

**MONTHLY MEETING OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
OCTOBER 25, 2010**

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town of Fairfield was held on Monday, October 25, 2010, at McKinley Elementary School, Fairfield, Connecticut.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 P.M. by Moderator Jeff Steele.

PRESENT: 43 ABSENT: 7 VACANCY: 0

PRESENT: Becker, Challinor, Herley, Richmond, Sundman, Ambrose, A. Harrison, Steele, Stewart, Varian, Bateson, Conley, Ference, McCullough, Santalesa, DeMartino, Hug, Palmer, Gall, Garskof, McAleese, Smey, Stamler, Brogan, Kupchick, Marmion, Vahey, Hoffkins, Llewellyn, Schwartz, Hoffmann, Kelly, McCarthy, Takami, Felner, McGinty, Mirabile, Millington, Cafferelli, Farnen, Mears, Rubino, Way

ABSENT: R. Parker, S. Parker, Luciano, Cullen, Lynch, Braun, Dillon

Brian Farnen, District 10, introduced Joe Caffarelli who was elected to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Erin Harrison.

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

The Moderator introduced newly appointed Police Chief Gary McNamara and Deputy Chief Christopher Lyddy to lead the Body in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Moderator asked those present to be aware of Domestic Violence Awareness Month during the Moment of Silence.

ITEM NO. 2 ON CALL: TO CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 27, 2010

Upon motion made, duly seconded and carried unanimously, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved as amended to reflect throughout that Rep. Kupchick is in District 6, not District 5.

ITEM NO. 3 ON CALL: TO HEAR A REPORT FROM THE FIRST SELECTMAN ON THE FAIRFIELD THIRD TRAIN STATION AND METRO CENTER PARKING AND SITE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

First Selectman Flatto noted that there had been no significant developments this month. Construction is proceeding smoothly and we are still currently running under budget. Mr. Flatto said that he did not believe monthly updates were necessary at this point and he would inform the Body of significant developments.

ITEM NO. 4 ON CALL: TO HEAR A REPORT FROM THE JOINT RETIREMENT INVESTMENT BOARD

Fiscal Officer Paul Hiller distributed a two page report, attached. He noted board members present include Chairman Bob Malarkey, Fire Lt. Eric Kalapir, First Selectman Flatto and himself.

Michael Mears, District 10, asked what the estimated return of equity is, to which Mr. Hiller replied that we are receiving a 9.5 percent return on 12 month investments.

net or gross number to which Mr. Hiller replied it is the net of

Ed Bateson, District 3, noted that the report states investments are \$246 million but go to \$252 million July 1. He asked if the actuaries are working off \$273 or \$252 million. Mr. Hiller said that the number represents the return of investments before payouts, and that the actuaries are using the \$252 number.

Mr. Bateson asked if the \$2,893,000 is the contribution from the town or employees. Mr. Hiller said that it is both town and employees. The police and fire employees diverted their contributions to the retirees health benefits.

Elizabeth Hoffmann, District 8, asked if 17 percent is considered a large increase. Mr. Hiller said it is and more retirements will increase the number.

Ms. Hoffmann asked how much it will increase. Mr. Hiller said that we are reasonably comfortable with costs, such as administrative, the custodian and disbursement agent (Peoples Bank), fees to Evaluation Associates and the actuaries. With legal costs, the figure can increase slightly.

Mr. Mears asked if there was any talk about changing from eight percent to another number. Mr. Hiller said that there is nothing specific but that it is part of a national debate.

Mr. Mears asked what the ten year annualized return of the fund was, to which Mr. Hiller replied 0.3 percent.

Mr. Bateson asked who wants to lower the rate. First Selectman Flatto said that the actuary liability is \$280 million and we are looking for an amount to put in the budget.

Mr. Bateson asked who accepts the discounted rate.

First Selectman Flatto said that both boards get a presentation on budgetary impact. Mr. Hiller said that the discount rate is an estimate and that the consultant develops an asset maximum over a 30-year term.

Cristin McCarthy Vahey, District 6, asked who makes the final decision on the lowered rate. Mr. Flatto said that the retirement boards can make the decision but the rates can be adjusted during budget projections.

Mr. Hiller said that when it changed from 8 to 8.5 percent the joint board did not exist but the two retirements boards were meeting together and made the decision.

Ms. Vahey asked how the rate would impact the budget. Mr. Flatto said that it would hurt the budget. Mr. Hiller said it would affect it substantially.

Ms. Vahey asked for a more specific answer. Mr. Hiller said we have to wait for the actuarial report.

Chris Brogan, District 6, said that the ordinance calls for the investment policy and guidelines be reported to the RTM.

Mr. Hiller said that the current investment policy dates to the 1980s and that an updated draft was presented to the retirement boards two years ago. It is in the process of being tailored and a new policy will be adopted in 2011.

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conflicts of interest. Mr. Hiller said that the auditors have not

Mr. Brogan asked that a more detailed report be given next year to include percentages over classification of funds. Mr. Hiller stated that he can come back in February or just before budget time.

ITEM NO. 5 ON CALL: APPOINTMENT OF KATHLEEN D. GRIFFIN TO THE SPECIAL PROJECTS STANDING BUILDING COMMITTEE

This item was withdrawn.

ITEM NO. 6 ON CALL: TO HEAR AND CONSIDER FOR THE FIRST TIME AMENDMENTS TO THE TAX RELIEF FOR THE ELDERLY ORDINANCE, SECTION 95-7 TO SECTION 95-15.4 OF CHAPTER 95, ARTICLE III, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD, SPONSORED BY THE SENIOR TAX RELIEF ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

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

Ann Stamler, District 5, moved to waive the reading of the committee reports, duly seconded and carried unanimously.

****SEE COMMITTEE REPORTS ATTACHED HERETO**

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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business and upon motion made, duly seconded and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth P. Browne
Town Clerk

Recorded by: Ann Roche