

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING FINAL MINUTES
May 7, 2014

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 7, 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: Bill Hurley, Genny Reilly, Ken Placko, Gerry Speno, Soundview, Scott Jamison,
Misty Beyer, Cinda Buchter, Alyssa Israel, Sarah Levy, Mark Barnhart, Laura Fasano, Geoff
Steadman

1) CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Tetreau called the meeting to order at 4:33 pm.

2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, First Selectman Tetreau asked for a moment of silence for late Fairfield resident and long-time community activist Noel Newman.

3) WEDNESDAY'S PET – presented by Sherri Steeneck

There was no Wednesday's pet.

4) RECOGNITION-Oliver Nurseries for the Donation of Fifty Trees to be Planted on Public Properties around Town in Honor of Oliver Nurseries' Fiftieth Anniversary
Fairfield Forestry Committee Chair Misty Beyer noted Oliver Nurseries' 50th anniversary and was grateful for the Nursery donating 50 trees to the town in honor of the anniversary and the Town's 375th anniversary. Ms. Beyer is thankful especially after many trees came down during the recent storms. Ms. Beyer said the Town's Arbor Day was held recently to celebrate Fairfield as a Tree City USA for the 27th year. The DAR was present and gave a lot of history at the event. The Selectmen thanked Scott Jamison, owner of Oliver's, who thanked the Selectmen for being honored.

5) MINUTES

To consider and act upon the minutes of:

i) Regular Meeting of April 1, 2014 (postponed from 4/23/14)

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

ii) Regular Meeting of April 23, 2014

Selectman Kiley made a motion to approve the minutes. Selectman McCarthy Vahey seconded the motion. Selectman McCarthy Vahey made an amendment to correct the term of Corinne Halliday which should be 2014-2019. Selectman Kiley seconded the amendment which carried 3-0. The main motion, as amended, carried 3-0.

6) BOARD OF SELECTMEN APPOINTMENTS

To hear, consider and act upon the following appointments: a. Burr Gardens Advisory Committee Tara Burke, (D), 321 Mill Hill Road, term 4/13 – 4/16 (To fill a vacancy for Catherine Albin whose term expired)

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve the item. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion. Laura Fasano, Chair of the Burr Gardens Advisory Committee, spoke on behalf of Tara Burke who was not able to attend the meeting. Ms. Fasano said Ms. Burke is dynamic and will be a perfect fit. The Committee will move forward with its plans for the garden. The Selectmen thanked Ms. Burke for serving.

The motion carried 3-0.

7) FORESTRY COMMITTEE-To hear an update from the Forestry Committee

Tree Warden Ken Placko said he's pleased to work with this Committee. Ms. Beyer said Mr. Placko has a very important position in the Town. She read a statement on Fairfield and the value of trees. She thanked First Selectman Tetreau for helping to slow down the process of UI wanting to trim or take down trees in town. She said it's important to look at the relationship of trees and utility wires. Ms. Beyer noted that member Alyssa Israel has been working with Zoning on regulations to protect trees. Ms. Beyer also thanked Geoff Steadman and Ken Placko for their work on the Community Forest Management Plan.

Mr. Steadman said the Plan is an advisory document with two principle goals—public safety and the town taking the lead with an active program to contain what the town has been doing with trees. A final plan will be brought before the Selectmen that Mr. Steadman said will hopefully be implemented. Mr. Steadman gave the Selectmen handouts on tree planting and a forest vision along with a draft of the Plan.

First Selectman Tetreau said the Greater Bridgeport Regional Council got area tree wardens together to send a motion to the state legislature to delay UI's Vegetation Management Program. Ms. Beyer had represented Fairfield's tree warden who was away. First Selectman Tetreau announced the town is holding a public information meeting on May 27 at Tomlinson for the public to hear about the UI program and to offer comments.

Mr. Steadman announced the State Association of Tree Wardens awarded Mr. Placko with the CT Tree Warden of the Year Award. Selectman McCarthy Vahey thanked the Forestry Committee for all their good work. Ms. Israel described some aspects of the proposed zoning regulation. Mr. Steadman added that towns' regulations on trees, including some outside the state, were looked at. He said the Committee didn't want to be too intrusive on regulations affecting private properties. Selectman Kiley thanked the Committee and said their work is important for future generations.

8) DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Public Hearing Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA)

Community and Economic Development Director Mark Barnhart said the town has been participating in this program for many years. The program allows businesses to receive a tax

credit for donating to local organizations. The program needs local approvals and a public hearing. No town funds are involved.

9) DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (requires RTM approval)

To hear, consider and act upon the following resolution as recommended by the Director of Community and Economic Development:

RESOLVED, that the applications received under the Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA) Program are hereby approved, and that the Director of Community and Economic Development is hereby designated as the municipal liaison of the Town of Fairfield for this program. Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve the item. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion. Mr. Barnhart said the town received nine applications. He gave a handout summarizing the programs that received funding this year. The program is advertised in a public notice. Selectman Kiley asked what the best place for participants to learn about this program. Mr. Barnhart said his office of the State Revenue of Services website. Selectman McCarthy Vahey asked if the pool of capped money is given out state-wide and not limited to a certain amount per Town. Mr. Barnhart said the state makes the decision and adjustments across the board.

The motion carried 3-0.

10) DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (requires RTM approval)

To hear, consider and act upon the following resolution as recommended by the Director of Community and Economic Development:

RESOLVED, that the Program Year 40 (October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) is hereby approved in the amount of \$456,968; and FURTHER RESOLVED, that Michael C. Tetreau, First Selectman of the Town of Fairfield, be, and hereby is, authorized to execute any and all necessary documents that facilitate the Town's participation in said CDBG Program.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve the item. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion. Mr. Barnhart said the town receives an annual allocation subject to the planning process. An annual action plan is produced and given to HUD. Two public hearings were held. Federal programs are administered by Mr. Barnhart's office and have been popular. Selectman McCarthy Vahey asked about the percentage of funds used on streets versus sidewalks given the strain on the paving budget. Mr. Barnhart said DPW identifies priorities. Selectman McCarthy Vahey if any group from last year was not on this year's list. Mr. Barnhart said all are on except Volunteer Services for the Blind. Mr. Barnhart noted the resolution should state the amount is \$456,698.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made an amendment to change the amount in the resolution to \$456,698. Selectman Kiley seconded the amendment which carried 3-0.

Selectman Kiley asked Mr. Barnhart to forward the program requirements to the Selectmen and include language on who qualifies.

The motion, as amended, carried 3-0.

11) DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

To hear, consider and act upon a request to remove a streetlight at 1675 Merwins Lane, pole # 3359

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve the item. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion. Engineering Manager Bill Hurley said this item is typically handled in house but given the type of request in the letter the item is being brought to the Selectmen which had approved street lights going back many years. First Selectman Tetreau asked Mr. Hurley to explain the ownership situation. Mr. Hurley said the CT Audubon owns the house. Milan Bull who works at the Audubon agreed to the letter writer's request. First Selectman Tetreau asked for something in writing from the CT Audubon. Selectman Kiley said he is not sure of the reason for this request. Selectman McCarthy Vahey asked for a history on the process. Mr. Hurley said there are guidelines his department uses for removal. Mr. Hurley said no neighbors were polled because the house near the light is on Audubon property.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to postpone to a date certain of June 4, 2014 which is a BOS mtg following the May 21 meeting. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion. Selectman McCarthy Vahey asked if there is any cost to the town for removal. Mr. Hurley said no and the town saves \$120,000 per year.

The motion carried 3-0.

12) DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (requires Board of Finance and RTM approval)

To hear, consider and act upon the following resolution as recommended by the Director of Public Works: RESOLVED, that a 2013 \$275,000 Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant be, and hereby is, accepted, in order to increase handicap accessibility at South Benson Marina, Southport Beach, Ye Yacht Yard and Sasco Beach; and FURTHER RESOLVED, that First Selectman Michael Tetreau be, and hereby is, authorized to apply for and execute the grant agreement and accept the funds for this project.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve the item. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion. Mr. Hurley said he and the DPW Director accepted these recommendations. He explained each project. First Selectman Tetreau said the goal is to help people in the community with disabilities to have better access to key amenities like the beaches. He thanked the State for this grant. Selectman McCarthy Vahey asked if DPW spoke to Human Services about these projects and is DPW following a written document in planning these projects or is this a general plan. Mr. Hurley said to defer to the DPW Director on these questions.

The motion carried 3-0.

13) TAX COLLECTOR

To consider and approve an abatement of taxes for the 2011 Grand List taxes due July 2012 – June 2013 and the 2012 Grand List taxes due July 2013 – June 2014 for 21 and 63 Durrell Drive in the total amount of \$16,280.20.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve the item. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion. Tax Collector Cinda Buchter said this agreement was signed by the Town in 1995. Since it's low income housing taxes are abated each year. Ms. Buchter spoke to Mr. Barnhart who said this property is in compliance and taxes should be abated by the town. Selectman Kiley asked if the Town Attorney reviewed this. First Selectman Tetreau said he assumed the Town Attorney reviewed this in 1995. Ms. Buchter said she is following procedures as the Tax Collector. Selectman Kiley asked if there is an annual plan that is reviewed to make sure properties like these are in compliance. Ms. Buchter said there is no annual review but Mr. Barnhart's office reviews these issues. Selectman McCarthy Vahey said she trusts Mr. Barnhart's approval and is aware he's been reviewing this for years.

Selectman Kiley made a motion to postpone the item to a date certain of May 21, 2014. Selectman McCarthy Vahey seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

14) 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 add , \$10,653.55. Selectman Kiley seconded the amendment which carried 3-0.

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

15) To hear, consider and act upon any communications.

First Selectman Tetreau read an email from a Fire Department's press release noting there have been a number of these showing how fire responds to the community, the resources it uses and how fire, police and AMR and the state police all work together and do a good job.

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

There was no other business.

17) ADJOURN

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 pm. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer S. Carpenter
Recording Secretary
