

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
AUGUST 8, 2011**

A Special Meeting of the Town of Fairfield was held on Tuesday, August 8, 2011, at the Education Center, 501 Kings Highway East, Fairfield, Connecticut.

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

PRESENT: 33 ABSENT: 17 VACANCY: 0

PRESENT: Becker, Herley, Sundman, Ambrose, Jones, Steele, Stewart, Varian, Bateson, Ference, McCullough, Santalesa, DeMartino, Hug, Palmer, Garskof, Smey, Stamler, Brogan, Dyer, Marmion, Vahey, Hochberg, Schwartz, Braun, Harrison, Hoffmann, McCarthy, Felner, Millington, Mirabile, Farnen, Mears

ABSENT: Challinor, Richmond, Conley, R. Parker, S. Parker, Gall, McAleese, DeSanctis, Hoffkins, Llewellyn, Lynch, Takami, Dillon, McGinty, Cafferelli, Rubino, Way

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

The Moderator led the Body in the Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence. He asked those present to keep in their thoughts the 30 troops who were killed in the recent helicopter attack and crash in Afghanistan, including 25 Navy SEALs.

ITEM NO. 2 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 SPECIAL COMMITTEE, SPONSORED BY REPS BECKER AND MILLINGTON

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

Jamie Millington, District 9, explained that he co-sponsored this resolution due to events that occurred after the Town was surprised by information received in June that the Metro Center project is underfunded. The Board of Finance formed a special committee to audit the funding of the project from its inception. However, there are other questions about the project that are outside the scope of the Board of Finance subcommittee's purview. The First Selectman has been working diligently to answer the questions but some are very complex and will take more time to answer. We need to work together to find the answers by the time the funding request is expected, at the end of August. Although this will be a five-member committee, everybody is encouraged to attend.

Cristin McCarthy Vahey, District 6, reported that the Democratic caucus supports the resolution.

MOTION: Ann Stamler, District 5, moved to waive the rereading of the item into the record, duly seconded and carried unanimously.

VOTE: The resolution to establish The Metro Center Special Committee was approved unanimously.

ITEM NO. 3 ON CALL: RESOLVED, THAT A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION FROM THE CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT BE MADE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,000, TO CONTINUE A REVIEW OF THE ACCOUNTING AND

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FINANCING OF THE FAIRFIELD METRO CENTER PROJECT
SINCE INCEPTION BY INDEPENDENT AUDITOR KOSTIN
RUFFKESS & CO, LLC

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

Hal Schwartz, District 7, asked why the additional funds are necessary, and if \$15,000 will be enough.

Board of Finance Chairman Tom Flynn said that the funds will be enough to finish the audit. He explained that since we are in new territory, we did not know what would be found once the audit had begun. Prior to the formation of the subcommittee, it had taken the administration seven weeks to calculate the numbers. The subcommittee has conducted five or six meetings so far and there are two more scheduled. In addition, the auditor will be present at the next two Board of Finance meetings, the Board of Selectmen meetings and the RTM meetings.

Sheila Marmion, District 6, asked if the audit project is currently over budget, and she asked what would happen if the funds were not approved this evening.

Mr. Flynn explained that by the end of July, funds in the amount of \$16,000 to \$17,000 had been exhausted so we are almost through the original \$20,000. If this resolution is not approved this evening, the work will stop. He said the Board did not intend to go over budget.

Mr. Flynn acknowledged the time and effort given by the subcommittee members Kevin Kiley, Mary LeClerc and Ken Brachfeld.

Ms. Stamler spoke in favor of the resolution and commended the subcommittee's efforts.

Ed Bateson, District 3, said that a newspaper article said that 90 percent of the work was done and he asked to what that figure referred. He asked if the field work was mostly completed.

Auditor Joseph Centofanti said that the quote did not come from him. He said that the work on the narrative of the audit is just about to begin.

Mr. Bateson referred to the date that the Board of Finance will meet to approve additional funds, the Friday before the Monday RTM meeting. He said he is concerned about the timeline and that we need an informed Body. He asked if the report release date could be pushed up.

Mr. Flynn explained that the goal of the subcommittee is to distribute the report by the end of the business day on Monday, August 22.

Peter Ambrose, District 2, asked if the RTM will receive the report the same day as the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance, to which Mr. Flynn replied affirmatively.

MOTION: Ms. Stamler moved to waive the rereading of the item into the record, duly seconded and carried with 30 in favor, 1 opposed (Sundman) and 2 abstentions (Jones, Hoffmann).

VOTE: The motion to approve the additional funds in the amount of \$15,000 for an audit of the Metro Center was approved with 30 in favor, 1 opposed (Sundman) and 2 abstentions (Jones, Hoffmann).

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business and upon motion made, duly seconded and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth P. Browne
Town Clerk

Recorded by: Ann Roche