

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING FINAL MINUTES
June 4, 2014

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 4, 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: Chief Felner, Genny Reilly, Will Smith, Mark Barnhart, Dorothy Timmerman, News 12, Beverly Balaz, Gerry Speno, Stanton Lesser, Sherri Steeneck, Bill McDonagh and Rosie, Soudnview, Joe Michelangelo, Paige Herman, Bill Hurley, Heather Dean, Tom Dubrosky, Eileen Wenzel, John Short, Betsy Browne, Dance and Cheerleading Team members, coaches and parents

1) CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Tetreau called the meeting to order at 4:35 pm.

2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3) WEDNESDAY'S PET – presented by Sherri Steeneck

As part of the adopt-a-pet program, Sherri Steeneck introduced Rosie, a female dog who is about 5 years old. Anyone seeking to adopt a pet can call 254- 4857 or visit the Animal Shelter at 211 Richard White Way.

4) RECOGNITION

Recognition of the Fairfield Warde High School 2014 FCIAC Cheerleading Grand Champions
The Selectmen presented certificates of congratulations to the Cheerleading Coaches and each team member who spoke about their competitions and how important the sport is to them. First Selectman Tetreau talked about the importance of the sport and congratulated the team. Selectman McCarthy Vahey said she is very proud of the team and their teamwork and said they should continue to be successful in all they do. Selectman Kiley congratulated the team and thanked them for representing the town and schools.

5) RECOGNITION

Recognition of the Fairfield Warde High School Dance Team Awards
The Selectmen had the dance team gather together. The coach discussed how hard the team has worked to get to the state championships. Selectman McCarthy Vahey said she has seen this team perform and are as amazing as higher level schools. Selectman Kiley said the parents, town and school should be proud. First Selectman Tetreau and the Selectmen issued certificates to the coach and members. He thanked the team for representing the Town so well.

Selectman Kiley made a motion to move item 14 before item 6. Selectman McCarthy Vahey seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

14) DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (postponed from May 7, 2014)

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 Milan Bull of the Audubon Society, the owner of 1675 Merwins Lane, sent an email supporting the tenant's request to have the light removed.

The motion carried 3-0.

6) MINUTES-To consider and act upon the minutes of: Regular Meeting of May 21, 2014

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

7) RESIGNATIONS (for information only)

Long Island Sound Assembly (LISA) Mary von Conta, 128 Southport Woods Drive

8) APPOINTMENTS

To hear, consider and act upon the following appointments:

a) Golf Commission Eileen Burns Wenzel, (R), 960 Flintlock Road, term 04/14 – 04/19 (To fill a vacancy for Craig Curley whose term expired)

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

Selectman Kiley thanked Ms. Wenzel for volunteering and commitment to the Town.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey said she had a chance to talk to Ms. Wenzel and thanked her for serving. First Selectman Tetreau thanked Ms. Wenzel for serving and said how important it is to keep one of our important amenities running smoothly.

The motion carried 3-0.

b) Shellfish Commission John C. Short, Jr., (R), 382 Round Hill Road, term 11/10 – 11/15 (To fill a vacancy for Paul Nelson who resigned)

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve the item. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion. Selectman McCarthy Vahey thanked Mr. Short for serving. Selectman Kiley and First Selectman Tetreau also thanked Mr. Short for serving. First Selectman Tetreau said he hopes Mr. Short stays on the Commission past November.

The motion carried 3-0.

9) UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

To hear a report on renovation plans for Penfield Reef Lighthouse

Commander William Smith of the Coast Guard gave a presentation on the Coast Guard's upgrades to the Penfield Reef Lighthouse using federal funds from Storm Sandy since it is still federally owned. Commander Smith showed the Selectmen a diagram of areas that the Coast

Guard will fix. He said this lighthouse is important as a navigational aid in Long Island Sound. After detailing work to be done, Commander Smith said the project will start work late summer or fall and may have to finish over the winter or spring break in 2015 using \$500,000 to \$1 million worth of federal grants with the Town bearing no cost.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey said she is glad the lighthouse is being maintained with historic quality and noted that the Town considers this an icon. Selectman Kiley also thanked Commander Smith for his attendance and presentation. He asked if the lighthouse held up during Storm Sandy. Commander Smith said while there was some damage the structure held up. A goal is to get the outer structure water tight. First Selectman Tetreau asked if the lighthouse will still maintain the same function before Storm Sandy. Commander Smith said it maintains the same function now with a light flashing a signal to mariners. He concluded by saying the Coast Guard will maintain the lighthouse's structural integrity.

10) FAIRFIELD COUNSELING SERVICES

To hear a report from Fairfield Counseling Services

Dorothy Timmerman, Executive Director, thanked the Town for its support of FCS. She explained the wide contingent of people FCS serves and the array of programs and staff. FCS has a secondary mission of serving as a training site. FCS has about 10,000 sessions each year.

First Selectman Tetreau asked how many Fairfield residents are clients. Ms. Timmerman said about 65-68%. She said prevention is key to what FCS does. Selectman McCarthy Vahey thanked Ms. Timmerman for all she does and agreed prevention is important. She asked how often FCS comes to the schools and who she partners with at the schools. Ms. Timmerman said she works with the schools directly which requests FCS to come to and there is a nice collaboration. Selectman Kiley thanked Ms. Timmerman for all she does and all her organization does especially with the ever changing mental health issues. He said FCS has a partnership with the Town that far exceeds any monetary relationship and does what the Town doesn't have resources to do. First Selectman Tetreau said the Town's contribution is so important.

11) CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT- To hear a report on Fairfield Online.

Community and Economic Development Director Mark Barnhart said his office launched the Get Your Business Online with Google, a successful nationwide initiative. His office has partnered with the Fairfield Chamber of Commerce. Beverly Balaz, the Chamber's Executive Director, joined Mr. Barnhart to discuss helping Fairfield businesses by increasing their online presence. Ms. Balaz said she's worked with her membership to get the word out on this program and said there is a video with First Selectman Tetreau promoting this program. Business owners can contact the Chamber at 255-1011 or Mr. Barnhart's office at 256-3120 or go to www.gybo.com. First Selectman Tetreau said he had first been introduced to this program at the US Conference of Mayors which he thought would benefit Fairfield's businesses. Ms. Balaz said this program can lead to more job creation and has gotten very good feedback from the Chamber. Selectman Kiley said he is surprised only 50% of businesses are online. Mr. Barnhart said that is a national number and expects Fairfield's numbers to be higher.

Selectman Kiley said it's good barriers are being broken down to business entry and this program should be helpful to local businesses. Selectman McCarthy Vahey echoed Selectman Kiley's comments.

12) TOWN ATTORNEY (requires RTM approval)

To hear, consider and approve a lease renewal with T-Mobile at 3965 Congress Street, Fairfield, CT

Town Attorney Stanton Lesser said in response to Selectman Kiley's request on rates from other towns that Fairfield Risk Manager Eileen Kennelly did a survey on what other towns receive on cell tower rates and all are paid less than what Fairfield receives. Selectman Kiley asked the term of this new contract. Mr. Lesser said it's a five year term with no option after that. First Selectman Tetreau asked about the company's renewal option and if this is a new term or is this option in the existing lease. Mr. Lesser said it's a renewal of their option and this renewal is an extension of that lease. First Selectman Tetreau clarified that this lease is renewed for two five-year terms for up to 15 years. First Selectman Tetreau asked if the terms in this renewal are identical to what was signed about 15 years ago other than what was mentioned above. Mr. Lesser replied yes.

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

13) TOWN ATTORNEY To hear a report on the donation of property at 641 Reef Road

First Selectman Tetreau said a resident wants to donate property to the town that the town would sell and give the proceeds to go toward the purchase of a ladder-rescue truck for the Fairfield Fire Department. Mr. Lesser said this is a conditional gift. An appraisal needs to be done and the building was inspected today and is in good shape. A title search has to be performed also. First Selectman Tetreau said the proceeds will significantly reduce the cost of the truck the town already has on order. Selectman Kiley asked if there are any condo entanglements. Mr. Lesser said it's a two-unit condo. Selectman McCarthy Vahey asked who will sell the condo. Mr. Lesser said the First Selectman has the authority to negotiate the sale and said there are procedures on this in the Town Code. A report will be needed from TP&Z and this item will need to go before the RTM for approval of the sale. Selectman McCarthy Vahey asked if proceeds will pay for any costs the Town incurs. Mr. Lesser responded yes. Selectman Kiley asked for a sense of the body. First Selectman Tetreau rephrased this by asking if the Selectmen had any objections and none did.

15) TOWN CLERK (requires RTM approval)

To hear, consider and act upon the following resolution as recommended by the Town Clerk:

RESOLVED, that Michael C. Tetreau, First Selectman of the Town of Fairfield, is empowered to execute and deliver in the name and on behalf of this municipality a contract with the Connecticut State Library for an Historic Document Preservation Grant.

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

Town Clerk Betsy Browne said this is an annual grant to restore old books and records like the one she showed the Selectmen. The grant, worth \$7500 will be put toward cleaning, restoring, sealing and binding aging documents in the Town Clerk's office.

The motion carried 3-0.

16) 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 McCarty Vahey made an amendment to strike the period at the end of the resolution and add a comma and \$2,087.62. Selectman Kiley seconded the amendment which carried 3-0.

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

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

There were no communications.

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

There was no other business.

19) ADJOURN

Selectman Kiley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:02 pm. Selectman McCarthy Vahey seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer S. Carpenter
Recording Secretary