

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING FINALMINUTES  
March 18, 2015

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18, 2015, in the first floor conference room of Independence Hall.

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

Others Present: Andrea Flynn, Matt Waggoner, Roger Autuori, Kim Marshall, Catherine Albin,  
FairTV, Genny Reilly, Sal Morabito, Stanton Lesser, Heather Dean

1) CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Tetreau called the meeting to order at 4:34 pm.

2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3) MINUTES

To consider and act upon the minutes of

i.) Special Meeting of February 25, 2015

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

ii.) Regular Meeting of March 4, 2015

Selectman Marmion made a motion to approve the minutes. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried 2-0-1, Selectman Kiley abstained.

4) RESIGNATIONS (for information only)

Flood and Erosion Control Board

William L. Kenny (U), 164 Euclid Avenue, term 11/10-11/15  
(Resignation Date: March 11, 2015)

5) FIRST SELECTMAN APPOINTMENTS (for information only)

Employees Retirement Board (requires RTM approval)

Kathryn F. Fagan (R), 450 Cornell Road, term 11/13-11/18  
(To fill a vacancy for Michael Mears who resigned)

6) APPOINTMENTS

To hear, consider and act upon the following appointment:

Flood and Erosion Control Board

Steven K. Stearns (U), 79 Oyster Road, term 11/10-11/15 (to fill a vacancy for William Kenny who resigned)

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

Selectman Marmion said Mr. Stearns has a terrific resume and is a good candidate. Selectman Kiley concurred. First Selectman Tetreau congratulated Mr. Stearns and thanked him for volunteering.

The motion carried 3-0.

Selectman Kiley made a motion to hear item 8 before item 7. Selectman Marmion seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

#### 8) OSBORN HILL SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

To hear an update from the Osborn Hill Building Committee

Kim Marshall, Chair of the Osborn School Building Committee, gave the Selectmen a handout. She discussed the timeline and coming back to the Board of Selectmen with a future funding request. She said the RTM wants a corridor so she worked with the architect and there will be a committee meeting tomorrow for members to vote on the corridor. Ms. Marshall discussed going out for bids to get a solid number for the funding request. She hopes to come before the Board of Selectmen on May 6<sup>th</sup>, then to the BOF and RTM.

First Selectman Tetreau asked Ms. Marshall about the impact if the RTM didn't approve the project until late June. Ms. Marshall said part of the work will be done this summer and the rest of the work will be done during the school year. She brought a sample of the windows that she said are the most economical way of enclosing the corridor. Ms. Marshall said whether the RTM approves funding in May or June the walls cannot be done by September because of the eight-week prep time. Sal Morabito of Central Office said work will be done around the school day or some weekends. Selectman Marmion asked if the fiberglass windows let in light but people can't see in. Ms. Marshall said that is correct. Selectman Kiley said he is glad the corridor is being revisited. He asked about the cost. Ms. Marshall said the Committee is trying to be as economical as possible. She said the compromise with cost and aesthetics is good.

#### 7) ELECTION PROCESS REVIEW COMMITTEE

To hear a report from the Election Process Review Committee

Catherine Albin, Chair of the Committee, went through a large report that the First Selectman will keep on file in the First Selectman's Office for the public. The report is also online. Mrs. Albin read the Committee's Charge and named all the attachments in the report. She said there is one more item from Registrar Roger Autuori that will be put online soon. She summarized a written report starting with the background of the Committee being established. Mrs. Albin said the Committee worked well together and in a bi-partisan fashion. She then discussed some of the committee findings and recommendations starting with the opening of polling locations. Three polling districts did not open on time. State Statutes state polls must open 6 am and are clearly stated in the moderators' handbooks. She said the Committee concluded there was ineffective training from the Registrars and there needs to be a clear chain of command and there should be computerized moderators' logs. The Committee also concluded there is insufficient communication between the Registrars resulting in this issue.

Mrs. Albin then discussed complaints related to the Election starting committee findings like wrong ballots given to voters and delay in results being reported at the end of the day to the public. Selectman Marmion asked if people left any of those polls. Mrs. Albin said the Committee doesn't have that information, but some people got the wrong ballots and filled them out. The Registrars were asked to provide an explanation on what occurred in 2014 and how it compares to what happened in 2013. Selectman Marmion asked if the Registrars gave a response. Mrs. Albin said they have not. Mrs. Albin stated three recommendations the Committee suggests for this problem.

She then reviewed machinery and the new process with absentee ballots. Fairfield has counted absentee ballots in a central location for years but many years ago the ballots were counted in

districts just as they had been counted in districts in 2014. She said this change after many years led to the Committee seeing a pattern on late results. Mrs. Albin explained the Registrars' different opinion on where absentee ballots should be counted in 2014. The Committee declined to make a recommendation on absentee ballots but does stress training is essential for a smooth process for future elections. The Committee also recommends consistent training and the smoothness of the absentee transfer.

Mrs. Albin then reviewed training and operations stating that poll workers received training on different days. The Committee pointed out that a question could have been asked at one session that could have been beneficial to someone at another session and different information could have been presented at each session. Selectman Kiley asked if training had occurred in the past at separate times. Mrs. Albin said not to her knowledge. She discussed three Committee recommendations for this issue including a partitioning of the office space and scheduling different hours for the Registrars to work in the office.

Mrs. Albin concluded by giving closing comments focusing on the breakdown in the ability of the Registrars to work together that affects the day-to-day operations and the election. There is no one to oversee the Registrars. Selectman Kiley asked if the 3 minutes of one polling location opening late was within a reasonable margin of the State Statutes. Mrs. Albin said she wasn't sure and that a clock could have been different from another. She said there is no chain of command or no checks and balances. The moderators are more powerful than the Registrars on Election Day which is common in all towns. The Secretary of State has no authority on these election issues. The Committee can make recommendations, but no one has authority over the Registrars' Office. Selectman Marmion asked about standard training. Mrs. Albin said the manual is the training used. Selectman Marmion read the last paragraph of the closing comments and said while the Committee made good recommendations, this last paragraph states that unless the Registrars can work together then the recommendations can't work. Mrs. Albin said that is correct. First Selectman Tetreau suggested the Selectmen review the report and if there are further questions he'll invite Mrs. Albin back to the Board of Selectmen. Selectman Kiley asked if both Registrars received the report. Mrs. Albin said they were told it's online.

#### 9) FIRST SELECTMAN

To review and modify the FairTV Operational Committee Charge revised by the Board of Selectmen on December 3, 2014

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

First Selectman Tetreau said a FairTV ordinance was recently passed by the RTM. The new ordinance is not in place yet, but the Charge states that the Committee shall terminate on March 31, 2015. First Selectman Tetreau suggested modifying the Duration section of the Charge to allow the existing board to operate until the ordinance is in place. First Selectman Tetreau said he has candidates for the new Commission that will be placed on the April 1, 2015 BOS agenda.

Selectman Marmion made an amendment to replace the following language under the Duration section of the Charge: "Committee members shall issue a report to the BOS prior to June 30, 2014 and the report should include but not be limited to recommendations for the future of Fair TV, modifications and recommendations to the Charge and a report on the year-to-date operations.

This Committee shall terminate after a quorum of the FairTV Commission is formed per the new ordinance.”

Selectman Kiley seconded the amendment which carried 3-0.

The main motion as amended carried 3-0.

10) 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. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion.

Selectman Marmion made an amendment to remove the period at the end of the sentence and add a comma followed by \$9,563.63. Selectman Kiley seconded the amendment 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) ADJOURN

Selectman Kiley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:51 pm. Selectman Marmion seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer S. Carpenter  
Recording Secretary

---

---

---