

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING FINAL MINUTES
February 19, 2014

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 19, 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: Melanie Marks, Mike Zembruski, Soundview, Gerry Speno, Joe Michelangelo, Carla Miklos, Jeanne Finlay, Mike Rosten

1) CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Tetreau called the meeting to order at 4:32 pm.

2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3) WEDNESDAY'S PET – presented by Sherri Steeneck
There was no Wednesday's pet.

4) MINUTES

To consider and act upon the minutes of:

Regular Meeting of January 15, 2014

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve the minutes. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Special Meeting of January 29, 2014

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve the minutes. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion. Selectman McCarthy Vahey made an amendment to change the vote to 4-0-1 in paragraph one under item six and to also change the fourth sentence in paragraph two in item six to read, "Some non-profits asked for the town to provide objectives and criteria to agencies seeking funding." Selectman Kiley seconded the amendment which carried 3-0.

The main motion as amended carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey commented that the last meeting had a number of handouts and wondered if they should be put on the town's website near the agendas and minutes. First Selectman Tetreau said that the town is updating its website and his office could look into putting this information on the new website and will also speak to the Town Clerk about this.

5) APPOINTMENTS

To hear, consider and act upon the following appointments:

Burr Gardens Advisory Committee

Lisa W. Callahan, (R), 290 Beach Road, term 11/13-11/16

(To fill a vacancy for Lisa Clair whose term expired)

Selectman Kiley made a motion to approve the item. Selectman McCarthy Vahey seconded the motion. Jeanne Finlay, Secretary of the Committee, represented Ms. Callahan who was traveling and could not attend the meeting. Ms. Finlay said Ms. Callahan is a good fit for this Committee.

The motion carried 3-0.

6) CEMETERY WORK DAYS-To hear an update on cemetery restoration
Melanie Marks gave the Selectmen a copy of reports and a brochure. The reports show a before and after on the headstones which were removed and repaired. Ms. Marks said she is now a member of DAR and a board member of GHVIS and both groups are looking to cleanup the cemetery for the Town's 375th anniversary. On Arbor Day, an event will take place at the cemetery's entrance. In October, there will be a lantern tour in the cemetery. DAR had benches at the cemetery repaired. DAR also has a garden design for the entrance. Another cleanup day will be scheduled.

Selectman Kiley thanked Ms. Marks for preserving all the cemeteries as well as their history and heritage. Selectman McCarthy Vahey thanked Ms. Marks for working with different town groups. First Selectman Tetreau said this is another example of how people come together in our town to volunteer and help preserve the town's character.

7) OPERATION HOPE DIRECTOR-To hear a report from Operation Hope
Executive Director Carla Miklos gave the Selectmen a brochure on Operation Hope. She discussed its inception and how it now serves 500 Fairfield families each year as well as provides shelter and homes to transition into. Operation Hope provides programs to assist with jobs, health and overall quality of life. Ms. Miklos discussed the Storm Sandy Relief Fund Operation Hope set up with the Town. She said Operation Hope has joined with Bridgeport groups to work to reduce the homelessness rate in the area which has been achieved by 6%. This successful model was discussed on 60 Minutes and Ms. Miklos hopes to take this model on the road to help other communities. Operation Hope has a shelter near the police station and administrative offices near Town Hall that has a food pantry. Ms. Miklos stressed how clients our Fairfield's neighbors who are part of our community.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey asked if Operation Hope works with FHA. Ms. Miklos said she is hopeful FHA will pursue Section 8 based vouchers because they create stable affordable housing portfolios for the community. Ms. Miklos said Fairfield is a diverse community and it's important to house Fairfield residents first. Clients appreciate the high standards and help reintegrating into the community. An important goal is for Fairfielders to be able to stay in this community. Selectman Kiley expressed his gratitude for Operation Hope's proactive approaches for the last 30 years helping our town and our neighbors. Selectman McCarthy Vahey said this is a unique model and pointed out Operation Hope is only of four homeless providers in suburban American. Selectman Kiley said he likes the potential change to how vouchers are viewed. He asked Ms. Miklos to expand on their impact. Ms. Miklos said project based vouchers are maintained as affordable housing units versus a rental unit so project based vouchers add to the affordable housing count in town. Mike Rosten, Operation Hope's Board Chair, said Section 8 solidifies another funding source for affordable housing. Selectman McCarthy Vahey said Operation Hope serves people and is a need and provides a venue to create service opportunities for the community. First Selectman Tetreau said the Board of Selectmen had co-sponsored a food drive to fill Operation Hope's empty food shelves.

8) DIRECTOR OF SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING
To hear, consider and act upon a resolution as recommended by the Director of Solid Waste and Recycling:

“WHEREAS, the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority, as agent for the South Central Regional Council of Governments and participating municipalities, has undertaken the permitting, construction and operation of a regional facility for the collection of household hazardous waste and conditionally exempt small quantity generator business waste at its headquarters at 90 Sargent Drive in New Haven; and

WHEREAS, the municipalities participating in the facility are able to have residents drop off their household hazardous wastes on Saturday mornings (9 am – Noon) and conditionally exempt small quantity generators deliver business waste on Saturday morning, (by appointment from 7 am – 8:30 am), from spring through fall for proper processing, transportation, and disposal; and

WHEREAS, the facility is owned, managed and operated under the supervision of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority for the benefit of the participating municipalities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Fairfield declares its commitment to continue participation in the regional household hazardous waste collection center for a minimum three-year period (July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2017), and confirms its intent to contribute financially for the operation, processing, transportation, and disposal of household hazardous waste; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the First Selectman Michael C. Tetreau be and hereby is, authorized to enter into an agreement with the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority for the operation of the facility. Such agreement will permit the Authority to act as its agent to maintain the facility, to contract with a vendor for the transportation and disposal of wastes, to receive financial support from grant sources, to enter into agreements with other municipalities, and to operate the facility.”

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

Solid Waste and Recycling Director Mike Zembruski gave a brief history of the resolution. Mr. Zembruski said Fairfield has held hazardous waste collection day for 23 years and it's been very successful. First Selectman Tetreau asked what the main categories of expense are. Mr. Zembruski said outreach, general administration, maintenance of facilities and utilities to name a few. Selectman Kiley asked if this resolution keeps Fairfield's access to the New Haven facility. Mr. Zembruski said it still does. Selectman Kiley asked how often Fairfield holds a local collection day. Mr. Zembruski said once a year and volunteers also spend one weekend in New Haven. Selectman McCarthy Vahey noted that many people go away when Fairfield holds its collection day in August. She asked if a lot of items are recycled at the New Haven facility rather than get disposed. Mr. Zembruski said items like some paints and petroleum-based pesticides get recycled. Selectman McCarthy Vahey asked if there is data on what gets disposed versus what and how much is recycled. Mr. Zembruski said he was not sure.

The motion carried 3-0.

9) TAX COLLECTOR

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

Selectman Kiley made a motion to approve the item. Selectman McCarthy Vahey seconded the motion. Selectman McCarthy Vahey made an amendment to delete the period and add a comma before \$20,741,18. Selectman Kiley seconded the amendment which carried 3-0.

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

10) To hear, consider and act upon any communications.
There was no communications.

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

12) ADJOURN

Selectman Kiley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:29 pm. Selectman McCarthy Vahey seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer S. Carpenter
Recording Secretary
