

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING FINAL MINUTES**  
**August 6, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 6, 2014, in the first floor conference room of Independence Hall.

Members Present: First Selectman Michael C. Tetreau, Selectman Cristin McCarthy Vahey

Members Absent: Selectman Kevin P. Kiley

Others Present: Genny Reilly, Rob Bellitto, Bill Sapone, Ellery Plotkin and other members of the Penfield Building Committee, the Van Winkle family, Judy Ewing, Chris Tracy, Zoe Robbin, Andy Kosch, Soundview, FairTV, Tom Steinke, Julia Portale, News 12, Jim Bradley, Kevin Chamberlain, Ed Boman

**1) CALL TO ORDER**

First Selectman Tetreau called the meeting to order at 4:32 pm.

**2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, First Selectman Tetreau called for a moment of silence for the passing of Selectman Kevin Kiley's mother.

First Selectman Tetreau then announced the date of the Town's 375 Anniversary Grand Gala which will be November 15<sup>th</sup> at Sacred Heart University. First Selectman Tetreau thanked People's United Bank for being the Gala's Title Sponsor. First Selectman Tetreau also announced that the Fairfield Little League Team won another game and he wished them well in future games.

**3) MINUTES**-To consider and act upon the minutes of: Regular Meeting of July 16, 2014  
Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve the minutes. First Selectman Tetreau seconded the motion which carried 2-0.

**4) RECOGNITION**

Recognition of Fairfield Girl Scout Elizabeth Van Winkle for earning the Girl Scout Gold Award  
First Selectman Tetreau read a proclamation proclaiming August 6, 2014 as Elizabeth Van Winkle Day in the Town of Fairfield. After the Selectmen issued the proclamation to Miss Van Winkle, Selectman McCarthy Vahey thanked the high school student for her leadership and sustainable project. First Selectman Tetreau said he likes how Miss Van Winkle taught students as a team which is always an important way to work with others. After explaining what Thinking Day is, Miss Van Winkle thanked the Selectmen for honoring her.

**5) RESIGNATIONS (for information only)**

Fire Commission Charlene S. Lebo, (D), 284 Berkeley Road, term 11/13 – 11/18 (Resignation Date: 7/16/2014)

**6) APPOINTMENTS** -To hear, consider and act upon the following appointment: Ethics Commission (requires unanimous vote of BOS and RTM approval) Christopher J. Brogan, (D),

90 Southwood Road, term 07/14 – 07/16 (to fill a vacancy for Deborah Zieff whose term expired)

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

First Selectman Tetreau said he worked with Mr. Brogan for a number of years while Mr. Brogan was a respected member on both sides of the aisles on the RTM. First Selectman Tetreau said Mr. Brogan is very professional, rationale and reasonable. Selectman McCarthy Vahey said Mr. Brogan is an excellent choice. She said she spoke to Selectman Kiley who said he supports this appointment and he has asked that his support be shared at the meeting.

The motion carried unanimously.

7) GRASMERE BY THE SEA-To hear a report on the programs at Grasmere by the Sea. Julia Portale of Jewish Senior Services gave an update on Grasmere by the Sea which was created when the Jewish Home's Adult Day Center (now Jewish Senior Services) merged with Grasmere Eldercare in 2008. Grasmere by the Sea is the only adult day center in Town. Ms. Portale described where funding comes from. She said Grasmere by the Sea is a certified medical and social model adult day center. She described services and programs and gave statistics about clients. Grasmere by the Sea is trying to integrate itself with Fairfield's programs such as the Senior Center. Ms. Portale said Grasmere by the Sea appreciates the Town's financial support.

First Selectman Tetreau said he visited the Center and everyone there does a great job at taking care of seniors. He said Grasmere by the Sea helps take care of these clients and freed up space for the Pilot House which also provides assistance to Fairfield's residents. Selectman McCarthy Vahey thanked Grasmere for providing help to working families and opening the door to members of our community who are not receiving services at the Center. She said Grasmere is a tremendous asset to our community.

8) ANDY KOSCH-To hear an update on Gustave Whitehead and Fairfield "First in Flight" First Selectman Tetreau introduced Mr. Kosch, a former Fairfield teacher. He then read a proclamation proclaiming Gustave Whitehead Day in the Town of Fairfield on August 14<sup>th</sup> which is the 113<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mr. Whitehead's first flight, the first man ever to fly a plane.

Mr. Kosch showed the Selectmen a small model of the airplane that Whitehead flew. He gave a history. He said he will display a replica of Whitehead's plane, which Mr. Kosch had tested to confirm the validity of the plane, on Sherman Green on August 14<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 6 pm. Mr. Kosch described what the plane was made of and said the First Selectman is forming a Whitehead committee so they can find a suitable monument to honor Whitehead. Mr. Kosch said a documentary is being made on Whitehead. On August 16 and August 17, 2014, Mr. Kosch will fly the replica over the area Whitehead had flew over in Fairfield.

9) FIRST SELECTMAN-Introduction of the Gustave Whitehead First In Flight Advisory Committee

First Selectman Tetreau said Mr. Kosch will be chair of the Whitehead committee he will soon be forming. He will introduce other members at a future meeting and provide a Charge to promote Whitehead's First in Flight. First Selectman said because Whitehead also flew in Bridgeport and Stratford, he is working with the Mayors of those towns to create a Whitehead trail which will help promote the region, the local economy and tourism. Selectman McCarthy Vahey thanked Mr. Kosch for bringing Whitehead's flight to the forefront.

First Selectman Tetreau made a motion to move items 12 and 13 before item 10. Selectman McCarthy Vahey seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

12) DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (requires Board of Finance and RTM approval)  
To hear, consider and adopt the Bond Resolution entitled "A Resolution Amending and Restating the Bond Resolution adopted by the Representative Town Meeting on March 18, 2013 entitled "A Resolution Appropriating a sum not to exceed \$1,037,000 for the costs of certain Nonrecurring Capital Projects and Authorizing the Issuance of Bonds to finance such Appropriation" to Reallocate Bond Proceeds Between Project Categories."  
Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve the item. First Selectman Tetreau seconded the motion.

Assistant Director of Public Works Ed Boman gave the Selectmen a powerpoint summary on capital funds for the police and fire HVAC improvements. He said that police had an original appropriation of \$160,000 and fire had \$172,000 appropriated. UI funds expanded the projects at these sites leading to \$83,164 more dollars needed for issues to be resolved at the police department and \$83,164 less funds for the Fire Department so Mr. Boman is asking for a transfer of funds to cover the police department's issues.

Mr. Boman then read through a handout given to the Selectmen that detailed the history of work to be performed at the police and fire departments. First Selectman Tetreau said both buildings are getting on in years and while there have been system improvements not everything is working well. He said UI's grants and loans will help make the buildings more efficient. Selectman McCarthy Vahey said these improvements will lead to healthier environments. She asked Mr. Boman if this is an ongoing project with UI. Mr. Boman said it will be ongoing for years as the Town has more projects to do.

The motion carried 2-0.

13) 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 the First Selectman is authorized to accept and expend a grant from the Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT) under the 2014 Connecticut Clean Fuel program in an amount not to exceed \$47,050 to be used toward the purchase of three compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicles, covering the cost difference between alternate and conventional fuel vehicles; and FURTHER RESOLVED, that the First Selectman is authorized to execute, on behalf of the Town of Fairfield, any and all necessary document to secure such grant."

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

Mr. Boman said the Town is continuing this program that started in 1997. He said the Town will see more hybrids in the future. Selectman McCarthy Vahey asked how many natural gas vehicles are at the Senior Center. Mr. Boman said there are two and next year, the Town will seek getting a third natural gas vehicle to replace an older vehicle.

The motion carried 2-0.

10) FIRE CHIEF-To hear a report and update on the Fairfield Regional Fire School Assistant Fire Chief and Training Director of the Regional Fire School Chris Tracy gave a brief history on the new regional fire school and then discussed the proposed improvement project. Mr. Tracy said in 1972, the General Assembly made this site one of the regional fire schools in the state through state funds and when other regional schools were condemned, training increased at Fairfield's school. In 2002, a facility study was performed showing building decay so the school is in desperate need of renovations. Mr. Tracy said last night, the Board of Finance voted unanimously to approve this state bonded project. Mr. Tracy then reviewed the MOU. There is no town cost for this project with the commitment from the Town to run this regional facility. Mr. Tracy said he's been working with other town departments on this project. He said on September 8, 2014, the Attorney General will sign off on the project and then the project should be completed in a year with an additional 90 days to finish the punch list. Mr. Tracy said he's continuing to go to the appropriate town bodies this month for approval. He showed the Selectman a schematic design and proposal for the renovation of the site. He described what the new building will include. Part of the site will be raised to avoid flooding.

First Selectman Tetreau said this Center will continue to help train and improvements will save our firefighters and residents so he's very supportive of the project. Selectman McCarthy Vahey concurred with First Selectman Tetreau. She asked Mr. Tracy if he's made sure conservation and land use issues have all been checked out. Mr. Tracy said there are also federal regulations and he went through the project with the Conservation Director and anticipates a good relationship with all agencies involved. Mr. Tracy said the site is not optional for conservation. He also discussed plans with the DPW Director and will keep him and the Conservation Director involved in this process. The project will improve the conservation component and will meet building and conservation needs. Selectman McCarthy Vahey asked about the last sentence in section eight of the MOU which states the State DPW has control of this project. Mr. Tracy said once the Bond Commission releases the bond money that won't be an issue as the State has already invested money in this project. Referring to section 11.2 in the MOU, Selectman McCarthy Vahey asked if the intent is to go before town bodies this month for approval. Mr. Tracy said yes and said he hadn't seen the MOU until recently. Referring to section 11.3 in the MOU, Selectman McCarthy Vahey asked if modifications can be made without going through all the town body approvals. First Selectman Tetreau said that's a legal opinion but since it's a contract involving no money it would only need Selectmen and State DPW approval. Selectman McCarthy Vahey said she assumes the appropriate legal review has been done in 2011. Mr. Tracy said yes—the Town Attorney, Assistant Town Attorney and Attorney General signed off on the MOU at that time. The current Town Attorney has reviewed the MOU.

11) PENFIELD BUILDING COMMITTEE-To hear an update from the Penfield Building Committee

First Selectman Tetreau said the Selectmen will hear a proposal and resolution at its next meeting. Today's goal is to get an update to help the community understand what's being recommended. If the proposal passes at the next Selectmen's meeting, then it goes before the BOF and RTM in September with an update to the RTM this month.

Penfield Building Committee Chair Jim Bradley read a copy of a statement he handed out to the Selectmen. The statement included an introduction, the process and resources the committee has been using and a history of how the building was knocked down along with an option the Committee chose. Mr. Bradley read a list of presentations made before the Committee that were listed in an eight page status of the project that was also handed out to the Selectmen. Mr. Bradley said the damage from Storm Sandy can be repaired and the building can be saved. The Committee has had a lot of input and options. The Committee voted on Option 7 as the recommended repair and reconstruction solution. They presented this option to the Parks and Recreation Commission on July 16 and received their approval.

Kevin Chamberlain of DeStefano & Chamberlain, the structural and architectural engineering firm hired by the Committee, discussed all the options. He showed a diagram of Option 7 which is to raise and temporarily relocate the West Wing and furnish and install timber piles and new reinforced concrete foundations and reset the West Wing at the FEMA V Zone elevation. Option 7 includes repairing the West Wing and MEP infrastructure and demolishing the East Wing and constructing a smaller East Wing addition on a timber pile supported foundation at the FEMA V Zone elevation that will include restrooms, changing spaces and day lockers. This option includes additional covered deck space, additional deck at grade level and additional beach area. The existing bulkhead will be modified and protected. This new design would be elevated changing the handicapped access and requiring more ramps at two points of access. There would be a softening of the building with a better buffer between the beach and parking lot as well as a better barrier against coastal storms. The building would be elevated two to three feet higher than the current height. There would be a continuous pedestrian flow around the building with the decks.

Mr. Chamberlain showed a diagram of Option 7 which showed the bulkhead, beams, flood elevation and the type of sand beneath the structure. Mr. Chamberlain said Option 7 is safer and can be done quicker.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey asked how much discussion the Committee had had on each option. Mr. Bradley said all but one person was in favor of Option 7 and all options were discussed at length. The Committee did agree to table Option 1 and consider it as a low cost benchmark pending FEMA required cost/value analysis for substantial damage. Mr. Bradley briefly explained the other options and why they are not viable. Mr. Chamberlain said Option 1 does not elevate the building. The goal is to make the building fully compliant and Option 1 is supported on shallow footings. Mr. Chamberlain said Option 7 is insensitive to any wave action. Mr. Bradley said the building would be smaller because there would be no locker wing but they would be substituted by day lockers.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey thanked Mr. Bradley and the Committee for all their work. She asked how people using strollers or those in wheelchairs and some seniors would access the beach. Mr. Chamberlain explained the use of the ramps and the additional access points. He's working on the path drawings. Selectman McCarthy Vahey said she is cognizant of accessibility issues.

Mr. Bradley said the Committee meets on August 14<sup>th</sup> and will be presented with design drawings. The public will be asked to give input. First Selectman thanked the Committee for all of their good work. He said the Charge included on site efforts to mitigate neighborhood flooding. Mr. Chamberlain said the additional barrier and option is not a flood barrier but makes improvements on alleviating flooding. Mr. Bradley discussed the insurance settlement and a grant the Town will use to offset costs of the project. First Selectman Tetreau said the insurance settlement is \$1.7 million with talk of supplementals down the road. He also said the Town got a \$500,000 CDBG grant. FEMA applies 75% reimbursement and there are hazard mitigation eligible costs. First Selectman Tetreau said with all the upcoming meetings there is plenty of opportunities for the public to weigh in. Mr. Bradley said the goal is to start the project October 9 and finish around Memorial Day. First Selectman Tetreau said the goal is to not rush the project and to make the right decision for the community.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey asked if the public has other opportunities to give their input on the project if they cannot attend the Penfield Building Committee meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Bradley said yes and also added there has been public input all along.

#### 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. First Selectman Tetreau seconded the item.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made an amendment to remove the period at the end of the resolution and add a comma followed by \$8,981,93. First Selectman Tetreau seconded the amendment which carried 2-0.

The main motion, as amended, carried 2-0.

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

There were no communications.

#### 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 6:46 pm. First Selectman Tetreau seconded the motion which carried 2-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer S. Carpenter  
Recording Secretary