

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING FINAL MINUTES

April 2, 2014

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 2, 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: Ed Boman, Annie Blumenfeld and her parents, Bill McDonagh and Gernzie, Gerry Speno, Soundview, Kendra Bollinger, Sherri Steeneck, Joe Michelangelo, Dan Caruso, Betsy Browne, Diane Auray, Tom Cullen, Scott Thompson, Elizabeth McLaughlin and son

1) CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Tetreau called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm.

2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

First Selectman Tetreau asked Fairfield Warde High School student Annie Blumenfeld to lead the pledge of allegiance.

3) WEDNESDAY'S PET - presented by Sherri Steeneck

As part of the adopt-a-pet program, Sherri Steeneck introduced Gernzie, a female cat who is about eight months to one year old. Anyone seeking to adopt a pet can call 254-4857 or visit the Animal Shelter at 211 Richard White Way. The two cats Ms. Steeneck said needed homes at a previous meeting have been adopted.

4) RECOGNITION

Recognition of Fairfield Warde High School student Annie Blumenfeld, founder of non-profit Wags 4 Hope

First Selectman Tetreau read a proclamation honoring Annie Blumenfeld for starting a non-profit to spread more awareness and reduce heartworm disease in dogs. After receiving the proclamation from the Selectman, Annie told her story about rescuing her dog Teddy and the emotional and financial costs related to his care which led her to find a non-profit, Wags 4 Hope to help other animals like Teddy who is now fully recovered. First Selectman Tetreau said what Annie is doing in saving dogs is great. Selectman McCarthy Vahey thanked Annie for her leadership and for making a difference in the community for pets. Selectman Kiley said it's great Annie founded this organization and the town is very proud of her efforts.

5) MINUTES-To consider and act upon the minutes of: Regular Meeting of March 19, 2014

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

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made an amendment to add the following sentence after the first sentence in the first paragraph on page two to read, "He repeatedly expressed concern about the mechanics of the process." First Selectman Tetreau seconded the amendment which carried 2-0-1, Kiley abstained.

The main motion, as amended, carried 2-0-1, Kiley abstained.

6) BOARD OF SELECTMEN APPROVAL

Board of Library Trustees Elizabeth McLaughlin, (R), 90 Webb Road, term 07/09 – 07/15
(To fill a vacancy for Robert Sussman who resigned) (Appointed by Board of Library Trustees with Board of Selectmen approval)

Selectman Kiley thanked Ms. McLaughlin for serving and said he spoke to her earlier in the day on the phone about her interest and background. He said she will be a great addition to the Board. Selectman McCarthy Vahey asked Ms. McLaughlin why she was interested in this position; what her background is and what she thinks the main issues are. Ms. McLaughlin said Deputy Librarian Nancy Coriaty encouraged her to join the Board. Ms. McLaughlin read library board minutes online and has an interest as a member of the community. She looks forward to bringing her experience to the Board. Selectman McCarthy Vahey said Ms. McLaughlin has an impressive resume and appreciates Ms. McLaughlin's willingness to serve.

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

7) 375th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

To hear a report on the 375th Anniversary Celebration Food Drive

Probate Judge Dan Caruso, co-chair of the 375th anniversary food drive, announced the food drive will take place April 26-April 27, 2014 outside Fairfield Ludlowe High School. He introduced 375th anniversary co-chair Betsy Browne and the food drive's executive director, Diane Auray. Judge Caruso said that the food drive will be intertwined with Fairfield's history and it serves as a need for our entire community by our entire community. Operation Hope, the Food Bank at the Thomas Merton House, the Bridgeport Rescue Mission and Project from the Heart will be the beneficiaries of the food drive. Judge Caruso is asking people to come by with food, volunteer or make a donation. He mentioned the various groups throughout Fairfield that are participating—from churches, synagogues universities, various civic and local businesses to public and private schools. They will collect food in advance and bring it to the food drive. Judge Caruso also thanked all the sponsors. There is a specific list of items that are needed most.

Diane Auray said many opportunities have been provided to engage everyone to participate. Hours are 8-4 pm on Saturday and 8-3 pm on Sunday. There are many volunteers but more are encouraged to volunteer. She also encourages financial contributions or gift cards from the town's local food stores. There will be local entertainment and a live all-day broadcast and there will be food drop off collection sites for people who cannot come by the food drive. The website is www.ffldfooddrive375.org.

Betsy Browne said there will be tip jars at participating businesses at tomorrow's Shop and Stroll into Spring. She encouraged people liking the food drive on Facebook. She said this drive capitalizes on the generosity of Fairfielders like those asking to perform a community service project. First Selectman Tetreau thanked everyone involved in the food drive including Judge Caruso, Betsy Browne and Diane Auray. Selectman McCarthy Vahey said this event speaks to who we are as a community. Selectman Kiley also thanked Judge Caruso, Town Clerk Browne and Ms. Auray. He said this event is a wonderful showing of how we all help each other and is a great event especially for those it will benefit. Selectman McCarthy Vahey suggested the Board of Selectmen all volunteer at the food drive.

8) DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

To hear, consider and act upon the following resolution as recommended by the Director of Public Works:

RESOLVED, that the Town of Fairfield enter into Municipal Energy Opportunity Agreements with United Illuminating Company in the amount of \$961,916 to cover improvements at the Public Works Garage, Police Headquarters, Fire Headquarters and Independence Hall; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the First Selectman is authorized to execute the required documents in order to participate in the energy conservation program entitled Energy Opportunities.

Assistant Director of Public Works Ed Boman gave the Selectmen a handout on the Top 20 Electric Users. He gave background information on the agreements. Mr. Boman said the town is looking at four sites—the Public Works Garage, Police Headquarters, Fire Headquarters and Independence Hall. With new grants and loans, no town money is required. A wireless energy system will be put in these four locations that are owned by the Town. There are no annual fees. Each room will have its own control in heat and air conditioning. Mr. Boman said the Police Department has no controls at all so this project will correct that problem. The fire roof top needs to be replaced and UI money will be used; no town money will be used. First Selectman Tetreau asked if the money used is from grant monies received in the past that have been built upon with new monies. Mr. Boman said that is correct. Mr. Boman said the Town should see savings by the end of three years. The next few months will show all the savings achieved with other projects. Mr. Boman said a computer can show everything that is happening including how much energy each equipment is using and changes can be made through use of a computer. Selectman McCarthy Vahey said this project is a real savings to the Town. Selectman Kiley said these projects are making the Town more green and energy efficient. He asked about the upgrades on old buildings because he thought Johnson Controls would have made those buildings in better shape. Mr. Boman said those buildings are in better shape and gave an example of how Independence Hall's rooftop replacement went well but said the police equipment replacement didn't work out well so upgrades are needed.

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

9) DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

To hear, consider and act upon the following resolution as recommended by the Director of Public Works:

RESOLVED, that the Town of Fairfield accept \$10,000 in grants from the Connecticut Energy and Finance Investment Authority (CEFIA) to install vehicle electric charging stations at the Recreation Center, Jennings Beach and Fairfield Woods Library; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the First Selectman is authorized to execute the required documents.

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

Mr. Boman gave credit to Scott Thompson, chair of the Clean Energy Task Force who assembled this information for these charging stations. Total cost is \$36,000. He gave a breakdown of

rebates and funds resulting in the Town paying only \$700 from the existing DPW budget. He spoke to the library and recreation department which are both very supportive.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey thanked Mr. Thompson. She asked Mr. Thompson to explain the points piece and how everything works together to help this project. Mr. Thompson said points are used from the Solarize Fairfield program that was done over a year ago. Mr. Boman said the Task Force is aiming to perform 375 audits as part of the Town's 375th anniversary. Selectman McCarty Vahey asked where funding comes from in the Task Force's budget. Mr. Thompson said people sign up for clean energy options when selecting new energy providers. The Task Force contributed funds to this project as a symbolic gesture to the Town.

Selectman Kiley thanked Mr. Boman and Mr. Thompson and said he is glad good locations were found for this project. Mr. Boman explained how much funding is used for each location. He said the branch library station will cost the most, but it will be offset by grant monies and Task Force money.

The motion carried 3-0.

10) DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

To hear, consider and act upon the following resolution as recommended by the Director of Public Works: RESOLVED, that the Town of Fairfield enter into Power Purchase Agreements with Skyview Ventures to install photovoltaic generators at the Main Library, Animal Shelter, Jennings Beach and Kiwanis and Sullivan Fields for twenty years; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the First Selectman is authorized to execute the required documents.

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

Mr. Boman said these are small power purchase agreements under 100 kw. They are not all his first choices so next year he will submit projects he wants installed. The vendor designs and installs these generators and is responsible for all of the maintenance. He said the contract won't be signed unless the projects have a total savings over 20 years.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey asked Mr. Boman if these are the same template for the contracts the Town Attorney had reviewed last year for similar projects. Mr. Boman said they are. She also asked how these generators will look and their layout. Mr. Boman said the rooftop units at the library and animal shelter cannot be seen; the generator at Jennings Beach will be near the pavilion and is a carport; and the one at the field looks like an outfield wall and takes up no space. These generators are basically weather shelters and provide better lighting. Mr. Boman communicated these projects with all those involved which Selectman McCarthy Vahey said was great. First Selectman Tetreau thanked Mr. Boman and Mr. Thompson.

The motion carried 3-0.

11) MILL HILL ROOF BUILDING COMMITTEE CHARGE (postponed from 3/19/14)

To hear, consider and approve a charge for the Mill Hill Roof Building Committee.

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

Selectman McCarthy Vahey thanked Tom Cullen, Director of Operations for the Fairfield Public Schools. Selectman Kiley said the Charge is consistent and straight forward. Selectman McCarthy Vahey asked Mr. Cullen for an overview. Mr. Cullen said regarding the Charge, the State looks for this language so Central Office can file for state reimbursement. He said Mill Hill has 13 roofs; four have to be replaced as they have expired. He explained why the State retracted a law on the half inch per foot or the amount of the slope on a roof. Selectman McCarthy Vahey asked Mr. Cullen if the areas where the new roofs are being put on affect any potential future renovations. Mr. Cullen said no. First Selectman Tetreau said he needs to meet with Mr. Cullen on questions to bring to the Selectmen on this project including a building committee.

The motion carried 3-0.

12) 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 remove the period, add a comma with the following amount, \$23,619.24. Selectman Kiley seconded the amendment which carried 3-0.

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

13) To hear, consider and act upon any communications—There were none.

14) To hear, consider and act upon any other business which shall properly come before this meeting.

There was no other business.

15) ADJOURN

Selectman Kiley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:48 pm. Selectman McCarthy Vahey seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer S. Carpenter
Recording Secretary
