

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING FINAL MINUTES
May 25, 2016

The special meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 25, 2016, in the first floor conference room of Independence Hall.

Members Present: First Selectman Michael C. Tetreau, Selectman Laurie A. McArdle, Selectman Christopher W. Tymniak (5:45 p.m.)

Others Present: Samantha Strelzer and parents, Paul Miller, Flip Antrade, Mike Jehle, Soundview, FairTV, John Reid, Georgiana Platt

1) CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Tetreau called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Selectman McArdle led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3) RECOGNITION-Recognition of Samantha Strelzer for Earning the Girl Scout Gold Award

First Selectman Tetreau presented Ms. Strelzer with a Proclamation for her Gold Award. He said it is only given to a select few, less than 6% of girl scouts and her project choice showed great vision.

Ms. Strelzer explained what her project entailed noting that it consisted of a five-week nutrition seminar for tweens held at the library. She is the first to receive the Gold Award in her troop. She is a senior at Fairfield Warde High School where she is Debate Team Co-Captain, Latin Club President, National Honor Society Member, plays varsity tennis and will continue her education at Wake Forest.

The Selectmen all congratulated Ms. Strelzer on her achievement.

4) RESIGNATIONS (For Information Only)

Clean Energy Task Force

David L. Downie (D), 655 Warner Hill Road
(Resignation Date: May 8, 2016)

Selectman McArdle moved for Item #5 to be heard after Item #9. First Selectman Tetreau seconded the motion which passed 2-0.

6) TOWN CLERK AND ANIMAL CONTROL

To hear a report from the Town Clerk and Animal Control on dog licensing Paul Miller, Director of Animal Control, discussed the budget and gave a brief history of dog licensing. He said Connecticut began licensing dogs in 1935. He said dog licensing was going down in the entire state. Fairfield has 1/3 of the most licensed dogs in the state.

Rabies vaccines are mandatory for dogs and cats. Mr. Miller distributed a pamphlet entitled, "The Connecticut Animal Population Control Program."

Flip Antrade, a part-time Animal Control employee, discussed how his Department utilizes various media outlets to raise awareness. He presented a commercial idea to promote dog licensing and distributed a booklet to the BOS with the concept layout.

Selectman McArdle said children could bring home information from school. First Selectman Tetreau said the Department should work with the Greater Fairfield Board of Realtors to distribute information and have a school competition on who has the most licensed dogs. Mr. Miller concluded stating the Girl Scouts are very helpful as well.

7) FAIRFIELD THEATRE COMPANY

To hear a report from the Fairfield Theatre Company on plans to build out the unused space above the backstage area and offices to further improve and expand the use of the facilities

John Reid, Executive Director of FTC, distributed the Phase III Renovation Project for the FTC Campus to the BOS. He asked permission from the Landlord (which is the Town) to invest \$1.1m into capital improvements. The handout was an overview of the ground floor, the loft (2nd floor), the exterior grounds and schematics for all areas.

A resident of 494 Hunter Road, Southport, briefed the BOS on the project. Mr. Reid discussed the economic benefits to the community. Selectman Tymniak said the plan looks good. A brief discussion was had on the project.

8) FAIRFIELD MUSEUM AND HISTORY CENTER

To hear the following from the Director of the Fairfield Museum and History Center:

- i. An overview and update on Phase 1 Burr Mansion Renovations

Executive Director Mike Jehle discussed the management agreement with the Town. He said it includes all electrical services, replaces plumbing, increases bathrooms, provides a new kitchen space and a new fire system and removes the fire escape after the second egress is built. The History Center is waiting for Fire Marshal and Building Official sign offs. Mr. Jehle said DPW is a great group of people to work with.

Georgiana Platt, Burr Mansion's Manager, gave a brief history.

- ii. An update on planned renovations to the Sun Tavern, Victorian Cottage and Barn
The application is the highest rated in the State. The History Center received a \$125k grant from the State and The Rotary Club of Fairfield committed \$75k to these renovations. All funding needed to complete renovations was received through public and private contributions.

- iii. A report on the Town Green landscape master plan project
The History Center is exploring possibilities for outdoor space for arts and cultural activities.

9) FAIRFIELD MUSEUM AND HISTORY CENTER

To hear, consider and act upon a request to approve revised rental rates for the Burr Mansion Mr. Jehle said the Burr Mansion has been used for over 30 years, but not much money has been put back in to it for updates. The minimal profit goes toward maintenance and is not enough to cover major renovations. The two big events, the Christmas Tree Festival and the Haunted Mansion, are taking a hiatus.

Mr. Jehle said the History Center has obtained state funding for handicap accessibilities and to put in a new exhibit that will hopefully open next spring.

The rate structure was reviewed and there has been no increase since 2013. The History Center has surveyed facility rates across the state and in surrounding areas and the increase is comparable. The History Center is looking for a modest 10% increase. Mr. Jehle will keep the BOS apprised of maintenance updates.

Selectman McArdle made a motion to approve the revised rental rates for the Burr Mansion. Selectman Tymniak seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

5) APPOINTMENTS

To hear, consider and act upon the following appointments:

Land Acquisition Commission

i. Tara R. Hawley (R), 159 North Cedar Road, term 11/14 – 11/18 (**alternate**)
(to fill a vacancy for Aziz Seyal whose term expired)

ii. James M. Pjura (R), 1158 Mill Hill Road, term 11/12 – 11/16 (**alternate**)
(to fill a vacancy for Linda Batchelder who moved to full member)

Selectman Tymniak made a motion to approve item 5i. and 5ii. Selectman McArdle seconded the motion which carried 3-0. The BOS thanked the appointees for their service.

10) TAX COLLECTOR

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

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

Selectman Tymniak made an amendment to remove the period at the end of the sentence and a comma followed by \$87,240.26. Selectman McArdle seconded the amendment which passed unanimously.

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

11) TOWN ATTORNEY

Private Executive Session – Two Pending Litigation Items

Selectman Tymniak made a motion to enter into private executive session. Selectman McArdle seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Selectman Tymniak made a motion to end private executive session. Selectman McArdle seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Selectman Tymniak made a motion to accept the recommendations of the Attorney. Selectman McArdle seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

12) ADJOURN

Selectman McArdle made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 p.m. Selectman Tymniak seconded the motion which carried 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Tesei
Recording Secretary