

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING FINAL MINUTES  
January 21, 2015

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 21, 2015, in the first floor conference room of Independence Hall.

Members Present: First Selectman Michael C. Tetreau, Selectman Kevin P. Kiley, and Selectman Sheila Marmion

Others Present: Bill Hurley, FairTV, Soundview, Sal Morabito, Phil Dwyer, Scott Bisson, Connie Nolfi, Tom Cullen, Chris Lyddy, Dr. David Title, Debbi Clancy, Ben Williamson, Bob Smith, Ed Boman, Scott Bartlett, Karen Ronald, Dick Felner, Joe Michelangelo, Mike Jehle, Kim Marshall, Dick Dmochowski, Joe Rainis, Chris Tracy, Tom Bosse

1) CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Tetreau called the meeting to order at 4:33 pm.

2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, First Selectman Tetreau called for a moment of silence for Joan Neiley, David DuBret and Robert Bennett.

3) MINUTES

To consider and act upon the minutes of Regular Meeting of January 8, 2015

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

4) FAIRFIELD ROTARY CLUB-To hear a report from the Fairfield Rotary Club

Debbie Clancy, President of Rotary, gave the Selectman a booklet on Rotary. She said Fairfield Rotary is part of Rotary International. Rotary's goals are to promote peace, fight and eradicate disease, provide clean water, save mothers and children, support education and help communities development. Ben Williamson, a Rotary member, said Fairfield Rotary wants to find ways to partner with the Town. He said Fairfield Rotary has 80 members and just celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> year. He invites anyone from the public to attend Rotary's weekly meetings, become a member or volunteer. Mr. Williamson discussed several local services Fairfield Rotary supports. The Club has given over \$375,000 to local organizations over the past 20 years, gave grants totaling over \$21,000 to 20 non-profits in 2014, gives annual scholarships to local high school seniors, helps Veterans, donated AEDs to several town facilities and gave \$80,000 to the Main Library's renovation in 2005. He also discussed upcoming events.

First Selectman Mike Tetreau said this Club has great spirit and is a great asset to our community. Selectman Marmion said her father was a Rotarian. Selectman Kiley thanked the Club for all they do for our Town, Country and World and congratulated the Club on celebrating 75 years. First Selectman Tetreau said it's important that funding goes to Veterans. He asked how people can contact the Club to get involved. Ms. Clancy said the public can visit [www.fairfieldrotary.org](http://www.fairfieldrotary.org).

5) FAIRFIELD FIRE FIGHTERS CHARTIABLE FOUNDATION

To hear an update from the Fairfield Fire Fighters Charitable Foundation

Fire Fighter Bob Smith who is the new Foundation president introduced officers Joe Rainis and Chris Tracy. Mr. Smith discussed the Foundation stating it has been raising money for about 50 years for the community. In 2012, this Foundation was formed and has since raised about \$60,000. Mr. Smith discussed the numerous charities the Foundation gives money to, the Foundation's motto and the 102 Fire Fighters of Local 1426 who are behind him in this endeavor. Mr. Smith discussed a new program-the warm coat program where every Fairfield student will get a free coat by the fall.

Selectman Marmion asked if fire fighters hand something out to the public when they give to "the boot" on Black Rock Turnpike each year for one of their charities. Mr. Smith said people who give get a sticker. Selectman Kiley congratulated and thanked the fire fighters for all they do for the town and the foundation. Selectman Marmion asked how the fire fighters learned of the need for the coats. Mr. Smith said the BOE and a social worker had informed the foundation.

**6) DIRECTOR OF HEALTH (postponed from January 8, 2015)**

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.

First Selectman Tetreau said he spoke to Health Director Sands Cleary about postponing this item.

Selectman Marmion made a motion to postpone this item to a date certain of the regular meeting of February 11, 2015. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

**7) NON-RECURRING CAPITAL (Requires Board of Finance and RTM approval)**

To hear, consider and adopt bond resolutions appropriating funds for the costs of certain non-recurring capital projects and authorizing the issuance of bonds to finance such appropriation.

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

Dr. David Title discussed four BOE non-recurring capital projects: a partial roof replacement at Dwight that involves state reimbursement, security and safety infrastructure, replacement of two boilers at Jennings which failed over the weekend but were repaired and a replacement of the artificial turf field at Fairfield Ludlowe High School. The turf is about 10-11 years old and it's a high priority to replace because of heavy use. Police and school personnel have been doing a lot of work relating to school security since Sandy Hook. If approved, the security request will be done over a two-year period.

Selectman Marmion asked if half of the proposed funding for school security could be spent this year and the rest spend next year since this is a two-year project. Dr. Title said he would rather have all of the funding approved now to get this project going and to see how much could get done. He can't say how much will be spent in the first year so it's hard to divide up the money. Deputy Chief Chris Lyddy said items for the security can be prioritized. Selectman Marmion wants to discuss prioritizing the items.

First Selectman said the field looks very bad and asked how much of a public safety issue it poses now. Dr. Title said the field should be replaced immediately and noted it is used by many non-school groups. First Selectman Tetreau asked why the BOE's non-recurring project requests have been light the past few years. Dr. Title said the BOE has had to look at other projects and prioritize them and squeeze out as much life to others like the field. BOE Chair Phil Dwyer said the BOE is committed to work with the Town as we are one town with one capital needs budget. Selectman Kiley thanked Dr. Title and Mr. Dwyer. He discussed priorities and asked what the town can afford and what projects the town can hold off on or not. He said the Town made a commitment on security and sees the list of security items in the BOE's proposed capital non-recurring projects booklet as furthering that commitment yet he agrees with the other Selectmen on the money concerns and doesn't know which security items to do now or put off. Selectman Marmion asked if security would be comprised at all if some projects weren't funded now. Mr. Lyddy said splitting some of the bigger projects in half would be a concern. Selectman Marmion asked about fencing and if that cost could be wrapped in Osborn's same request. Dr. Title said this is just fencing and not a connector. He said it's hard to cut the security funding directly in half but BOE and school personnel can prioritize dollars in the most efficient way. First Selectman asked Dr. Title to let the Selectmen know what can get done this summer and what the \$160,000 will be used for. Dr. Title said the \$160,000 will be put toward the fencing cost.

While Dr. Title, Deputy Chief Lyddy and school personnel discussed amongst themselves what security projects could be put off or reduced First Selectman Tetreau began a discussion on the town's non-recurring capital requests.

DPW Director Joe Michelangelo discussed DPW's non-recurring capital requests which he said are in priority order. They include a Pine Creek Dike Study and the main library HVAC noting Ed Boman evaluated the entire building and if approved this project will be combined with a UI grant. Town Librarian Karen Ronald said rooms can get to 51 degrees or too hot forcing people to leave. Mr. Boman said each room will have its own regulation of heat and air and will save the town a lot of money. Mr. Michelangelo continued discussing projects such as road paving funding; the Valley Road Bridge; a 6-Wheel Asphalt Truck; a 10-Wheel Dump Truck; a payloader; Gould Manor Pond dredging; a 6-Wheel All-Season dump truck; Independence Hall Energy upgrades; the Tunxis Hill Butler Building; the Commerce Drive bridge design; Burr Mansion improvements; and the golf course renovation. A fire pumper and cluster replacement at the ECC is also being requested.

Dr. Title and Deputy Chief Lyddy returned to speak to the Selectmen about adjustments to the four non-recurring capital project requests and said that they can get \$320,000 reimbursed for the Dwight Partial Roof Replacement and the security request can be reduced to \$1.75 million for this year. Selectman Kiley asked if these new numbers will keep things on track and keep the commitment to security projects. Dr. Title said yes but these reductions put the town in a tough position next year. First Selectman Tetreau asked the finance department to rewrite the bond resolutions given these changes. The Selectmen decided to approve or deny items at tonight's meeting and then hold a special meeting next week to vote on each item so that the BOF will be able to discuss and vote on these items at its February meeting. First Selectman Tetreau also asked that the finance department show changes in the waterfall chart. First Selectman Tetreau wants to put off the Jennings boilers that were placed in 1966, not 1996 as shown in the backup material, to next year.

First Selectman Tetreau made an amendment to remove the Jennings boilers from the list. Selectman Marmion seconded the amendment. Selectman Kiley said he cannot support the boilers coming off the list. Mr. Dwyer said the boilers are about 50 years old and if replaced next year, the cost could be more expensive.

The amendment carried 2-1-0, Kiley abstained.

Selectman Kiley made an amendment to approve \$1.75 million for school security per the recommendation of Dr. Title. Selectman Marmion seconded the amendment which carried 3-0.

Going back to town projects, Selectman Kiley made an amendment to reduce road paving by \$1 million. Selectman Marmion seconded the amendment which carried 3-0.

Regarding the Valley Road Bridge, Mr. Michelangelo said this project is 80% reimbursable. Selectman Marmion thanked the town for holding public hearings on this bridge which neighbors in the area support. Regarding the payload, First Selectman Tetreau said they're in demand and noted how Fairfield had to get help from other towns during Storm Nemo. Selectman Marmion asked about renting short-term vehicles like this one. Mr. Michelangelo said the payload is used year round. Scott Bartlett, DPW Superintendent, said leasing is more expensive. Regarding the Gould Manor Pond Dredging, Mr. Michelangelo said flooding would go over the field and into nearby streets. Regarding the Tunxis Hill building, Selectman Marmion asked if there is any way just the roof could be replaced. Mr. Michelangelo said the rest of the building is not worthy of that type of replacement and DPW has been spending maintaining the roof and building. First Selectman Tetreau expressed concern about the snow load issue on the roof. Mr. Michelangelo said that is a big factor. Regarding the Commerce Drive Bridge, the town has a good chance of getting reimbursed especially since Bridgeport, which shares this project, approached Fairfield and is onboard. Regarding Burr Mansion improvements, this is in partnership with the History Center. It's at the bottom of the list not because it's not a priority but because it's a co-applicant with the History Center. History Center Executive Director Mike Jehle said not much has been done to this building since 1980. There are public safety risks.

Selectman Kiley wants to hold off on Tunxis Hill because it's the first time the Board is hearing about this project to demolish and rebuild this building. First Selectman Tetreau is concerned with the building. He said rebuilding would be easy. He said regarding Independence Hall, he worries about losing the grant but Mr. Boman said there is a grant opportunity every year. Selectman Marmion said regarding the Tunxis Hill building, she is concerned about the roof which is protecting town vehicles and if people are inside. Selectman Marmion said she wouldn't support removing this project for approval. Selectman Kiley supports the golf course renovation and fire pumper. First Selectman Tetreau said he supports the pumper but not the bunker. Selectman Marmion noted that the golf course drives revenue so she asked how big a factor it would be if this project is not approved and would it hurt revenues and would there be safety issues. Parks and Recreation Director Gerry Lombardo said this project is in the ten year plan and if delayed it would push things back and \$200,000 would be asked next year. Selectman Kiley said he has reservations on the golf course which Selectman Marmion agreed with.

First Selectman Tetreau made an amendment to reduce the Gould Manor Pond Dredging, the 6-Wheel All-Season Dump Truck, and Independence Hall Energy Upgrades. Selectman Kiley seconded the amendment which carried 3-0.

Selectman Kiley made an amendment to reduce the Tunxis Hill Butlter Building item. No one seconded the amendment.

Selectman Kiley made an amendment to reduce the 10-Wheel Dump Truck. Selectman Marmion seconded the amendment which carried 2-1-0, Tetreau opposed.

The Selectmen said they all support the fire pumper. A discussion on the Cluster replacement at the ECC will be held next week.

First Selectman Tetreau opened up comment to the public. Flood and Erosion Control member Dick Dmochowski thanked the Board for supporting the Pine Creek Dike Study. Tom Bosse asked if the town could sell the Tunxis Hill building and build a new building near the DPW garage. First Selectman Tetreau said he is not big on selling town land. At 7:13 pm, Selectman Kiley needed to leave the meeting.

Selectman Marmion made a motion to postpone item seven to a date certain of a special meeting next week. Selectman Tetreau seconded the motion which carried 2-0.

**8) OSBORN HILL BUILDING COMMITTEE (Requires Board of Finance and RTM approval)**

To hear, consider and act upon a resolution appropriating an additional \$812,172 for costs associated with certain projects at Osborn Hill Elementary School and authorizing the issuance of bonds to finance such appropriation.

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

Osborn Hill Building Committee Chair Kim Marshall said the Committee is requesting additional funding. There were no significant issues over the summer, but now that work is being performed in the gym that's being renovated, unforeseen conditions have been found. There are additional delays, costs, abatement work and other costs like the architectural and owner's rep fees.

First Selectman Tetreau said it would be helpful for the Selectmen to see the original budget, a list of issues in writing such as what caused the contingency to be eaten up, a project update that includes what was spent and what remains to be completed and to see what the contingency is going against.

Selectman Marmion made a motion to postpone the item to a date certain of the next meeting. First Selectman Tetreau seconded the item which carried 2-0. First Selectman Tetreau asked Mr. Marshall to inform the Committee of critical deadlines. He said this item can be put on next week's special agenda along with item seven.

9) To consider and act upon tax refunds as recommended by the Tax Collector in the amount recommended.

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

Selectman Marmion made an amendment to delete the period at the end of the sentence and add a comma followed by \$7,449.95. First Selectman Tetreau seconded the amendment which carried 2-0.

The motion, as amended, carried 2-0.

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

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

12) ADJOURN

Selectman Marmion made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 pm. First Selectman Tetreau seconded the motion which carried 2-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer S. Carpenter  
Recording Secretary

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