

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
FEBRUARY 22, 2010**

(Draft; minutes to be approved at 3/22/10 RTM meeting)

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town of Fairfield was held on Monday, February 22, 2010, at Osborn Hill Elementary School, Stillson Road, Fairfield, Connecticut.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 P.M. by Moderator James Walsh.

PRESENT: 46 ABSENT: 4 VACANCY: 0

PRESENT: Becker, Challinor, Richmond, Walsh, Ambrose, A. Harrison, Steele, Stewart, Varian, Bateson, Conley, Ference, McCullough, Santalesa, DeMartino, Hug, Palmer, R. Parker, S. Parker, Garskof, McAleese, Smey, Stamler, Brogan, Kupchick, Marmion, Vahey, Cullen, Hoffkins, Llewellyn, Schwartz, Braun, Hoffmann, Kelly, McCarthy, Takami, Dillon, Felner, McGinty, Millington, Farnen, E. Harrison, Mears, Mirabile, Rubino, Way

ABSENT: Sundman, Gall, Luciano, Lynch

Carol Way, District 10, introduced Brian Farnen, elected by District 10 to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Tom O'Connor.

ITEM NO. 1 ON CALL: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND A MOMENT OF SILENCE

The Moderator introduced Public Works Director Rich White and Highway Superintendent Scott Bartlett to lead the Body in the Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence. The Moderator asked that the victims in the recent Haiti disaster be remembered.

ITEM NO. 2 ON CALL: APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD JANUARY 14, 2010 AND THE REGULAR MEETING HELD JANUARY 25, 2010

Upon motion made, duly seconded and carried unanimously, the minutes of the previous meetings were approved as distributed.

ITEM NO. 3 ON CALL: RESOLVED THAT TWO BONDING RESOLUTIONS PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN, BOARD OF FINANCE AND RTM BE AMENDED AS STATED IN THE ATTACHED BONDING RESOLUTION INCLUDING AN INCREASE OF \$135,000 TO THE OSBORN HILL CAPITAL PROJECT BUDGET AND A DECREASE OF \$135,000 TO THE SHERMAN SCHOOL CAPITAL PROJECT BUDGET

The Moderator moved this item as distributed with the Call, duly seconded.

**See Committee Reports Attached Hereto and Made a Part Hereof.

Michael Mears, District 10, said that the original bonding resolution appears to request \$50,000 more than needed and he asked what effect leftover funds have on the bond.

First Selectman Ken Flatto said that if the funds are not fully expended the bonding for those funds would not take place.

Brenda Kupchick, District 6, referred to the drainage issue and asked that the Special Projects Building Committee report back to the Moderator once it determines who is responsible for the problem.

Nick Mirabile, District 9, asked why \$135,000 is being exchanged between the two building projects, since it appears Sherman shows a balance of \$160,000 and Osborn Hill is short \$106,000.

Special Projects Building Committee Chairman Al Kelly said that the fiscal officer prefers dealing in \$5,000 increments. He discussed the specific dollar amounts needed for each project such as the drainage issue and adding portables.

Mr. Mirabile expressed a desire for more transparent figures.

VOTE: The bonding resolution to amend previously bonding resolutions including an increase of \$135,000 to the Osborn Hill building project and a decrease of \$135,000 to the Sherman School building project was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Kelly invited all to attend the Stratfield School ground-breaking ceremony on March 12 at 2:30 P.M.

ITEM NO. 4 ON CALL: ORDINANCE PROVIDING THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD'S
MEMBERSHIP IN THE GREAT BRIDGEPORT COUNCIL OF
ELECTED OFFICIALS

The Moderator moved this item as distributed with the Call, duly seconded.

**See Committee Reports Attached Hereto and Made a Part Hereof.

The Moderator introduced Mark Nielsen of the Greater Bridgeport Regional Planning Agency.

Mr. Ken Camarro, Carroll Road, spoke in support of the ordinance and said that regional government is important for our area.

As this item is an ordinance, it shall be held over for one month.

ITEM NO. 5 ON CALL: REPORT FROM FIRST SELECTMAN ON METRO CENTER

First Selectman Ken Flatto gave a lengthy presentation on the Black Rock train station project, including input from Economic Development Commission Chairman Peter Penczer and Parking Authority Director Joe Devonshuk (see report distributed to Body, attached).

Jeff Steele, District 2, asked what the Town's overall cost of the project is, to which Mr. Flatto responded \$6,000,000.

Mr. Steele asked if the estimated figures given by Mr. Flatto during his presentation be placed on the Town's website to which Mr. Flatto responded he would be willing to update the Body monthly.

Ed Bateson, District 3, asked about the status of the temporary parking area that had been discussed previously.

First Selectman Flatto said that the State plan had called for about 500 temporary parking spaces and he hoped to see a more robust plan in the near future.

Mr. Bateson asked if a financial impact analysis would be provided and Mr. Flatto said one would be made available.

Mr. Bateson asked about the \$300,000 revenue promised and Mr. Flatto said that we are seeking profits and sticking to the agreement. The state will manage the site and the overage to the Town should be \$300,000.

Alexis Harrison, District 2, asked what obstacles remain.

Mr. Flatto said that we still need to obtain the right of way from the private road for drainage and grading and there is an inland wetlands issue.

Elizabeth Hoffmann, District 8, asked about traffic studies.

First Selectman Flatto indicated that they would be posed on the website.

ITEM NO. 6 ON CALL: RESOLVED, THAT THE RTM ESTABLISH A SPECIAL COMMITTEE PURSUANT TO RULE 12 OF THE RTM RULES TO REGULATE TO BE CALLED THE METRO CENTER TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT REVIEW SPECIAL COMMITTEE, THE PURPOSE OF WHICH WILL BE TO REVIEW AND ASSESS STATUS AND POSSIBLE MODIFICATION OF THE THREE PARTY AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT, THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD AND BLACKROCK REALTY, THAT WAS APPROVED BY THE RTM ON FEBRUARY 25, 2003, AND TO MAKE FURTHER REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE RTM

The Moderator moved this item as distributed with the Call, duly seconded.

**See Committee Reports Attached Hereto and Made a Part Hereof.

MOTION: Hal Schwartz, District 7, moved to suspend the rules in order to take items past 11:00 P.M. and to convene past 11:30 P.M., seconded by Alexis Harrison.

VOTE: The motion to convene past 11:30 was approved with 43 in favor, 3 opposed (Challinor, Cullen, Mears).

MOTION: David Becker, District 1, moved to amend the resolution as follows, duly seconded by Kathryn Braun, District 8: "Resolved, that the RTM establish a Special Committee pursuant to Rule 12 of the RTM Rules to Regulate, to be called the Metro Center Tripartite Agreement Review Special Committee, the purpose of which will be to review the three party agreement by and between the State of Connecticut, Town of Fairfield and Blackrock Realty that was approved by the RTM on February 23, 2003 and related updates or modifications that may be proposed by the parties thereto, and to report such information to the RTM."

Mr. Becker explained that the intent of the resolution was to review the agreement, not to modify it.

VOTE: The motion to amend the proposed resolution was approved with 40 in favor, 5 opposed (McAleese, Smey, Brogan, Hoffkins, Schwartz) and 1 abstention (Vahey).

Lawrence Kelly, District 8, said that the proposed resolution is unnecessary given that First Selectman Flatto has promised to give monthly updates on the Metro Center.

Jeff Steele, District 2, said that we received a thorough update this evening and he is unsure of what the committee would accomplish that would not get done with a monthly update.

Ed Bateson, District 3, spoke in support of the resolution. It is a complicated contract and the special committee had been pitched as a study group to review the contract.

Elizabeth Hoffmann, District 8, said she supports the committee saying that it would be beneficial to get a summary of the issues from the special committee.

Brenda Kupchick, District 6, said she respects the sponsors but agrees with Rep. Steele. She understands the desire for information but since the committee would not have an impact on the agreement she does not feel the need to form a special committee.

Joe Palmer, District 4, said he is in favor of the committee because he believes in transparency.

Kathy Braun, District 8, said it is a complex contract and a committee is needed in order to update the Body on any changes.

David Becker, District 1, said that the proposed committee is about transparency and a well-informed RTM. He said that the administration only agreed to place the information received tonight on-line in response to the push for this committee.

Michael Mears, District 10, said that if the goal was to create transparency, it was achieved since First Selectman Flatto is willing to update the Body at each RTM meeting.

Mr. Becker stated that this is one of the most important projects in the Town's history and we should receive as much information as possible.

Speaking in favor of the special committee were Ken Camarro of Carroll Road and Paul DeMarrais of Hulls Farm Road.

Speaking in opposition of the proposed committee were Doug Jones, Fairfield Woods Road and Alan Smith, Mayflower Circle.

VOTE: The resolution establishing a special committee to review the tripartite metro center agreement failed by a vote of 22 in favor, 23 opposed and 1 abstention.

IN FAVOR: Becker, Richmond, A. Harrison, Stewart, Bateson, Ference, McCullough, Santalesa, DeMartino, Palmer, R. Parker, Llewellyn, Braun, Hoffmann, McCarthy, Dillon, Felner, McGinty, Millington, Mirabile, E. Harrison, Farnen

OPPOSED: Challinor, Walsh, Ambrose, Steele, Varian, Conley, Hug, S. Parker, Garskof, McAleese, Smey, Stamler, Brogan, Kupchick, Marmion, Vahey, Cullen, Hoffkins, Schwartz, Kelly, Takami, Mears, Rubino

ABSTAINED: Way

ITEM NO. 7 ON CALL: REPORT FROM PUBLIC WORKS REGARDING TOWN ROADS

Public Works Director Rich White and Highway Superintendent Scott Bartlett gave a report on the maintenance of town roads (see report, attached).

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business and upon motion made, duly seconded and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth P. Browne
Town Clerk

Recorded by: Ann Roche