

SPECIAL BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING FINAL MINUTES

June 16, 2014

A special meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, June 16, 2014, in the first floor conference room of Independence Hall.

Members Present: First Selectman Mike Tetreau, Selectman Kevin Kiley, Selectman Cristin McCarthy Vahey

Others Present: Genny Reilly, News 12, Alyssa Smith, Melanie Marks, Don Leslie, Tennis Team Members, Coach and parents, Dr. David Title, Dr. Richard DeAngelis, Bill Hurley, Soundview, Bill Lee, Gerry Speno for FairTV, Judge Dan Caruso, Kate Maxham, Jim Kennelly, Nelson North and Colleen Noyes, Erika Kiley, Charlene Brauns-Schindler

1) CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Tetreau called the meeting to order at 4:31 pm.

2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dr. David Title led the pledge of allegiance.

3) RECOGNITION-Recognition of the Fairfield Ludlowe High School 2014 Girl's Tennis FCIAC and State Champions

The Selectmen issued certificates of congratulations to the Fairfield Ludlowe High School 2014 Girl's Tennis Team FCIAC and State Champions. After the team's coach spoke, a member of the team also spoke. The Selectmen thanked the team and said how proud they have made our Town.

4) RESIGNATIONS Solid Waste & Recycling Commission

Virginia M. Casey, (D), 210 James Street, term 11/10 – 11/14 (Resignation Date: 6/12/2014)

5) RICHARD C. DeANGELIS, PhD Washington and the Sun Tavern

Dr. Richard DeAngelis read excerpts from President George Washington's diaries. He read about inns the President had stopped including an unplanned stop in Fairfield which had many taverns at the time of the Town's burning. Dr. DeAngelis deduced that President Washington stayed at the tavern owned by Samuel Penfield which was opened in 1782 as an inn also known as the Sun Tavern. Dr. DeAngelis said he spent many hours discussing this stay with historian Bill Lee and the Fairfield Museum and History Center which helped renovate the Sun Tavern in the 1970s. It has been concluded until someone proves otherwise that the President did stay at the Sun Tavern.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey thanked Dr. DeAngelis as did Selectman Kiley who said Dr. DeAngelis makes more than a great case and he's proud our president stayed at this inn. First Selectman Tetreau also thanked Dr. DeAngelis for his research and report.

6) AUDUBON SOCIETY -To hear a report from the Audubon Society
Nelson North, Director of Fairfield operations for the Audubon Society in Fairfield, gave a history of the Audubon Center. He said land for the Audubon opened on Unquowa Road in 1898 as a response to the wholesale slaughter of birds.

The first president was Mabel Osgood Wright, a noted author who taught birdcraft. He also noted that Annie B. Jennings, a member, gave the Audubon its first land donation in 1914. Mr. North described the original museum and noted Audubon is celebrating its 100th anniversary and is the oldest songbird sanctuary in the country. In 1971, Roy and Margot Larsen built the museum on Burr Street. In 1998, the Unquowa and Burr buildings merged into one museum but still located at two separate locations. In 2007, Lucy Bedford Warren gave the Audubon \$1 million.

Colleen Noyes a teacher naturalist who's in charge of the CANE program at the Audubon spoke about this program for the lower grades in Fairfield. About 2400 students grades K-2 in all the public schools and St. Thomas participate. Parents are trained. Ms. Noyes read an unsolicited letter from a parent about the program.

First Selectman Tetreau said how nice it is that the Town is celebrating its 375th anniversary and the Audubon is celebrating its 100th anniversary. Selectman McCarthy Vahey thanked Mr. North and Ms. Noyes noting she had taught a lesson and CANE, which her children participated in, is a phenomenal program because it brings parents and the community together to the outside. She asked if the outside of the building is being renovated. Mr. North said the Sasqua Garden Club partnered with the Audubon to replant the building's apron while the museum is handling the rest of the work outside. Selectman Kiley congratulated the Audubon on its 100th anniversary. He thanked Mr. North and Ms. Noyes for attending, especially since Audubon is part of the Town's budget process. He said this report is valued information and makes the Town's partnership even stronger going forward.

7) MILL RIVER WETLAND COMMITTEE

To hear a report from the Mill River Wetland Committee
Charlene Brauns-Schindler, President of the Mill River Wetland Committee, read a statement of purpose and gave the Selectmen the 2013 Annual Report. She said this award winning committee is a science educational program for all public and private elementary and middle school students. MRWC approached the BOE to be part of the standard science school curriculum. This is the 45th year of river lab programs. MRWC produces all materials and experiments. There were 608 volunteers this year.

Selectman Kiley thanked Ms. Brauns-Schindler for the programs that he said are phenomenal. His family has been involved and lessons have been remembered by them. Selectman McCarthy Vahey thanked Ms. Brauns-Schindler. She said she was a river guide and knows the value of this program and appreciates the coordination with the school's science program noting this is a critical partnership with the schools and BOE. She said kids are learning how to take care of where we live.

8) DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS To hear, consider and act upon the following resolution as recommended by the Director of Public Works: RESOLVED, that First Selectman Michael C. Tetreau be, and hereby is, authorized to execute all documents necessary in conjunction with the Right of Way agreement entitled “Agreement between the State of Connecticut and the Town of Fairfield for Right of Way Activities in Conjunction with the Replacement of the Valley Road Bridge (Bridge No. 04956) over Horse Tavern Brook (State Project No. 50-216, Federal Project No. 6050(011)).”

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

Engineering Manager Bill Hurley said wing walls will be built and showed the Selectmen a large map of the project. The two wing walls are on private property. First Selectman Tetreau asked if the Town owns the property after it’s taken. Mr. Hurley said the Town would only own the property where the two wing walls will be located. First Selectman Tetreau asked if there is any formal action of this taking and when it would occur. Mr. Hurley said signing the resolution starts this detailed process. First Selectman Tetreau asked if the property owner was notified. Mr. Hurley said the one property owner affected who’s away was notified by email. First Selectman Tetreau asked if this is a Town taking even though this is a state project. Referring to the 4th Whereas on page two, Mr. Hurley said the Town requested the State take the land and the Town has to be in full cooperation. Mr. Hurley said in general, the owner seems positive and has concerns that are typical with these types of situations. He said the Town will keep the owner informed.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey thanked Mr. Hurley and said she had attended the information meeting with the residents and thanked Mr. Hurley for communicating with the neighbors. Mr. Hurley explained the the difference between the final scope and final design following a question from Selectman McCarthy Vahey asking him to clarify the two. She also asked if the project would move forward if the Town took no action on the agreement. Mr. Hurley said the project couldn’t move forward. Following a question from Selectman Kiley on the wings, Mr. Hurley said neighbors may have some input on the project including the wings. Selectman Kiley asked if it’s normal to look at this piece now or should the Town have asked neighbors earlier on the taking. Mr. Hurley said the project has been right on schedule and showed the Selectmen a timetable. First Selectman Tetreau noted his office just received the agreement for him to sign in late May of this year. Selectman Kiley asked if any window was missed with the homeowner. Mr. Hurley said no. First Selectman Tetreau asked if there are any increases in incremental costs. Mr. Hurley said no.

The motion carried 3-0.

9) FAIRTV OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE

To hear, consider and act upon the following resolution as recommended by the FairTV Operational Committee: WHEREAS, the FairTV Operational Committee intends to seek grant funding from the Cable Advisory Council Area 2 for the support of Education Programming; AND WHEREAS, the FairTV Operational Committee intends to seek grant funding from the Cable Advisory Council Area 2 for the support of Government Programming; NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that, in accordance with a request from the FairTV

Operational Committee, the First Selectman be, and hereby is authorized to approve applications to the Cable Advisory Council Area 2 for the support of Education and Government programming, to execute any documents necessary to facilitate the Town's participation in said grants, and to administer any grant funds provided in connection therewith.

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

Jim Kennelly, FairTV Committee Chair, said CAC requires a letter for the entity to seek grant money and when awarded, accounts are set up in the finance department so funding can be tracked. Mr. Kennelly described how money applied for would be used if received by the CAC. First Selectman Tetreau asked the Selectmen if they want to know what FairTV would be using this possible grant money on and noted how the BOS added funding to the FairTV budget line during the budget process when the Town heard that CAC may not fund FairTV either at all or with less money than in the past. Selectman McCarthy Vahey said she didn't recall a conversation at the BOS meeting when that body was adding funds at a previous meeting and she asked what would happen if FairTV receives funding from CAC. Selectman Kiley said he supports why the Selectmen voted on more funding at budget time but suggests because of this possible change in grant funding that the Selectmen receive a more detailed presentation on the Committee's plans and expectations and to hear how money would be used and get an understanding of the baseline funding going forward. First Selectman Tetreau asked about timing issues. Mr. Kennelly said that FairTV has to submit its application to the CAC by July 30, 2014. First Selectman Tetreau noted that three bodies approved funding for this Committee so he asked if there should be feedback from them without impacting timing. Selectman Kiley said he wants to postpone this item, get information and get RTM and BOF input. First Selectman Tetreau asked FairTV to send him their proposal that he would send to the Selectmen and heads of the BOF and RTM and if it's a more formal process that is needed the Selectmen can take that up when the time comes.

Selectman Kiley made a motion to postpone the item to a date certain of the next regular meeting of July 2, 2014. Selectman McCarthy Vahey seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

10) FAIRTV OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE

To review and modify the FairTV Operational Committee Charge revised by the Board of Selectmen on June 19, 2013.

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

First Selectman Tetreau said this is a temporary committee with a termination date of June 30, 2014. He said FairTV is asking the RTM to vote on an ordinance to make this a formal committee.

Selectman Kiley made an amendment to the Charge to remove the date of June 30, 2014 in the last sentence of the Charge and change it to December 31, 2014. Selectman McCarthy Vahey seconded the amendment which carried 3-0.

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

11) REVIEW AND APPROVE DEPARTMENT HEAD COMPENSATION

After a brief break, the Selectmen reconvened at 6:21 pm.

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

First Selectman Tetreau said he prepared a schedule for the Selectmen to approve. He showed the Selectmen two handouts—one on the 2014-15 salary recommendations and one on the 2013-14 salary recommendations.

The motion carried 3-0.

First Selectman Tetreau said Chief of Staff Tom Dubrosky is working with department managers to get more goals and objectives into future budget books so the Town can track what it is funding.

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 at the end of the resolution and a comma followed by \$7,942.69. Selectman Kiley seconded the amendment which carried 3-0.

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

13) ADJOURN

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:27 pm. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer S. Carpenter
Recording Secretary
