

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING FINAL MINUTES
April 1, 2014

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 1, 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, Gerry Speno, Soundview, Nancy Byrnes, Alissa Smith, David Becker, Andrea Leonardi, Selma Cohen, Doreen Munsell, Karen Parks, Ken Lee, Judy Ewing, Don Leslie, Linda Gardiner, Bob Mayer, Jessica Gerber, Tom Dubrosky, Tom Cullen, Sands Cleary, Chris DeWitt, members of the public

1) CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Tetreau called the meeting to order at 2:09 pm.

2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3) PUBLIC EXECUTIVE BUDGET SESSION (no public comment)

Approval of FY 2014-2015 Budget, including all Town Departments and Board of Education and Water Pollution Control Authority

Selectman Kiley thanked the public on their input. He said he wants to keep Fairfield affordable and the Town safe. He said the budget is a balancing act and this is a difficult process. He read all the emails he received and talked about levels of service and how much of the budget is set because of drivers like the union contracts that drive 2/3 of the budget and other items that are locked into the budget. Selectman Kiley said the Selectmen is concerned about seniors and want them to stay in town. Selectman McCarthy Vahey appreciates Selectman Kiley's comments and concurs with most of what he had said. First Selectman Tetreau said there's a fine line between taxes paid and services residents receive.

The Selectmen first reviewed revenue adjustments. Regarding library fines, budget 1007, Selectman McCarthy Vahey made an amendment to approve revenue adjustments for library fines in the amount of \$8,509. Selectman Kiley seconded the amendment which carried 3-0.

Selectman Kiley made a motion to approve the revenue adjustments in the amount of \$8,509. Selectman McCarthy Vahey seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made an amendment to approve the decrease in budget 1010, the Chief of Staff payroll and social security, in the amount of \$3,940. Selectman Kiley seconded the amendment which carried 3-0. Budget Director Linda Gardiner said the new total proposed increase for the First Selectman's budget is \$458,236. Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve the First Selectman's budget increase. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 1030, Town Clerk, as is without any adjustments. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 1050, Administrative Services, as is. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 1070, Registrar of Voters, as is. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion. Selectman McCarthy Vahey said that the 20% is for the different types of elections like primaries. The motion carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 1090, Zoning Board of Appeals, as is. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 1110, Town Planning and Zoning, as is. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 1130, Probate Court, as is. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 1210, Historic District Commission, as is. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 1230, the Conservation Commission. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion. Selectman McCarthy Vahey recognizes that this department requested other positions and how the department head talked about the demand. She appreciates the department head working with the town boards to balance the needs of taxpayers. First Selectman Tetreau said many department heads had initially come in with higher proposed budgets that he reduced by \$3.8 million. He stressed everyone is trying to do more with less. The motion carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 1250, Shellfish Commission, as is. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 1270, Legal Services, as is. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 1290, Miscellaneous Contingencies, as is. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 1330, Human Resources. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion. Selectman Kiley made an amendment to reduce the health insurance line by \$250,000. Selectman McCarthy Vahey seconded the amendment which carried 3-0. The main motion, as amended, carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 1350, Community and Economic Development. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion. Selectman McCarthy Vahey noted the conversation the Community and Economic Development Director had asked for more staff at the budget meetings so he could do more with business development and attract more businesses to town. She appreciates his hard work and working within his means. The motion carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 1370, Harbor Management Commission, as is. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Selectman Kiley asked to discuss and vote on Contingency later in the meeting which the Selectmen agreed to.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 2020, Contribution to Surplus, as is. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 2073, Regional Youth Adult Social Action Partnership, as is. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 2130, Pequot Library. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion. Selectman Kiley wondered why this was the only non-profit that had a proposed reduction. He said there still needs a lot of work to do with the non-profits on process and other matters. The non-profit committee has not completed its work. He disagrees with this cut and wants the Board to consider replacing the funding.

Selectman Kiley made an amendment to increase the Pequot Library budget 2130, by \$25,000. Selectman McCarthy Vahey seconded the amendment.

Selectman Kiley said this is not the time to take action against one non-profit and the Board should wait until there's an action plan to address all the non-profits. First Selectman Tetreau said the non-profit committee finished its work. He noted Pequot was not the only non-profit that had reductions—two others had reductions proposed. First Selectman Tetreau said he sat down with each non-profit this year and looked at their return to the town. Regarding Pequot, he said it's a valuable resource but it was never discussed with objectivity during last year's budget process. He said the public library reduction and BOE shortfall was a factor in reducing Pequot's funding. Selectman McCarthy Vahey said there still needs to be a conversation with the non-profits as there are missing pieces. She said that the First Selectman has said he will not lower the amount each year; he will recommend this level of funding which she said is not an insignificant cut. She concurs with the balance of all libraries noting all libraries had reductions this year.

The amendment failed 1-2-0, Tetreau and McCarthy against, Kiley in favor. The main motion carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 2150, Fairfield Counseling Services, as is. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 2170, The Discovery Museum, as is. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 2190, Greater Bridgeport Regional Council, as is. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 2210, Audubon Society, as is. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 2230, Greater Bridgeport Transit Authority, as is. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 2250, Fairfield Museum and History Center, as is. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 2270, Fairfield Veterans Advisory and Information Services, as is. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 2290, S.W. Connecticut EMS Council, as is. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 2310, S.W. Regional Mental Health Board, as is. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Budget Director Linda Gardiner noted that budget 2320, S.W. Regional Communications Center, was moved to the ECC budget so the Selectmen did not have to address that line item.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 2330, Council of Churches Janus Center, as is. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 2350, Grasmere by the Sea, as is. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 2370, Sullivan-McKinney Elder Housing, as is. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Budget 2390, Fairfield Arts Center, is no longer operating so it was not voted on.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 2430, The Kennedy Center, as is. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 2450, Mill River Wetland Committee, as is. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 2470, The Pilot House, as is. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 2480, The Center for Family Justice, as is. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 2531, Private School Transportation, as is. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 11030, Health and Welfare Services, as is. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 3010, finance. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion.

Selectman Kiley made an amendment to deduce 3010 by \$35,507 because of affordability issues for the town and he feels that with a full-time Chief of Staff and the finance department moving things around that work can get done. Selectman McCarthy Vahey seconded the amendment. Selectman McCarthy Vahey asked if there is a way to address needs like the internal auditing piece that is a critical function. She's supportive of critical functions getting done. First Selectman Tetreau said this position can help the town move in the right directions and meet financial challenges ahead. Selectman Kiley said this is not the right time to fund this new position and there's already expertise in the department. The amendment failed 1-2-0, Kiley and McCarthy Vahey against, Kiley in favor.

The motion, as amended, carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 3030, Purchasing, as is. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 3050, Assessor. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made an amendment to increase the budget by \$50,000 for costs for the revaluation. Selectman Kiley seconded the amendment. Selectman Kiley said he won't vote for this because there are still open questions on who the vendor will be, the level of service and what involvement the Board of Finance will have. First Selectman Tetreau said this will kick off July 1, 2014. It's a two year process for the revaluation. The team reviewing bids is looking at a full data collection. First Selectman Tetreau said full date collection cannot be done if the funding is not approved. Selectman Kiley disagreed and says there's enough money in the budget to do that collection. First Selectman Tetreau said Purchasing may disagree. Selectman McCarthy Vahey doesn't know the down payment because there is no vendor yet. She suggested putting this in contingency as a compromise. First Selectman Tetreau said the Tax Assessor needs authorization to move forward and putting this in contingency doesn't solve that problem. The amendment carried 2-1-0, Kiley against, Tetreau and McCarthy in favor. The motion, as amended, carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 3090, Tax Collector, as is. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 3110, Information Technology. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion.

Selectman Kiley made an amendment to reduce \$47,613 for the IT phone engineer because of affordability and he has not yet seen this project. Selectman McCarthy Vahey seconded the amendment. She said this is a critical need. First Selectman Tetreau asked the Board for suggestions on how this project can come back to the Board. First Selectman Tetreau said the system is for the Town and BOE. IT Director Don Leslie spoke about the project. He said the funding would put back a position that had been removed. The amendment carried 3-0.

The overall IT budget, as amended, carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to reconsider approving the IT budget. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion.

Selectman McCarty Vahey made an amendment to approve \$24,450 for FairTV. Selectman Kiley seconded the amendment. Selectman Kiley asked if there was any new information in the last day. First Selectman Tetreau said Cable Advisory Council is not releasing the money and there may be a possibility later in the year the Town could be replenished. Selectman McCarthy Vahey said FairTV is important for transparency reasons and for those who cannot attend meetings. The amendment carried 3-0. The revised budget carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 3130, Board of Finance, as is. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 3150, Unemployment Compensation, as is. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 4010, Fire, as is. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Selectman Kiley made an amendment to approve budget 4030, Police. Selectman McCarthy Vahey seconded the amendment. First Selectman Tetreau discussed the importance of the increase of \$256,100 for school security—a plan our emergency personnel put together. Selectman Kiley said this funding will protect children and he fully supports this. Selectman McCarthy Vahey also supports this funding. First Selectman Tetreau thanked police and fire and the Superintendent and the team at the BOE for this plan. The amendment carried 3-0. Budget 4030, as amended, carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 4050, Animal Control, as is. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Selectman Kiley made an amendment to increase budget 4070, Street Lighting, by \$22,483 per the updated information and per the electricity reconciliation schedule. Selectman McCarthy Vahey seconded the amendment which carried 3-0. The budget, as amended, carried 3-0.

Selectman Kiley made an amendment to reduce budget 4090, Hydrant and Water Services, by \$40,000 per the updated information. Selectman McCarthy Vahey seconded the amendment which carried 3-0. The budget, as amended, carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 4110, Emergency Management, as is. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 4150, Emergency Communications Center, as is. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 5011, Public Works Administration, as is. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Selectman Kiley made an amendment to reduce budget 5030, Public Works Operations, by \$8,603 per the updated information. Selectman McCarthy Vahey seconded the amendment which carried 3-0. The budget, as amended, carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 5050, Building, as is. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 5070, Engineering, as is. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Regarding budget 6010, Health Department, Selectman Kiley asked for new head count requests. Health Director Sands Cleary said two part-time health aides and one nurse for a total of \$58,276. After Selectman Kiley said he was torn on this decision, Mr. Cleary said he waited for years to request this and is finally at the point of needing to request this based on demand of nurses, planning they need to do and other imperative matters.

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

Regarding the Human and Social Services Budget, 6050, Selectman McCarthy Vahey asked if \$30,000 is the proper amount. First Selectman Tetreau said it is in the right ballpark. Selectman Kiley said this is a reasonable compromise and thanked everyone on compromising on this position. Selectman McCarthy Vahey said the Senior Center open house she attended was informative and this position takes some of the pressure off of the current director who can focus more on social services.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made an amendment to add \$30,435 for a part-time Senior Center Director. Selectman Kiley seconded the amendment which carried 3-0.

First Selectman Tetreau said this is the first step and not the answer. This vote shows seniors the Town cares.

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

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 6070, Solid Waste and Recycling, as is. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 7010, Library, as is. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 7030, Penfield Pavilion Complex, as is. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion and thanked Parks and Recreation Director Gerry Lombardo which First Selectman Tetreau said he'd pass on to Mr. Lombardo. The motion carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 7050, Parks and Recreation, as is. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 7070, Waterfront and Marina, as is. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 7111, Carl J. Dickman Golf Course, as is. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 7113, H. Smith Richardson Golf Course, as is. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

8010-Board of Education Budget: First Selectman Tetreau said there is a shortfall in the ISF Fund. CFO Bob Mayer said the Selectmen could either build up the ISF Fund or transfer money to the BOE if the Selectmen make two motions to bond premium money to the debt service and then move debt service funds to the BOE. These would be two separate transactions.

First Selectman Tetreau made an amendment to move \$500,000 from debt service to the BOE with the request that the funding be applied to the health insurance that goes into the ISF. Selectman Kiley seconded the amendment.

First Selectman Tetreau said he is specifically asking representatives from Central Office at today's meeting to convey to the BOE that the Selectmen want this money used in this manner. He said the Selectmen are strongly recommending the Town help out the BOE to reduce the urgency for the BOE replenishment this year and allows program to continue as planned. First Selectman Tetreau said it's important to take action now and buys the BOE time to plan a response. Selectman Kiley said he also wants to make sure First Selectman Tetreau's message is well received at the BOE which Selectman McCarthy Vahey also agreed with noting that the Town and BOE are partners and she doesn't want the education program impacted by this shortfall. She suggested BOE funding be allocated for school security which First Selectman Tetreau said can be take up later in the meeting.

The amendment carried 3-0.

First Selectman Tetreau made an amendment to take \$500,000 out of the bond premium reserve and apply it to the debt service for FY 2015. Selectman Kiley seconded the amendment which carried 3-0.0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 10030, debt service. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Regarding budget 1310, retiree benefits, Selectman Kiley made an amendment to approve a decrease in retiree benefits in the amount of \$1,197. Selectman McCarthy Vahey seconded the amendment which carried 3-0.

Continuing with the BOE budget, 8010, Selectman McCarthy Vahey requested a sense of the body to suggest to the BOE that the \$160,000 currently allocated for school security be used to address BOE health insurance IBNR requirements. Selectman Kiley clarified that Selectman McCarthy Vahey was suggesting not to reduce by \$160,000 but to earmark that toward the health insurance shortfall. Selectman McCarthy Vahey said that is correct. The \$160,000 which would be used for physical improvements in buildings could be a capital project and part of a non-recurring item that

would go through town bodies for approval. First Selectman Tetreau stressed timing of implementing school security and said if the BOE does proceed with the \$160,000 there will be a shortfall. Selectman Kiley said as long as the Selectmen's decision does not hamper school security and if there's a way to alleviate the IBNR issue then he's okay with moving forward as long as there's documentation through a letter the First Selectman suggested sending to town bodies on the Selectmen's recommendations on this matter. Fairfield Public Schools' Director of Operations Tom Cullen said his only concern is starting the security work this summer which means getting town approvals in late May or early June.

Selectman Kiley said he supports the BOE budget with this amendment and believes further cuts to the BOE budget will be detrimental. Selectman McCarthy Vahey concurred saying further cuts puts the BOE budget at risk. First Selectman Tetreau said between the special ed shortfall and health insurance numbers for next year he feels this is what's best for the town now. The amendment carried 3-0.

Mrs. Gardiner said that with cuts and additions the proposed tax increase is still at 2.67%.

Selectman Kiley said affordability is important but services are required and he feels a good job was done in balancing those needs in this budget but it's still above last year's tax increase.

Selectman Kiley made an amendment to reduce Contingency, budget 2010, by \$275,000 to get to a 2.56% proposed tax increase. Selectman McCarthy Vahey seconded the amendment.

First Selectman Tetreau sympathizes with this suggestion but said lowering contingency cannot support the unknown. He gave examples such as the numerous snow storms and the \$500,000 hole in the BOE budget. He said that \$3 million was already removed in the department requests before proposing this budget. He also noted contingency was adjusted the last two years. Selectman McCarthy Vahey prefers having a conversation on the level of contingency and thus, will not support any cuts in this budget until that conversation occurs at the BOF.

The amendment failed 1-2-0, Kiley in favor, Tetreau and McCarthy Vahey against. Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve budget 2010 as is. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made an amendment to adjust the health insurance actives and utilities-electric in the WPCA budget, 130. Selectman Kiley seconded the amendment.

Mrs. Gardiner said the Selectman do not need to vote on the fees and professional services nor the information technology in this budget. First Selectman Tetreau noted that the WPCA budget is separate from the tax revenue so it doesn't impact the tax rate.

The amendment carried 3-0.

Selectman Kiley thanked everyone involved in working on the budget including the finance department. He said this budget is a good balance of services required. Selectman McCarthy Vahey read a statement which included how well everyone worked together on this budget that was done in a civil, balanced fashion with compromises. She was impressed with the number of emails from residents. She said the Town is not a business that creates profit, rather, it provides services.

She noted the importance of affordability and how Fairfield has diverse taxpayer needs. She said this sound budget is a product of extensive work by many and she thanked the Selectmen, Mrs. Gardiner and the CFO. First Selectman Tetreau thanked everyone for their involvement with this budget including the Selectmen and employees. He said while there are financial challenges, the town still has a financially strong foundation and a strong local economy, a triple A rating. Fairfield manages expenses, provides services and has a top quality school system.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve the budget, as amended, in the amount of \$286,766,133. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

4) ADJOURN

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:40 pm. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer S. Carpenter
Recording Secretary
