

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING FINAL MINUTES
December 2, 2015

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 2, 2015, in the first floor conference room of Independence Hall.

Members Present: First Selectman Michael C. Tetreau, Selectman Laurie A. McArdle, Selectman Christopher W. Tymniak

Others Present: Tax Collector Cinda Buchter, Fairfield Citizen-News reporter Genny Reilly, FairTV, Soundview, BOE Chair Phil Dwyer, Registrar of Voters Roger Autuori, former Selectman Steve Elworthy, former State Representative Jack Stone, Assistant DPW Director Ed Boman, James DeSantos from Greenskies, Fairfield Museum and History Center Executive Director Mike Jehle, IT Systems Administrator Dan Sciglimpaglia, CETF Chair Scott Thompson, Judy Ewing, Kevin Hoffkins, Sherri Steeneck, CETF member Larry Kaley, Animal Control officer Bill McDonagh, Parking Authority Chair Mary Kay Frost, Town Clerk Stanton Lesser, Assistant Town Clerk Ann Roche, Police Chief Gary MacNamara, Deputy Police Chief Chris Lyddy, Public Schools' Manager of Construction, Safety and Security Sal Morabito, Forestry and Earth Day Committee Chair and member Mary Hogue, CETF member Bob Wall, DTC Chair Heather Dean, BOF member David Becker, DPW Director Joe Michelangelo, Libraries' IT coordinator Jim Swift, Martha Beale, Clare Burhenne, CETF member Jim Motavalli, Lisa Roland, President of Mosswood Condominium, Mosswood resident Jaime Millington and other Mosswood Condominium residents

1) CALL TO ORDER

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

(Prior to the start of the meeting, Tax Collector Cinda Buchter briefly explained the tax refund process. The Selectmen were given a write-up on this process, along with the State Statute).

2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Selectman McArdle led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3) WEDNESDAY'S PET – Presented by Sherri Steeneck

As part of the adopt a pet program, Sherri Steeneck introduced Jessica, a female cat along with another cat, who are available for adoption at the Town's Animal Shelter, 211 Richard White Way. Anyone seeking to adopt a pet can call 254-4857.

Prior to acting on the minutes, First Selectman Tetreau welcomed the new Selectmen to the Board.

4) MINUTES

To consider and act upon the minutes of the regular Meeting of November 4, 2015 Selectman McArdle made a motion to approve the item. Selectman Tymniak seconded the item which carried 1-0-2 (Selectmen McArdle and Tymniak abstained).

Selectman McArdle made a motion to take item 14 out of order and move it after item four. Selectman Tymniak seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

14) DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (**requires Plan and Zoning Commission approval**)

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

RESOLVED, that a solar power and services agreement between the Town of Fairfield and Greenskies for the purpose of erecting a photovoltaic electric generation system over the westbound parking lot of the Fairfield Center Railroad Station, for the sole benefit of Tomlinson Middle School located at 200 Unquowa Road, the term of the agreement being twenty years, be, and hereby is, approved.

Selectman Tymniak made a motion to approve the item. Selectman McArdle seconded the motion.

Selectman Tymniak said he spent many hours on calls with people concerned with the project. He also spoke to school principals. Selectman Tymniak said the best solution is to look for other avenues such as Tomlinson Middle School (TMS). He doesn't want to lose the ZRAK program. He suggests moving the panels to the TMS property and suggested the TMS roof or to perform an examination of other places at TMS. Selectman Tymniak does not want this project placed at the downtown rail station parking lot because he said it will tie up the lot. He said some downtown businesses have concerns about employee parking. He noted Fairfield Theatre Company sales are up and there are more restaurants and businesses downtown so parking is an issue. Selectman Tymniak suggested putting a parking garage at the downtown railroad station. He reiterated moving ZRAK to TMS and working with the BOE on that. He understands TMS is not the same size as the railroad parking lot, but he believes the cost benefits could be the same.

Selectman McArdle said she has also received a lot of input on this project. She said renewable energy makes sense, but a long-term plan is needed and this project needs to be thought through because if approved it would tie up 20 years of technology and, in 20 years, solar projects may look much different. Selectman McArdle also said that given there are parking concerns downtown she'd like to see railroad parking issues tied into downtown parking issues in a long-term plan.

First Selectman Tetreau asked if there could be a transition to move the project to another site like TMS. DPW Assistant Director Ed Boman answered yes. Mr. Boman said if the project was moved to TMS then the timeline would be quicker because no zoning approval would be needed, but the project would still need approvals from the Boards of Selectmen and Education. Mr. Boman said he spoke to Greenskies and the company is willing to consider the TMS option to save the ZRAK program. James DeSantos from Greenskies said it would take 2-3 weeks to come back to the BOS with a new plan. First Selectman Tetreau asked Mr. Boman to talk to the Superintendent of Schools and the BOE officially and get the appropriate action approvals. First Selectman Tetreau said he has had concerns with the process and has also received many questions from the public. He said many stakeholders were informed late about this project and any new information should be sent out to all stakeholders. He added that the Town saves about \$2.2 million a year by using alternative energy and Fairfield is committed to doing more on this, but the railroad parking lot is not the right site for this project and alternatives need to be looked at. This project is different from other solar projects the Town has installed because this proposed project would be on a parking lot and not on top of a roof. First Selectman Tetreau thanked Selectman Tymniak for the alternative suggestion to keep the ZRAK program.

First Selectman Tetreau suggested the BOS vote down this resolution and have it come back to the BOS in the near future as a new resolution. Selectman Tymniak asked Mr. Boman what a comparable size is to achieve the same savings if the project were to be installed at the

railroad parking lot. Mr. Boman said the TMS rooftop is cheaper to install the project, but he would need to look into Selectman Tymniak's question further to provide a more definitive answer. Selectman Tymniak asked Mr. Boman if having the project at TMS would achieve some substantial savings for the Town. Mr. Boman answered yes.

First Selectman Tetreau then opened up the discussion to the public.

-Martha Beale, 88 Robertson Crossing, said she has aesthetic concerns and safety concerns for people using the railroad site. She also gave the BOS a copy of FEMA's risk management snow load safety guide. If the Town gets the amount of snow it had gotten last year then there could be a failure with this project.

-Clare Burhenne, CEO/Founder of @Objective350, which works to engage teenagers in research and education on climate change and its ramifications stressed the importance of solar energy and strongly advocated the BOS approve this project. First Selectman Tetreau noted how Fairfield has a long history of utilizing solar energy and is one of the leaders on clean energy in the state.

-Jim Motavalli, 261 Brooklawn Terrace, member of the Town's Clean Energy Task Force (CETF), said he is disappointed in how the Town is handling this matter. He said the Town is not in line in saving taxpayer dollars. He said people against this project are those who don't want to look at these solar carports.

-Steve Elworthy, 148 Catherine Street, former Selectman and former CETF member, said he supports clean energy and solar power, but at the proper place. He said there are other places in Town to put this project. He stressed how a big snowstorm would be a big problem if these carports were placed at the station parking lot. He also said there are solars coming out now that are more sufficient and concurs with the Selectmen on moving the project away from the parking lot.

-Larry Kaley, 1162 Jennings Road, CETF member, talked about the issue of global warming and rising asthma rates in Fairfield County serving as other pressing reasons to do this project.

-Mary Hogue, 165 Stonewall Lane, Forestry Committee Chair and Earth Day Committee member, applauded Claire Burhenne and echoed the thoughts of climate change concerns. She hopes the BOS approves this project and said the Town needs to do a lot more than this project on solar energy.

-Mary Kay Frost, 220 Deep Wood Road, Chair of the Parking Authority, thanked the Selectmen for how they have treated this process.

-Scott Thompson, 25 Hunter Road, CETF Chair, said he is disappointed there was no debate on this project, but appreciates salvaging the ZRAK program and thanked Selectman Tymniak on that. He thanked Mr. Boman for his work. He said it's impressive on all that is being done in Fairfield on clean and solar energy initiatives. He asked for support over the years on more renewables and saving taxpayer dollars. Mr. Thompson said he needs help on the residential side to get more residents to put solar roofs on their homes which would save them money. He said FWHS interns evaluated residential rooftops and found that about 5000 are viable to have solar roofs, but only 275 households have solar roof tops. First Selectman Tetreau commended Mr. Thompson on this initiative.

-Lisa Roland, 245 Unquowa Road, President of the Mosswood Condo Association, thanked the Town for listening to the Mosswood residents. She said many residents are not against green energy, but this location is not the right place for this project and wouldn't be a good fit there since there's a lot of activity at the railroad parking lot and there's a liability. She said carports leak and they should be placed somewhere else that is not so busy.

The motion failed unanimously.

First Selectman Tetreau asked Mr. Boman to follow-up with the BOE on TMS and ZRAK's criteria to transfer the project to the school.

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

FairTV Commission

Alexis P. Harrison (R), 240 Melody Lane, term 7/15 – 7/16
(Resignation Date: November 16, 2015)

6) **TOWN CLERK**

To approve the reappointment of the following sub-registrars as recommended by the Town Clerk:

Sub-Registrars

- a) Barbara A. Dougiello
- b) Samuel Green
- c) Kevin M. Lesko
- d) Frank M. Polke
- e) Richard J. Miller
- f) Pamala Shaughnessey-Banks

Selectman Tymniak made a motion to approve the item. Selectman McArdle seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

7) **FIRST SELECTMAN REAPPOINTMENTS (for information only)**

a) Conservation Commission

- i. Kevin J. Gumpfer (D), 315 Carroll Road, term 11/15 – 11/20
- ii. Elizabeth H. Jones (R), 90 Shetland Road, term 11/15 – 11/20

b) Employees Retirement Board (requires RTM approval)

Brian P. Vahey (R), 1625 Melville Avenue, term 11/15 - 11/20

c) Fairfield Housing Authority

Rita Waterman (D), 39 Benson Place, term 11/15 -11/20

8) **FIRST SELECTMAN APPOINTMENTS (for information only)**

a) Economic Development Commission

- i. Zhanna B. Funaro (D), 57 Riverside Drive, term 11/11 – 11/16
(to fill a vacancy for Christopher LaSala who resigned)
(Appointment Date: 11/16/2015)
- ii. Gregory A. Minsky (D), 1012 Mill Plain Road, term 11/15 – 11/20
(to fill a vacancy for Abbas Nadim whose term expired)
(Appointment Date: 11/23/2015)

b) Cable Advisory Council Area 2

Stuart Strelzer (U), 56 Lamplighter Lane, term 7/15 – 7/17
(to fill a vacancy created by the passing of Howard Jacobson in the previous term)
(Appointment Date: 11/23/2015)

c) Employees Retirement Board (requires RTM approval)

Scott H. Pollack (U), 543 Wormwood Road, term 11/11 – 11/16
(to fill a vacancy created by the retirement of Robert Malarkey)

First Selectman Tetreau said the FairTV Commission nominated Mr. Strelzer to serve on the CAC Area 2. The Commission wants a FairTV member to also serve on the CAC Area 2 and have a voice on this Council. First Selectman Tetreau said by-laws are being sorted out.

9) APPOINTMENTS

a) Board of Finance

Kevin L. Hoffkins (D), 76 Bennett Street, term 11/15 – 11/21
(to fill a vacancy for Kevin Lennon who was elected but refused the seat)

Selectman Tymniak made a motion to approve the item. Selectman McArdle seconded the motion.

Selectman Tymniak stressed that he wants to continue the long-standing agreement between both political parties that involves one party supporting the other party's chosen candidate.

The motion carried 3-0.

b) Police Commission

John E. Stone, Jr. (R), 195 Carroll Road, term 11/15 – 11/20
(to fill a vacancy for Donald Kleber whose term expired)

Selectman Tymniak made a motion to approve the item. Selectman McArdle seconded the motion.

Selectman Tymniak said he is excited that Mr. Stone will join the Commission and he welcomes Mr. Stone's input. First Selectman Tetreau said he has known Mr. Stone for a while and noted how Mr. Stone served on the public safety committee when he was State Representative. First Selectman Tetreau thanked Mr. Stone for his interest and commitment to the Town.

The motion carried 3-0.

10) FAIRFIELD WOODS MIDDLE SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

To hear, consider and act upon a request from the Fairfield Woods Building Committee to disband.

Sal Morabito, Manager of Construction, Safety and Security for the Fairfield Public Schools, spoke on behalf of the Committee's Vice-Chair, Doreen Battimelli. He said the school community is pleased with the work. All paperwork has been turned in. The last item is this approval. Selectman McArdle said she had taught at this middle school and she heard there has been issues with the heat and if there could be an issue with controls for the heating system being off site. Mr. Morabito said temperature complaints are always an issue at schools. The heat issue is one that can be managed on or off site. He wasn't sure about the heat issue at Fairfield Woods Middle School.

Selectman Tymniak made a motion to approve the item. Selectman McArdle seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

11) DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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

RESOLVED, that Michael C. Tetreau, First Selectman of the Town of Fairfield, is empowered to execute and deliver in the name and on behalf of the Town of Fairfield a Network Access Service Agreement with the State of Connecticut's Department of Administrative Services and Commission for Educational Technology to join the Network Services Program offered through the Commission for the purpose of connecting to the State of Connecticut's Nutmeg Network; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Michael C. Tetreau, First Selectman of the Town of Fairfield, is authorized to execute and deliver in the name and on behalf of the Town of Fairfield an agreement with the State of Connecticut's Office of Policy and Management for a \$42,400 grant to cover the cost of connecting the Fairfield Woods Branch Library to the Nutmeg Network.

Selectman Tymniak made a motion to approve the item. Selectman McArdle seconded the motion.

First Selectman Tetreau said one of the Town's network systems would be replaced now and it will help cover future expenses down the road. Jim Swift who oversees IT issues for the Town's libraries said there is one network at Town Hall and one at the Fairfield Woods Branch Library which will be going away to save the Town money. There's a network now at the police station. Should there be a power failure at either site there will still be a connection to the network. Mr. Swift explained what the Nutmeg Network is. He said the Town applied for and was awarded a grant to cover the costs of connecting the Network. He explained why the Town should connect to this Network. He also talked about how much money the Town could save. First Selectman Tetreau asked about capacity. Mr. Swift said each location connection is limited to one Gigabit. Selectman Tymniak noted how other towns are using the Nutmeg Network which is a cost saver.

The motion carried 3-0.

12) DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

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

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.G.S., Section 4-66g the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development is authorized to extend financial assistance for economic development projects; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of Fairfield make an application to the State for \$500,000 in order to undertake Improvements to the Historic Burr Mansion and to execute an Assistance Agreement;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Selectmen is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for the state financial assistance imposed by C.G.S., Section 4-66g; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the filing of an application for State financial assistance by the Town of Fairfield in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 is hereby approved; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that First Selectman Michael Tetreau is directed to execute and file said application with the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, to provide such additional information, to execute such other documents as may be required, to execute an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut for State financial assistance if such an agreement is offered, to execute any amendments, decisions, and revisions thereto, and to act as the authorized representative of the Town of Fairfield.

Selectman Tymniak made a motion to approve the item. Selectman McArdle seconded the motion.

Director of Public Works Joe Michelangelo said the Town had applied for three STEAP grants and received this one in the amount of \$500,000. He said this funding will be used to design and remodel the inside of the Burr Homestead. He feels the Town was successful in receiving this grant because the Town had approved \$150,000 last year for an environmental study, remediation work, architectural services and some electrical and plumbing work. First Selectman Tetreau said that \$150,000 was important because the building had been in bad shape. He said this was a non-recurring item that was approved by the BOS and RTM.

Mike Jehle, Executive Director of the Fairfield Museum and History Center, said the Museum has a management agreement with the Town. He said Burr is actively used. There has not been a significant capital project investment in Burr in many years. Systems are breaking down. This funding will bring all systems up to speed with handicapped accessible bathrooms, and an upgraded kitchen. The funding will make this historical building a proper rental facility. Mr. Jehle said he will come back to the BOS in January.

Selectman Tymniak asked what the other two STEAP grants were that the Town had applied for. Mr. Michelangelo said the First Selectman convenes a meeting with some of the department heads to strategize on what is best for the Town. One application was to make improvements at Owen Fish Park which is a recreational facility with the legion hall at the site. The other application was for downtown drainage improvements at Sanford Street and the Post Road which has the biggest peak of flash flooding. Sherman Green would have been used to store the water. Since downtown is so vibrant that was considered as a factor in this application. Selectman Tymniak asked if the Town requested \$500,000 for the other two applications. Mr. Michelangelo said the Town requested \$250,000 for the other two. Selectman Tymniak asked when the decision is made for the next round of STEAP grants. Mr. Michelangelo said Engineering Manager Bill Hurley recently participated in a webinar on the next round of grants so the process is getting started again.

First Selectman Tetreau asked for public comment. Mr. Elworthy asked about getting Historic District Commission approvals to perform work at Burr. First Selectman Tetreau said that Commission is playing a role in approvals. Selectman McArdle asked if there are any specific pre-requisites. Mr. Michelangelo said the Town needs approval from the State's Historic Preservation Office.

The motion carried 3-0.

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 hereby authorized, on behalf of the Town of Fairfield, to expend up to \$500,000 to fund a Small Town Economic Assistance Project (STEAP) entitled Improvements to the Historic Burr Mansion, one hundred percent of said project cost to be reimbursed by a Small Town Economic Assistance Project (STEAP) Grant.

Selectman McArdle made a motion to approve the item. Selectman Tymniak seconded the motion.

First Selectman Tetreau clarified that item #12 is to accept the funding and item #13 is to authorize the First Selectman to spend the funding.

The motion carried 3-0.

15) **FIRST SELECTMAN**

Board of Selectmen meeting dates for Calendar Year 2016:

January 6 and 27*	July 6 and 20
February 3 and 17	August 3 and 17
March 2 and 16	September 7 and 21
April 6 and 20	October 5 and 19
May 4 and 18	November 2 and 16
June 1 and 15	December 7 and 21
*4 th Wednesday	

The Selectmen agreed on all these dates.

16) **FIRST SELECTMAN**

Budget Meetings for Calendar Year 2016:

a) Board of Selectmen Joint* Public Budget Hearing Dates**:

March	01	Tuesday
	03	Thursday
	08	Tuesday
	10	Thursday
	15	Tuesday
	16	Wednesday
	21	Monday

*Joint with Board of Finance – 7:30 pm

**Pending Board of Finance Approval

The Selectmen all agreed on these dates.

b) Board of Selectmen Public Executive Budget Session and Vote:

March	28	Monday (2:00 pm) – Public Executive Session*
March	29	Tuesday (2:00 pm) – Vote*

*No public comment

First Selectman Tetreau explained that March 28th is for the BOS to discuss the budget and then the Board votes on the budget on March 29th. He also mentioned the annual BOF public budget comment session takes place on a Saturday in March. Recording secretary Jennifer Carpenter said that date is March 19th. She will send the Selectmen an email to confirm this date.

The Selectmen all agreed on these dates.

17) TAX COLLECTOR

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

Selectman Tymniak made a motion to approve the item. Selectman McArdle seconded the motion.

Selectman Tymniak made an amendment to remove the period at the end of the sentence and add a comma followed by \$15,209.97. Selectman McArdle seconded the amendment which carried 3-0.

The main motion, as amended, carried unanimously.

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

19) To hear, consider and act upon any other business which shall properly come before this meeting.

Selectman Tymniak reminded the public about this Friday's annual Holiday Tree Lighting at the Town Green.

20) ADJOURN

Selectman McArdle made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 pm. Selectman Tymniak seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer S. Carpenter
Recording Secretary