

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING FINAL MINUTES
December 16, 2015

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 16, 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: Mark Elletson, Donna Twist, Mari-Jo Gordon, Julia Demeo, Marlene Battista and husband and nominators, Janet Merando and husband and nominators, Terry Giegengack and staff, Don Ross, Bob Bilek, Dr. David Title, Phil Dwyer, Tom Cullen, Ed Boman, Holland Hill Principal Laura Cretella, Holland Hill parents and students, Sal Morabito, State Senator Tony Hwang, Dr. Richard DeAngelis, Genny Reilly, Soundview, FairTV, Claire Grace, Kendra Wingate, Jeff Minder, James Ryan, Selma Cohen, Betsy Gardner

1) CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Selectman Tymniak led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3) NORMA PFRIEM BREAST CENTER-To hear a follow-up report on Pink Pledge

This item was not taken up by the Selectmen as it tied into the Fairfielder of the Year winner.

4) RECOGNITION-Presentation of the 2015 Fairfielder and Employee of the Year Awards.

First Selectman Tetreau described the award process, nomination criteria and gave a brief history on these awards. He then announced Marlene Battista as the 2015 Fairfielder of the Year winner. Two of Ms. Battista's nominators, Julia DeMeo and Kristen Plock, spoke about why Marlene was a deserving awardee. Donna Twist, Executive Director and Vice President of Development at the Norma Pfriem Breast Center congratulated Ms. Battista.

Selectman Tymniak congratulated Ms. Battista on winning this award. He highlighted her work for the Town's 375th Gala, the Pink Pledge and said he appreciates all she does for the Town. Selectman McArdle also congratulated Ms. Battista and thanked her for all her good work. First Selectman Tetreau said Ms. Battista defines dedication and helping others makes a difference. He said her work on the Gala was amazing despite her having to miss the Gala to attend a family wedding.

Ms. Battista thanked the Selectmen and her nominators. She said she likes to make the community better. Fairfield is a great place to live and give back to. The Selectmen then presented Ms. Battista with a gift.

After reading the criteria for the Employee of the Year, First Selectman Tetreau then announced that Janet Merando was the 2015 Employee of the Year winner. Terry Giegengack, Human and Social Services Director, who was one of Ms. Merando's nominators, read her nomination letter. State Senator Tony Hwang said Ms. Merando demonstrates great care and humility and is truly deserving of this award. He said Ms. Merando makes the Bigelow Center a special place and a second home for patrons. Dr. Richard DeAngelis said he has known Ms. Merando since 2002. He read a list of some of the many things Ms. Merando does at her job and said he works evenings and weekends. He said Ms. Merando is of the best quality among all the people he's worked with.

Selectman Tymniak congratulated Mr. Merando and said she is very deserving of this award. Selectman McArdle said Ms. Merando is very dedicated and inspiring and congratulated her and said she appreciates Ms. Merando's service. First Selectman Tetreau said Ms. Merando had a record number of 47 nominations. He said when he visits the Bigelow Center it's Ms. Merando he checks in with. He noted with the growth of the Bigelow Center how Ms. Merando helped lead with energy.

Ms. Merando said she couldn't thank everyone enough for this honor. She loves the Center and the staff and she come to work for the seniors. She said she works with wonderful people. She noted working under Claire Grace and now Terry Giegengack. She loves the growth. First Selectman Tetreau recognized Ms. Grace who attended the meeting to congratulate Ms. Merando. The Selectmen gave Ms. Merando a gift and then showed a plaque with all of the winners' names engraved on it going back to 2004. The plaque is hung in the lobby of Independence Hall.

5) MINUTES

To consider and act upon the minutes of Regular Meeting of December 2, 2015

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

6) HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTOR-To hear an update on the Bigelow Center for Senior Activities

This item was not taken up by the Selectmen as it tied into the Employee of the Year winner.

7) REAPPOINTMENTS

To hear, consider and act upon the following reappointments:

a) Affordable Housing Committee

Gerard J. Stuhlman (U), 71 Somerset Avenue, term 11/15 – 11/19

b) Fire Commission

Dorothea E. Brennan (R), 1246 Fairfield Beach Road, term 11/15 - 11/20

c) Flood and Erosion Control Board

Steven K. Stearns (U), 79 Oyster Road, term 11/15 - 11/20

d) Harbor Management Commission (requires RTM approval)

i. James L. Harman (D), 710 Mill Hill Road, term 11/15 – 11/19

ii. Norman R. Marsilius (R), 86 Hill Brook Lane, term 11/15 – 11/19

e) Historic District Commission (requires RTM approval)

Margaret B. Kufferman (U) 877 Westport Turnpike, term 11/15 – 11/20

f) Human Services Commission

Bruce F. Carter (R), 31 Brookridge Avenue, term 11/15 – 11/19

g) Parks and Recreation Commission

Scott R. Walker (R), 385 Oldfield Road, term 11/15 - 11/20

h) Shellfish Commission

i. Alison Savona (D), 272 Knollwood Drive , term 11/15 – 11/20

ii. John C. Short (R), 382 Round Hill Road, term 11/15 – 11/20

i) Tree Warden

Jeffrey M. Minder, term 11/15 – 11/16

j) Water Pollution Control Authority

i. Ronald A. Drew (R), 187 Orchard Hill Lane, term 11/15 – 11/19

ii. Mark D. Elletson (U), 732 Hillside Road, term 11/15 – 11/19

Selectman Tymniak made a motion to approve item 7a-7j. Selectman McArdle seconded the motion.

Selectman Tymniak wished everyone the best of luck. First Selectman Tetreau thanked everyone for their continued time and commitment.

The motion carried 3-0.

8) APPOINTMENTS

a) Board of Assessment Appeals

Barbara R. Herman (D), 761 Merwins Lane, term 11/15 – 11/19

(to fill a vacancy as a result of under endorsement during party nominations)

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

b) FairTV Commission (requires unanimous vote of BOS and RTM approval)

Kathryn L. Braun (R), 245 Sunnyridge Avenue, term 7/15 – 7/16

(to fill a vacancy for Alexis Harrison who resigned)

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

First Selectman Tetreau said Ms. Braun was unable to attend the meeting. Selectmen Tymniak and McArdle both spoke to Ms. Braun and are comfortable with her appointment as is First Selectman Tetreau.

The motion which carried 3-0.

9) OTHER APPOINTMENTS (for information only)

Water Pollution Control Authority

Christopher W. Tymniak (R), 543 Old Mill Road (selectman representative)

First Selectman Tetreau thanked Selectman Tymniak for serving.

10) SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

To hear a report from the Superintendent of Schools on the Holland Hill project timeline Board of Education Chair Phil Dwyer reviewed a handout on a timeline for the school project. He said this project is needed because of enrollment going up and facility and program deficiencies. The needs of the school have been revised and a facility plan has been approved so Holland Hill remains a priority. Mr. Dwyer discussed the size of the school and said there are now 400 students making it overloaded. He said the building deserves a 504 school. First Selectman Tetreau noted the Selectmen were not approving any funding tonight but were getting an update on the proposed schedule so the Board is better informed. He said Dr. David Title had stepped him through the project timeline.

Dr. Title said it's been a struggle to get estimates close to real so he spoke about coming up with a new approach using this timeline to move the project forward making enough headway so that when funding is approved the project team will be prepared. The timeline asks for funding in two stages and puts two temporary classrooms up next fall on leased basis which is why Central Office and the BOE is bringing this to the Selectmen now. There is a funding request for an architect. Funding will be reimbursed by the State by about 25%. Dr. Title hopes the Selectmen will approve the initial funding amount of \$1.2 million. A smaller building

committee is proposed with members who can meet during the day so the project isn't slowed down and costs don't go up from moving slower. Dr. Title said if the Selectmen approves the initial funding request then the Board of Finance can consider approval next February and a year from February there would be a solid number for the project. By May 2017, the project will be fully funded and in 2018 and 2019 the project will be built. With extra work done on the front end, potential surprises could be minimized.

First Selectman Tetreau asked when the project would go out to bid. Dr. Title said November 2017. Selectman Tymniak asked when the portables would be put in. Dr. Title said they are actually temporary classrooms and they would be put in the summer of 2016 making for five of these on site. Selectman Tymniak asked if two temporary classrooms are enough to solve the problem of music and overcrowding. Dr. Title said yes and these classrooms would provide immediate relief. Selectman McArdle concurred with Selectman Tymniak saying she likes this quicker approach and anything to shave off time is good. Dr. Title said the building committee is locked into the same architect from the previous project. Dr. Title said an Owner's Rep would be good to have. First Selectman Tetreau said a discussion on the Owner's Rep is underway but not yet finalized. First Selectman Tetreau asked what the current capacity at Holland Hill School is. Dr. Title said it is 315 without the temporary classrooms so with those the number is increased. There are about 405-410 students at the school now. Dr. Title said the plan is to have 420-504 students at the school. He noted core facilities are not big enough to handle 420. First Selectman Tetreau said the goal is to have the right size school for 504 students. Dr. Title answered yes. First Selectman Tetreau asked if the Ed Specs would be accommodated. Dr. Title said yes. First Selectman Tetreau discussed finding 3-5 members to serve on a small building committee to get through the initial design factor and the committee can be expanded later on. He asked the Selectmen to recommend members to the committee.

11) DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

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

RESOLVED, that the Town of Fairfield enter into a Municipal Energy Opportunity Agreement with United Illuminating Company in the amount of \$142,964.88 to cover the cost of replacing a rooftop heating and cooling unit at Fairfield Woods Library with a gas fired unit, installing first stage energy automated controls and providing LED lighting throughout the building; and FURTHER RESOLVED, that the First Selectman is hereby authorized, on behalf of the Town of Fairfield, to execute the required documents in order to participate in the energy conservation program entitled Energy Opportunities.

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

Ed Boman, DPW Assistant Director, said this project is a combination of a \$100,000 loan and a \$42,964 grant. He said the library is the right project for many reasons including its age, it's a well-used building and it's open over 60 hours a week. This library is the fifth largest consumer of electricity. Mr. Boman said there is no town money spent on this project. Mr. Boman tracks the estimated savings from this project. Selectman Tymniak asked who the contractor is. Mr. Boman said it is Core Energy Services which UI likes and has been successful with other projects. First Selectman Tetreau discussed project timing. Selectman Tymniak said this is a great project. Mr. Boman said this is a great program.

The motion carried 3-0.

12) FIRST SELECTMAN

Discussion of the Board's desire to recommend candidates to the Representative Town Meeting for temporary appointment to the Board of Assessment Appeals

First Selectman Tetreau said given there are some appeal increases, additional members need to be appointed on a temporary basis to the Board of Assessment (BOA) Appeals with RTM approval. He said the Board of Selectmen is not required to do anything, but RTM member Michael Herley who is Chair of the RTM Special Legislative Management Committee asked if the Board wanted to nominate anyone but no one has come forward to the First Selectman's Office. Selectman McArdle asked if the temporary members receive special training. Tax Assessor Don Ross said there will be seminars and he also gives one-on-one training. First Selectman Tetreau wants to make sure that the BOA Chair and Mr. Herley have the dates so the nominees can attend the training sessions. Mr. Ross said Mr. Herley has the dates. Selectman Tymniak asked about the appraisal process. Mr. Ross said property owners can physically appeal in the Assessor's Office by February 19, 2016. Hearings are held in March of 2016. There was a brief discussion on whether the Selectmen would send any nominees to the BOA Chair.

13) 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 \$4,663.35. Selectman McArdle seconded the amendment which carried 3-0.

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

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

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

Selectman Tymniak thanked the Library for holding the Star Wars event which he said was fantastic and was a great way for the Town to hold a feel good event. He wished everyone a happy and safe holiday season.

15) ADJOURN

Selectman Tymniak made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:55 pm. Selectman McArdle seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer S. Carpenter
Recording Secretary