

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING FINAL MINUTES  
December 17, 2014

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 17, 2014, in the first floor conference room of Independence Hall.

Members Present: First Selectman Michael C. Tetreau, Selectman Kevin P. Kiley, and Selectman Cristin McCarthy Vahey

Others Present: Genny Reilly, Jim Swift, Bill McDonagh and Gramps, Craig Kimball, David Gorbach, Sheila Marmion, Sherri Steeneck, Julianne Harris, Bill Hurley, Tom Dubrosky, FairTV, Soundview, Mr. and Mrs. Dave Pressler, Mark Barnhart, Joe Michelangelo, Kathy Buzel, Chris Lyddy, Sal Trifilio, Ken Placko, Holly Lanese, News 12, Kiva Berry, Jude Fitzgerald, Mary Hogue, Scott Bartlett, Carolyn Duraka, Shawn O'Sullivan, Brian Vahey and family, Judy Ewing, Steve Grathwohl, Sarah Levy, Mark Barnhart, Alyssa Israel, Charles DePaul, Geoff Steadman, Jeffrey Minder and Nancy Legare, Peter and Lynn Penczer, Geoff Steadman

1) CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Tetreau called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm.

2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3) WEDNESDAY'S PET – presented by Sherri Steeneck

As part of the adopt a pet program, Sherri Steeneck introduced Gramps, a nine-year old male shepherd mix who is neutered, gentle, sweet, affectionate, and calm. The cost is \$5. He and other animals can be found at the Town's Animal Shelter, 211 Richard White Way. Anyone seeking to adopt a pet can call 254- 4857.

Before taking up item four, First Selectman Tetreau and Selectman Kiley presented Selectman McCarthy Vahey with flowers and a card to honor her service as Selectman and wish her well as State Representative-Elect. First Selectman Tetreau praised Selectman McCarthy Vahey and told her that in addition to the flowers he and Selectman Kiley bought, they also got her an inscribed plaque that will be placed near the new bike racks in front of Chef's Table since Selectman McCarthy Vahey is an avid bike rider and big supporter of the original and new Bike and Pedestrian Committee. Selectman Kiley gave his personal thanks to Selectman McCarthy Vahey citing her leadership in the town, in neighborhoods and on this Board. He praised her for how she has conducted herself at every level and how she has made Fairfield a better place. Selectman McCarthy Vahey thanked the Selectmen and talked about starting on the RTM. She said she is proud of her work on clean energy, helping find qualified candidates for boards, serving on the WPCA, supporting non-profits, our schools and libraries. She said that she knows her successor will also bring civility, responsibility and kindness to the Board. She also thanked her family for supporting her.

5) RECOGNITION- Presentation of the 2014 Fairfielder and Employee of the Year Awards

The Selectmen then took up item five prior to item four. First Selectman Tetreau read the criteria for Employee of the Year. He thanked everyone who submitted nominations and also thanked the Committee. He then announced that Craig Kimball, Public Safety IT Specialist, won the 2014 Employee of the Year Award. He called Mr. Kimball to the podium.

Three of Mr. Kimball's nominators spoke about his outstanding work for the Town. The Selectman then presented Mr. Kimball with a gift. Selectman McCarthy Vahey said she is thrilled Mr. Kimball was honored for his work and said his whole spirit is a real gift to all of us. Selectman Kiley thanked Mr. Kimball for his hard work, dedication and enthusiasm. First Selectman Tetreau noted how Mr. Kimball organized the Town's first Wiffle Ball Tournament since Wiffle Ball was invented in Fairfield. The tournament brought together town employees and helped celebrate the Town's 375<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Mr. Kimball thanked everyone and said it's a pleasure to help solve problems.

First Selectman Tetreau then read the criteria for Fairfielder of the Year. He thanked everyone who submitted nominations and also thanked the Committee. He then announced that Peter Penczer, Chair of the Economic Development Commission, among other things, had won. He called Mr. Penczer to the podium. Two of Mr. Penczer's nominators spoke about his outstanding work for the Town. The Selectmen then presented Mr. Penczer with a gift. Each Selectman spoke highly of Mr. Penczer's and his long list of accomplishments. First Selectman Tetreau then held up a plaque listing all the winners' names since this tradition began and it will be hung in the lobby of Independence Hall.

#### 4) MINUTES

To consider and act upon the minutes of:

- i. Special Meeting of November 25, 2014
- ii. Regular Meeting of December 3, 2014
- iii. Special Meeting of December 9, 2014

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve item 4i-iii. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

#### 6) RESIGNATIONS (for information only)

Water Pollution Control Authority Cristin McCarthy Vahey, (D), 1625 Melville Avenue (selectman representative) (Resignation Date: 11/25/2014)

#### 7) REAPPOINTMENTS

To hear, consider and act upon the following reappointments:

##### a) Board of Health

Thomas F. Braun, (R), 200 Lakeside Drive, term 11/14–11/18

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve the item. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion. Selectman McCarthy Vahey thanked Mr. Braun for serving again and also thanked Health Director Sands Cleary

The motion carried 3-0.

##### b) Historic District Commission (requires RTM approval)

i. Adam J. Klyver, (R), 280 Hillside Road, term 11/14-11/19

ii. Christopher Shea, (R), 917 Merwins Lane, term 11/14-11/19 (alternate)

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

c) Human Services Commission Nancy Anne Legare, (D), 245 Unquowa Road, term 11/14-11/18  
Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to approve the item. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey said the Commission appreciates Mrs. Legare's service advocating for seniors and disabled persons. The Commission has done quite a bit of work in the last few years. Selectman Kiley thanked Mrs. Legare for serving and volunteering again. First Selectman Tetreau said Mrs. Legare brings a valuable perspective to the Commission.

The motion carried 3-0.

d) Tree Warden Kenneth Placko, term 11/14-12/31/2014  
Selectman Kiley made a motion to approve the item. Selectman McCarthy Vahey seconded the motion.

First Selectman Tetreau said Mr. Placko's retirement is the end of this month. Selectman Kiley thanked Mr. Placko for her service and for protecting the Town by saving trees. Selectman McCarthy Vahey said Mr. Placko has done a tremendous job in protecting one of the most important aspects of our town. First Selectman Tetreau said Fairfield has been a Tree City USA for 27 years and not only credits Mr. Placko for that honor but also for working with the Forestry Committee and having a difficult job whether trees are cut down or saved. Mr. Placko thanked all the members of the Board of Selectmen for their support during his 23 years of service to the Town. He also thanked the public.

The motion carried 3-0.

8) FIRST SELECTMAN APPOINTMENTS (for information only)  
Southwest Regional Mental Health Board Patricia B. King, (U), 112 Harbor Road, term 11/13-11/16 (to replace Cheryl Blumenfeld who resigned)

#### 9) APPOINTMENTS

To hear, consider and act upon the following temporary appointment:

Tree Warden Jeffrey M. Minder, term 1/1/2015 – 3/31/2015

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

First Selectman Tetreau said Mr. Minder has an extensive background as an arborist. He complimented the DPW Director and the DPW Supervisor for recruiting people of skill like Mr. Minder. Mr. Minder thanked the Board.

The motion carried 3-0.

#### 10) OTHER APPOINTMENTS (for information only)

Water Pollution Control Authority Kevin P. Kiley, (R), 237 Steiner Street (selectman representative)

#### 11) CONNECTICUT SYMPHONIC WINDS

To hear a report from the Connecticut Symphonic Winds

First Selectman Tetreau read a letter addressed to Charles DePaul, Musical Director for Connecticut Symphonic Winds (CSW). Dave Pressler spoke to the Board along with Mr. DePaul. Mr. Pressler said the next performance is March 7<sup>th</sup> at Roger Ludlowe Middle School at 7:30 pm. There is a 70 member ensemble. Mr. Pressler said it is wonderful to be honored as part of the Town. He thanked the Town on behalf of CSW. Ms. Steeneck said CSW is very professional and has wonderful artists. First Selectman Tetreau noted concerts are free.

## 12) FORESTRY COMMITTEE

To hear a report from the Forestry Committee on the Community Forest Management Plan Tree Warden Ken Placko asked for the Board's endorsement of the Plan, a non-binding document which was presented to the Board last year. He said the Plan lists guidelines for the future. Geoff Steadman, a consultant for some town commissions, worked on the Plan and said this Plan is not required in the Town Code or statutes but it is a guidance document to promote environment stewardship. He hopes the Plan shows the benefits of the Town's Forestry Committee. The Plan sets forth a vision for managing the community forest and identifies the agencies helping pursue this. This Plan will be presented to the Town Plan and Zoning Commission. Mary Hogue, Vice-Chair of the Forestry Committee, thanked Mr. Placko. She discussed the pilot program on tree trimming and the creation of a Fairfield Vegetative Management Task Force. There are workshops and the Committee is always looking for volunteers to join.

First Selectman Tetreau asked what the four roads are for the pilot which shows public input of the UI program. Ms. Hogue said Mill Plain, Unquowa, and parts of Burr and Congress. UI will expand the program to about 270 roads in Fairfield over eight years. Ms. Hogue said the Committee had done an inventory of all trees in town so the public can see the before and after with the tree trimming. She noted that anyone in town owns trees in the right of way so they can voice in writing to the Tree Warden if they want those trees cut down or not. Selectman McCarthy Vahey asked if the Tree Warden has the final say when trees are posted to come down. Mr. Placko said he posts the notices to make the public aware of a tree removal and that they can contest this decision which the Town Warden has the final say on. Selectman McCarthy Vahey and Selectman Kiley asked if a tree is posted to be removed and no citizen provides comments if the Tree Warden has the final verdict. Mr. Placko said the Tree Warden has the final say. Mr. Placko thanked the Committee for their hard work and their phenomenal report. First Selectman Tetreau asked if the report is available online. Ms. Hogue said she will make sure it is. Selectman McCarthy Vahey said she has great respect for this amazing document and the Committee are leaders in the State on so many issues in the Plan.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to add to the agenda a motion to endorse the Plan. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion that the Selectmen hereby endorse the Community Forest Management Plan as presented on December 17, 2014. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

## 13) AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE (postponed from 12/3/2014)

To hear a report from the Affordable Housing Committee on the Affordable Housing Plan Community and Economic Development Director Mark Barnhart said best practices used by other communities were examined. The Plan captures the Charge. Steve Grathwohl, Committee Chair, said this is a very well thought out plan that was put together with the help of many different

groups' opinions and input from different segments in Town. There is a current and growing need for more affordable housing and a need to diversify and be proactive. The Plan has an action plan with 11 goals which the Committee will act on in January. Mr. Grathwohl thanked Mr. Barnhart, Glenn Chalder the consultant, Nan Jackson, Committee members, the Selectmen for initiating the Charge. Mr. Barnhart said there were several public hearings and there has been feedback online. First Selectman Tetreau asked if the Committee reviewed the Plan with HUD and if it meets HUD's stipulations. Mr. Barnhart said yes. First Selectman Tetreau asked if the Finance Department reviewed the Plan. Mr. Barnhart said they did not. Mr. Barnhart said there will be a dedicated fund to quickly respond to opportunities. Selectman McCarthy Vahey who attended the workshop asked if the feedback was just from the workshop. Mr. Barnhart said it mostly was. Selectman McCarthy Vahey asked how much the Plan addresses remodeling and expansion of homes since they affect diversity and affordability. Mr. Barnhart said part of the approach with the Plan is to preserve what we have now. Selectman Kiley asked about zoning's input. Mr. Barnhart said the report was given to staff and they nor the Commission found nothing in the Plan they are uncomfortable with. Selectman McCarthy Vahey asked if the action items are in priority order. Mr. Barnhart said they are not. He said he credits the Town for adopting the 1988 affordable housing plan. Selectman McCarthy Vahey said there should be a diverse housing stock and diverse community at all income levels. Mr. Barnhart will be asking the Selectmen for an endorsement of the Plan in the near future.

#### 14) DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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

RESOLVED, that the Town of Fairfield's Board of Selectmen hereby endorses a Regional Performance Incentive Program grant proposal to fund the capital cost of connecting the Town of Fairfield's central administrative facility to the Nutmeg Network; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Michael C. Tetreau, First Selectman of the Town of Fairfield, is hereby authorized to act on this endorsement by signing all necessary agreements and taking all necessary actions related to this proposal to enter into a binding agreement with the Office of Policy and Management according to terms of said grant program.

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

Don Leslie, IT Director gave a history of the Nutmeg network. First Selectman Tetreau asked if this is a multi-year agreement. Mr. Leslie said it's a five-year agreement that the Town is locked into. First Selectman Tetreau asked if funding for this project is in the IT budget. Mr. Leslie said it's in the new budget process for the following year. Mr. Leslie said the First Selectman only needs to sign the Notice of Intent at this point to apply for the grant and there is no funding request involved at this time. Selectman Kiley questioned the Further Resolved wording of the resolution and wondered if it is necessary at this time since he said it's beyond the scope of what the Selectmen had heard at today's meeting.

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made an amendment to strike the ; at the end of the paragraph beginning with Resolved in the resolution, strike the entire paragraph starting with Further Resolved and add a period after the word Network. Selectman Kiley seconded the amendment which carried 3-0.

Mr. Leslie said by March the funding request will have been submitted to the BOS, BOF and RTM for approval. First Selectman Tetreau said the Boards will need to know all of the dollars and financial commitments involved by January or February. Mr. Leslie agreed the first document will be signed by the First Selectman and the other document will be authorized after the three town bodies make approvals by March.

The motion, as amended, carried 3-0.

15) 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 delete the period at the end of the sentence and add a comma followed by \$8,440.87. Selectman Kiley seconded the amendment which carried 3-0.

The motion, as amended, carried 3-0.

16) ADJOURN

Selectman McCarthy Vahey made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 pm. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer S. Carpenter  
Recording Secretary

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