

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
JUNE 25, 2012**

The regular monthly meeting of the Town of Fairfield was held on Monday, June 25, 2012, at the Education Center, Kings Highway, Fairfield, Connecticut.

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 P.M. by Moderator Jeff Steele.

PRESENT: 45 ABSENT: 5 VACANCY: 0

PRESENT: Becker, Herley, Meyer, Richmond, Sundman, P. Ambrose, Jennings, Steele, Bateson, Conley, Ference, Mackenzie, McCullough, Dean, DeMartino, Hug, Palmer, M. Ambrose, Garskof, McAleese, Smey, Stamler, Brogan, Gottlieb, Marmion, Wolk, Hochberg, Hoffkins, Newman, Patten, Schwartz, Braun, Marks, McCarthy, Stopa, Domeika, Felner, Jacob, Mirabile, Pontrelli, Abercrombie, Hannum, Lee, Ryan, Way

ABSENT: Mitola, Varian, Mezzoff, Campbell, Kery

Kenneth Lee introduced Charles Abercrombie who was elected to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of David Weber.

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

The Moderator introduced Fairfield Ludlowe Valedictorian Olivia Morrison and Fairfield Warde Valedictorian Daniel Shur, who led the Body in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

ITEM NO. 2 ON CALL: APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING HELD ON MAY 7, 2012 AND MAY 8, 2012, AND THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON MAY 21, 2012

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Moderator reported that item number 9 was eligible for the consent calendar.

VOTE: Item number 9 was approved by unanimous voice vote.

ITEM NO. 3 ON CALL: TO RECEIVE THE ASSESSOR'S REPORT ON THE TAX RELIEF FOR THE ELDERLY PROGRAM AS REQUIRED UNDER CHAPTER 95, ARTICLE III, SECTION 15.1 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD

The report from Assessor Don Ross was distributed with the Call.

ITEM NO. 4 ON CALL: TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE

Affordable Housing Committee member Lisa Winjum presented a report which had been distributed to members (attached).

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ITEM NO. 5 ON CALL: APPOINTMENTS OF THOMAS J. DREW AND DAVID P. SCHMIDT TO THE ETHICS COMMISSION

The Moderator moved this item as distributed with the Call, duly seconded. Mr. Drew and Mr. Schmidt were present.

**See Committee Reports Attached Hereto

VOTE: The resolution to appoint Thomas Drew and David Schmidt to the Ethics Commission was approved by unanimous vote.

ITEM NO. 6 ON CALL: RESOLVED THAT THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD (1) ESTABLISH THE FAIRFIELD WARDE HIGH SCHOOL ROOF BUILDING COMMITTEE; (2) AUTHORIZE THE PREPARATION OF SCHEMATIC DRAWINGS AND OUTLINE SPECIFICATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT; AND (3) AUTHORIZE THE FAIRFIELD WARDE HIGH SCHOOL ROOF BUILDING COMMITTEE TO FILE AN APPLICATION FOR A SCHOOL BUILDING GRANT

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

**See Committee Reports Attached Hereto

Ellen Jacob, District 9, said that any repairs to the roof must include mold testing.

VOTE: The resolution to establish the Fairfield Warde High School Roof Building Committee was approved with 44 in favor, 1 abstention (McCullough).

ITEM NO. 7 ON CALL: APPOINTMENTS OF SOL BRIKS; JEROME DEMNER; WALTER J. DONNE; DOUGLAS A. JONES; MICHAEL MONEY; AND MALCOLM J. ROWE TO THE FAIRFIELD WARDE HIGH SCHOOL ROOF BUILDING COMMITTEE

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

**See Committee Reports Attached Hereto

VOTE: The resolution to appoint the seven named individuals to the Fairfield Warde High School Roof Building Committee was approved with 43 in favor, 2 abstention (Meyer, McCullough).

ITEM NO. 8 ON CALL: RESOLVED, THAT FIRST SELECTMAN MICHAEL C. TETREAU BE, AND HEREBY IS, AUTHORIZED TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT ENTITLED, "AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT AND THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF CONTRACT PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND ESTIMATES IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE REHABILITATION OF THE VALLEY ROAD BRIDGE (BRIDGE NO. 04956) OVER HORSE TAVERN BROOK UTILIZING FEDERAL FUNDS FROM THE HIGHWAY BRIDGE PROGRAM

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

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Ms. Jacob asked if this is a preliminary agreement.

Public Works Director Richard White explained that this is a commitment for engineering. Another agreement will come before the RTM for final design, and the third step is for construction with the funding agreement.

Jeff Steele, District 2, asked what the estimated cost of the project is.

Mr. White said that the total cost including design and construction should be approximately \$1,840,000, of which the Town's share is twenty percent, or \$368,000.

Nick Mirabile, District 9, said that since the State has graded the bridge as "poor," and they are picking up eighty percent of the tab, we should not wait to approve this item. This is a safety issue.

Ed Bateson, District 3, requested that the bridge accommodate pedestrians.

Mr. Steele said that we should not put this project off due to the safety issue.

Carolyn Richmond, District 1, noted that we have representatives in Hartford who would ensure that we receive the funding.

VOTE: The resolution to authorize the First Selectman to enter into an agreement to begin the rehabilitation process on the Valley Road Bridge was approved with 43 in favor, 2 opposed (Meyer, Jacob).

ITEM NO. 9 ON CALL: RESOLVED, THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH A REQUEST FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING, THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD'S PARTICIPATION IN HAZWASTE CENTRAL (REGIONAL HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION CENTER) DURING THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2011 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2014, BE, AND HEREBY IS, APPROVED; AND FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT FIRST SELECTMAN MICHAEL C. TETREAU BE, AND HEREBY IS, AUTHORIZED TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH SOUTH CENTRAL CONNECTICUT REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY FOR OPERATION OF THE FACILITY

This item was on the Consent Calendar.

ITEM NO. 10 ON CALL: RESOLVED, THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH A REQUEST FROM THE DIRECTOR OF DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS FOR AN APPROPRIATION OF \$210,000 FROM THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY (WPCA) RESERVE FUND TO PROVIDE THE TOWN'S LOCAL SHARE FOR AN ENERGY REDUCTION PROJECT AT THE TREATMENT PLANT, AND FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT THE FIRST SELECTMAN IS AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE ANY NECESSARY AGREEMENTS WITH THE UNITED ILLUMINATING COMPANY TO OBTAIN GRANTS AND INTEREST-FREE LOANS RELATED TO THE PROJECT

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

**See Committee Reports Attached Hereto

VOTE: The resolution to appropriate \$210,000 from the WPCA reserve for energy reduction at the treatment plant was approved by unanimous voice vote.

ITEM NO. 11 ON CALL: RESOLVED, THAT THE BOND APPROPRIATION ENTITLED, "A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$250,000 FOR THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE IMPROVEMENT AND RENOVATION OF RIVERFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION" CONSISTING OF THREE PAGES, BE, AND HEREBY IS, APPROVED

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

**See Committee Reports Attached Hereto

Mr. Mirabile spoke in support of this resolution.

Peter Ambrose, District 1, inquired about education specifications.

Sal Morabito, BOE Manager of Construction, Security and Safety, explained that the ed specs, required for reimbursement from the State on school projects, are developed locally, with minimum requirements from the State.

Riverfield parent Amy Crawford spoke in support of this resolution.

VOTE: The motion to approve a bond resolution in the amount of \$250,000 for renovations to Riverfield Elementary School was approved with 44 in favor, 1 abstention (Meyer).

ITEM NO. 12 ON CALL: TO HEAR, CONSIDER AND ACT UPON A REDISTRICTING ORDINANCE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH §9-169 OF THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE RTM REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

No action was taken on this item.

OTHER BUSINESS

MOTION: David Becker, District 1, moved the following Sense of the Body resolution, duly seconded:

“Whereas, the First Selectman’s Building Committee Process Review Committee has proposed a new approval timeline for the Town of Fairfield’s Annual Capital Improvement Projects, and

Whereas, the proposed timeline will be implemented on a trial basis for the FY 2013-2014 budget season, and

Whereas, the proposed timeline is as follows:

Board of Education: Presentation - September / Vote - October or November

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Board of Selectmen: Presentation - December / Vote - January
Board of Finance: Presentation - January / Vote - February
Representative Town Meeting: Presentation - January (Booklet) / Vote - February; and

Now, therefore, it is the Sense of the Body to concur with the proposed timeline.”

Ann Stamler, District 5, said that she is not comfortable offering an opinion on the resolution without having a sense of the actions of the review committee.

Mr. Bateson said that we are looking for a way to address capital improvement items in the budget before the budget process.

First Selectman Mike Tetreau said that we are trying to get rid of the bottleneck that occurs in March and April on the RTM level and to make this process independent of the approval of the budget.

VOTE: The motion to approve the Sense of the Body resolution was approved with 38 in favor, 1 opposed (Dean) and 6 abstentions (McCullough, Patten, Stamler, Hoffkins, Marks, Abercrombie).

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business and upon motion made, duly seconded and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth P. Browne
Town Clerk

Recorded by: Ann Roche