

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING FINAL MINUTES

January 8, 2015

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 8, 2014, in the first floor conference room of Independence Hall.

Members Present: First Selectman Michael C. Tetreau, Selectman Kevin P. Kiley, Selectman Sheila Marmion (after Item 6 was voted on)

Others Present: Doing It Local, FairTV, Soundview, Kendra Wikman, Genny Reilly, Sal Trifilio, Judy Ewing, Josh Zabin, Joe Michelangelo, Laura Pulie, Chris Lyddy, Betsy Browne, Cristin McCarthy Vahey and son, Sherri Steeneck, Bill McDonagh and Herman, Gary MacNamara, Sands Cleary, Tom Dubrosky, Stanton Lessser, Jan Reber, Sheila Marmion's family, Attorney Bob Lotty, Rick Grauer, Mary Carroll-Mirylees, Attorney James Williams and Ray Ashton, Dick Dmochowski

1) CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Tetreau called the meeting to order at 4:36 pm.

2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, First Selectman Tetreau held a moment of silence for police officers whose lives were lost in the nation.

3) WEDNESDAY'S PET – presented by Sherri Steeneck

As part of the adopt a pet program, Sherri Steeneck introduced Herman, a five-year old male dog. He is not neutered and costs \$50. He can be found at the Town's Animal Shelter, 211 Richard White Way. Anyone seeking to adopt a pet can call 254- 4857.

4) MINUTES

To consider and act upon the minutes of Regular Meeting of December 17, 2014
Selectman Kiley made a motion to approve the minutes. First Selectman Tetreau seconded the motion which carried 2-0.

5) RESIGNATIONS (for information only)

Board of Selectmen Cristin McCarthy Vahey, (D), 1625 Melville Avenue (Resignation Date: 01/07/2015)

6) APPOINTMENTS

To hear, consider and act upon the following appointment: Board of Selectmen Sheila H. Marmion, (D), 214 Fairfield Woods Road, term 11/11 – 11/15 (to fill a vacancy for Cristin McCarthy Vahey who resigned)

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

Selectman Kiley thanked Mrs. Marmion for serving and said she has a wonderful background and is a proven good community leader and friend to everyone. He said she did a great job on the RTM. First Selectman Tetreau said Mrs. Marmion is articulate and has the intelligence and rationale to serve on this Board which she'll bring a good balance to.

State Representative and former Selectman Cristin McCarthy Vahey said she met Mrs. Marmion as a neighbor and fellow Stratfield parent. She welcomes Mrs. Marmion's intelligence, strong voice and diversity of experience. The Town will be enriched by her service. State Representative McCarthy Vahey said she wholeheartedly supports this appointment. First Selectman Tetreau said the Democratic Town Committee (DTC) unanimously endorsed Mrs. Marmion. Mrs. Marmion thanked the Board of Selectmen, the DTC, and her family.

The motion carried 2-0. Town Clerk Betsy Browne swore in Mrs. Marmion as Selectman.

7) CHIEF OF POLICE-To hear a report from the Police Department on community activities Chief Gary MacNamara expressed how it is difficult to tell people how to be police officers with the national dialogue going on. He said police can make an impact, mostly positive. He said Police are effective one-on-one with contact taking place all the time with the public. Chief MacNamara expressed his sincere thanks to the public for all their good wishes after his accident. He said when you need someone the Town is there to help.

He said the Town is woven into this community. Last year, the Police Department received over 44,000 calls. Police are enforcers, protectors and everywhere people are like events, meetings and at our schools teaching students in grades K-8 proper choices and relationships with police officers. There is also Police Explorers and PAL. Police volunteer for events, give tours and rides, train college students on protection. There is a Citizen's Police Academy, internships, toy drives, partnerships with Sandy Hook groups, walks, anti-substance abuse programs for youth, a safe return program for wanderers and so much more. The public only sees 10% of what police officers do. Chief MacNamara invited the public to come to the Police Department anytime. He thanked the Selectmen for bringing the national dialogue to the local level.

First Selectman Tetreau read and issued a proclamation declaring January 9, 2015 as National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. Selectman Kiley thanked Chief MacNamara for his service and said the town recognizes what the department does. The programs are wonderful and the police are a fabric of our community and part of the Fairfield family. The Town welcomes and respects Fairfield's police. Selectman Marmion said her children participated in the DARE program which is now called the SHAPE program. She said it's important to change the mind set of young people. Selectman Marmion said the police are approachable and make her feel safe when she sees them around town. They do a tremendous job. First Selectman Tetreau said PAL is very valuable to the community. He also noted how the police through its Chief is a key leader in anti-domestic violence incidents. He said our police go above and beyond their normal duties and it's appreciated very much. First Selectman Tetreau thanked the police department for all the good work they are doing now and over the years.

8) DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

To hear, consider and act upon the follow resolution as recommended by the Director of Health: RESOLVED, that funds be transferred from an increase in grant revenue in the amount of \$10,463 to cover the cost of a Cardiovascular Disease Prevention Program focusing on Policy/Environmental Change for citizens served by the Fairfield Health Department; and FURTHER RESOLVED, that the First Selectman is authorized to make, execute and approve on behalf of the Town of Fairfield, any and all contracts or amendments thereof with the State of Connecticut, Department of Public Health. These costs are 100% reimbursable by a 10/1/2014 – 6/30/2015 State of Connecticut Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant.

Selectman Marmion made a motion to approve the item. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion.

Health Director Sands Cleary discussed a pilot bike share program at the branch library. He said these funds will provide seed money to create a small 10-15 bike share program that people can check out after presenting their library card to library staff. The goal is to promote active healthy living. Mr. Cleary said this goal is in Fairfield's Bike and Pedestrian Management Plan and in the Health Department's strategic plan. A survey was performed and is posted online showing a positive response to this program. Some people are willing to pay to use a bike. Mr. Cleary said he worked out liability issues. Selectman Kiley asked Mr. Cleary to further clarify the liability and if all issues were looked at. Mr. Cleary said from an insurance and liability perspective, he talked to Risk Management and looked at other communities' forms. Selectman Kiley asked if documents pertaining to liability issues can be sent to the Selectmen. Mr. Cleary said he will do that. Selectman Kiley asked if the Selectmen could get further information on how this program will work with the library. Mr. Cleary said the program is designed for outside for about 8-10 months out of the year and bikes will not rust and will have locks so they won't be stolen. People fill out forms and present their library cards at the library and then get a lock and helmet and pay a fee of about \$3-\$6. Selectman Marmion asked Mr. Cleary what his department's criteria is for tracking success. Mr. Cleary said criteria will be how many people use bikes and hours bikes are used. Selectman Marmion said the town will see a return on investment of value and asked Mr. Cleary how he envisions use of this program. Mr. Cleary said there is no set time but increments will be assessed and improvements will be made since this is a pilot project. First Selectman Tetreau asked about maintenance. Mr. Cleary said a lock would be put on a bike needing maintenance until it's maintained properly. He said there are some funds for maintenance issues. First Selectman Tetreau asked if there is data from other programs on maintenance fees. Mr. Cleary said programs in use show about \$100 a year is used on maintenance. First Selectman Tetreau asked if Mr. Cleary looked into buying or leasing bikes. Mr. Cleary said he's seen on options to lease. First Selectman Tetreau asked what other towns in Connecticut has this program. Mr. Cleary said Simsbury has this program and Hartford and Bridgeport are exploring it. First Selectman Tetreau asked if the library has signed off on this program. Mr. Cleary said they have and they add no extra staff or resources for this. First Selectman Tetreau asked why there isn't a more formal approach to this pilot. Mr. Cleary said the pilot has been a theory and prior to implementation his department will determine what deems success. First Selectman Tetreau asked what department would cover costs of lost locks and other similar situations. Mr. Cleary said that is something to further discuss. First Selectman Tetreau asked what happens if someone returns a bike late and would there be a drop box for helmets if a bike is returned late. Mr. Cleary said that can be looked into. He said the pilot will match library hours to encourage bikes being returned before the library closes. Selectman Kiley asked about the timeframe the grants have to be implemented. Mr. Cleary said by June 30, the funds have to be spent and the project has to be implemented. Selectman Kiley commends the health department and library but said this is a new program. He asked to get a proposal of the copy the department sent to the State. Mr. Cleary will get that copy to the Selectmen. First Selectman wants the Town Attorney to verify the Charter states this item doesn't require additional town body approvals. Selectman Marmion said this has to be an educational program opponent to this program. She also wants to know how this pilot is going to work. Selectman Kiley would like to hear from the library on their staffing perspective.

Given there are still open questions on cost and implementation and Mr. Cleary said a delayed vote would not prevent the pilot from being implemented even though the timeline is tight,

Selectman Kiley made a motion to postpone the item to a date certain of January 21, 2015. Selectman Marmion seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

9) FLOOD AND EROSION CONTROL BOARD

To hear a report on the Flood Control Plan for the Fairfield Beach and South Pine Creek areas Rick Grauer, Chair of the Flood and Erosion Control Board, gave an overview on this draft plan. He said residents are asking how the Town can keep flooding from happening again. Mr. Grauer submitted a written report to the Selectmen. He said this report can be viewed at on the Town's website on the Flood and Erosion Control Board page which is found at www.fairfieldct.org. He said there are three segments to the plan. The Army Corps of Engineers reviewed the conceptual plan and offered to take the lead. The plan is divided into 12 segments in order to apply for smaller grants. The goal is to protect against a 100 year storm.

Department of Public Works Director Joe Michelangelo showed a power point presentation. He discussed several maps including a Fairfield Hurricane Inundation Map, one showing a study area, and other maps showing how Long Island Sound affects Fairfield. Mr. Michelangelo discussed the tide gate system noting it's an outstanding example of healthy Salt Water Marshes in a developed community and also showed a graph on a typical barrier island. Mr. Michelangelo showed more maps on how Fairfield floods noting surges in the Ash Creek and Pine Creek areas when there is flooding. He showed what a tide behaves like with a chart and discussed a pump chamber to Long Island Sound. Mr. Michelangelo discussed the clean-up, fix-up and toughening up in relation to Storm Sandy.

Dick Dmochowski, member of the Flood and Erosion Control Board, gave an overview on flood mitigation status and plans including an executive summary, an introduction, how flooding occurs, and mitigation floods and the goal of the Flood and Erosion Control Board. Mr. Dmochowski then discussed 12 flood prevention measures, their total cost and, in some cases, a town contribution. When executed in its totality, the Master Plan will protect Fairfield's primary beach area from the 100 year coastal storm.

Mr. Dmochowski then reviewed each of the twelve elements that will either improve existing measures or propose new ones. One element is the Ash Creek to Jennings Beach Coastal Resiliency Project. Another is the South Benson Storm Water Pump Station which was denied funding. Selectman Marmion asked how a new grant application would be submitted differently since this project was denied. Mr. Michelangelo said this was a highly competitive grant and there wasn't enough money to go around but the potential for the Army Corps of Engineers getting involved may help this time as well as another grant through OPM. Additional measures include a floodwall at the Fairfield Beach Club; shoreline resiliency improvements at Penfield Beach; flood prevention from Penfield Beach to Reef Road; an earthen dike at the perimeter of Pine Creek Marsh; a Pine Creek culvert replacement; Waste Water Treatment Plant Hardening; a Fairfield Beach Road Sluice Gate; a new dike at South Pine Creek Road; a dike elevation project on Pine Creek Avenue; and a dike elevation project at Old Dam Road. The Fairfield Beach Road Sluice doesn't involve any grant funding because DPW will install this project.

Mr. Michelangelo discussed the next steps for the grants. He said these items will be submitted for the capital plan. Mr. Grauer said the Flood and Erosion Control Board invites public comment at meetings. The plan will be worked on with the Engineering Department, neighbors, and agencies involved. As grants are approved, the Board will come back to the Selectmen for approval.

First Selectman Tetreau thanked the Board for their impressive plan. He said it's a great layout to beach neighborhood groups. First Selectman Tetreau asked the Board to come back to the Selectmen at its second meeting in February when the plan is done and the Selectmen can have time to review the draft plan and forward any questions ahead of time. Selectman Marmion paid homage to her friend and visionary, the former Mayor of Bradley Beach, for having a barrier built along the town's coast resulting in no damage. Selectman Kiley thanked everyone for their efforts. First Selectman Tetreau asked the presenters to share feedback from the public with the Selectmen when they come back in February. First Selectman Tetreau noted the Selectmen had received a series of questions on this project from a resident.

10) 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 Marmion seconded the motion.

Selectman Kiley made an amendment to remove the period at the end of the sentence and add a comma followed by \$12,768.50. Selectman Marmion seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

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

11) To hear, consider and act upon any communications.
There were no communications.

12) To hear, consider and act upon any other business which shall properly come before this meeting.
There was no other business.

13) TOWN ATTORNEY Private Executive Session – Pending Litigation
Selectman Kiley made a motion to enter into private executive session pending litigation at 7:04 pm. Selectman Marmion seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Selectman Kiley made a motion to end private executive session at 7:53 pm. Selectman Marmion seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

The Selectmen took no action.

14) ADJOURN

Selectman Marmion made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 pm. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer S. Carpenter
Recording Secretary
