on the recommendations because she hadn't gotten enough feedback and she also serves on the BOS which created this Committee. She is concerned with the timing of the upcoming budget process noting it's a tight timeframe. Selectman Kiley agreed with the tight timeframe and has difficulty with the lump sum recommendation.

7) PARKS AND RECREATION AND SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING DIRECTORS

To hear an update on Beach and Transfer Station Sticker changes

Parks and Recreation Director Gerry Lombardo described the new changes which were implemented last year. He said there is now one sticker which helps lower expenses and lines to the Recreation Center (because of online services). The intention was to put all stickers with separate dates onto one sticker with one date and coincide with the calendar year. The Solid Waste and Recycling Commission approve this change in their policy. There was confusion with when people bought stickers because it gave them more or less time to use a town facility so a grace period was given until people get used to this new policy. Starting this January, stickers can be bought that last an entire year. Mr. Lombardo's staff sent out about 13,000 emails regarding this change. The first year his department got both positive and negative feedback. Mr. Lombardo said the cost is \$20 for residents and \$10 for senior citizens. Selectman McCarthy Vahey agrees with the grace period which is up to February 15 because she noted December is a hard time to remember getting a sticker with the holidays.

8) FIRE CHIEF To hear, consider and act upon a request from the Fire Chief to accept a 2008 Firebrand 28, a firefighting marine vessel, being offered to the Town by the City of Bridgeport at no cost to the Town

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

Chief Richard Felner introduced Lt. Roger Caisse, a marine officer with the Fire Department, who gave the Selectmen a handout, "Fairfield Fire Department/Marine Division", which was presented to the Fire Commission.

Lt. Caisse was tasked to put together this information to help the BOS determine if the Town should accept this boat. Lt. Caisse went through the handout. He gave a history of marine operations and the Fire Department's mission at the marina. He said the Department does not have fire capabilities in Long Island Sound currently.

He showed photo of two current vessels that do not protect from the elements. There are limitations the Department has in storms so it has to rely on the Coast Guard which is one hour away. This new boat is capable of operating in very aggressive sea conditions and can give life support to people as soon as they get into this new boat. The boat can fight land fires from the water. It's an environmental friendly boat with advanced electronics.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey said she appreciates the project operations expenses analysis. She asked that the different types of police and fire services be explained. Lt. Caisse said police is law enforcement but cannot fight fires. The departments established a mission together with a more safer and capable platform. Selectman McCarthy Vahey asked if fire works with the marina police. Lt. Caisse said the departments tour dangerous areas each year. Selectman Kiley asked how water is pumped on to land. Lt. Caisse said dischargers are hooked to the boat. First Selectman Tetreau asked if the boat will be inspected. Lt. Caisse said there will a marine survey next week. First Selectman Tetreau asked if there is any grant money for operation and maintenance. Chief Felner said no. First Selectman Tetreau mentioned radios being upgraded. Lt. Caisse said there is grant money to upgrade the radios. He also said training will be covered by a grant.

The motion carried 3-0.

9) FIRE CHIEF-To hear an update on the Fire Equipment Replacement Plan

Chief Felner said Scott Bisson will discuss the vehicle replacement program, the project replacement schedule from 2014-2025 and 2014 fire apparatus replacement needs. Mr. Bisson said the Fire Department refers to trucks by their functions. He gave statistics for the current age of the fleet. He recommends following the replacement schedule in the report and staying with the 12-year program to extend service life. Mr. Bisson there are immediate apparatus needs for Ladder 1 and Engine 4. He discussed the lifespan of an apparatus. He explained the need for the two new trucks this year.

Selectman Kiley asked if Ladder 1 has backup. Mr. Bisson said yes. Selectman Kiley asked if the old Ladder truck would replace the new one and still have two ladder truck systems. Mr. Bisson said yes. Selectman McCarthy Vahey asked if a bigger fire station would fit a Ladder truck. Chief Felner said not necessarily. Selectman McCarthy Vahey asked if there may be a new station in ten years would this equipment purchase meet that possible scenario. Mr. Bisson said yes. Selectman McCarthy Vahey asked how road conditions in bad weather may affect the trucks. Mr. Bisson said the chemicals on the roads coat the surfaces of the apparatus and corrodes the components of the apparatus.

10) CHIEF FISCAL OFFICER- To hear an update on the capital plan and waterfall

CFO Bob Mayer discussed gave the Selectmen a handout and reviewed changes to capital plans from September 2013 versus January 2014. He discussed non-recurring, capital projects and reimbursements for fiscal year 2013/14 through 2022/23 for September 2013 and January 2014. He stated the total change between the two with \$892,500 less for January 2014. Mr. Mayer read the Town's changes in the January 2014 capital plan noting non-recurring, capital and total change.

First Selectman Tetreau said this is almost the same information which was presented at last September's capital workshop. Selectman Kiley asked that Mr. Mayer provide Excel sheets for this information.

11) NON-RECURRING CAPITAL (incorporates resolution postponed from previous meeting)
To hear, consider and act upon a resolution appropriating \$3,608,766 for the costs of certain non-recurring capital projects and authorizing the issuance of bonds to finance such appropriation. Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve the item. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion.

Mr. Mayer said there is a 14-point evaluation plan for each requested non-recurring capital project.

DPW Director Joe Michelangelo discussed each of the eight DPW requests. Mr. Michelangelo said the Hulls Farm Road Bridge design was removed because it was not ready for this budget cycle. He said the Fairfield Center streetscape item will identify needs from Beach Road to Thorpe Street. Old Town Hall needs to be entirely rehabbed. Mr. Michelangelo said the two 6-wheel dump trucks request is important because the current ones outlived their useful life. He said DPW should be buying 1-2 trucks each year but hasn't bought one of these trucks for six years. He discussed the 10-wheel and John Deere back hoe. Selectman McCarthy Vahey asked what percentage of tree work is contracted out. Scott Bartlett said it was even but there is now one service to perform all the tree work. After Mr. Michelangelo discussed the refuse truck request, Selectman McCarthy Vahey said she hopes to see more recycling. Selectman Kiley agrees with catching up on these needs but wants to see more of an analysis on how many years this equipment lasts. First Selectman Tetreau would like to see a formal equipment replacement plan. Selectman McCarthy Vahey asked about using bond money to pay for police for traffic control for the streetscape request. Mr. Michelangelo said that can be taken out if there is a problem paying police with bond money. Selectman McCarthy Vahey asked if the plans for Old Town Hall will anticipate upgrades for the building and will money be spent twice. Mr. Michelangelo said money won't be spent twice nor will this request conflict with building upgrades. There will be flexibility with use of the building while work is being performed.

Mr. Lombardo said the Golf Commission approved a ten year plan that includes a bunker renovation at H. Smith Richardson. He said money already spent has increased golf revenue.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey asked Mr. Bisson how many vehicles over 12 years old are currently frontline vehicles. Mr. Bisson said two are. If the department is able to start to purchase two apparatus vehicles now then the department could go two years before the next projected purchase.

First Selectman Tetreau made an amendment to add "a sum not-to-exceed" before the dollar amount in the agenda's resolution, the title of the bond resolution and in item 1 of the bond resolution and take out the words "the" and "of" in the first sentence of item 1 and replace with a sum not to exceed Three....

Selectman McCarthy Vahey seconded the amendment which carried 3-0.

The new wording now reads:

NON-RECURRING CAPITAL(*incorporates resolution postponed from previous meeting*)
To hear, consider and act upon a resolution appropriating a sum not to exceed \$3,608,766 for the costs of certain non-recurring capital projects and authorizing the issuance of bonds to finance such appropriation.

Bond Resolution Title:

A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$3,608,766 FOR THE COSTS OF CERTAIN NONRECURRING CAPITAL PROJECTS AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION.

Item #1 in Bond Resolution:

1. As recommended by the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen, the Town of Fairfield hereby appropriates a sum not to exceed Three Million....

Selectmen Kiley said these are all investments the town needs to make. He thanked Mr. Bisson and his team for bringing down the cost.

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

12) 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 after recommendation and add a comma and \$53,270,20. Selectman Kiley seconded the amendment which carried 3-0.

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

13) ADJOURN

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 pm. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer S. Carpenter
Recording Secretary
