

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD  
AUGUST 26, 2013**

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town of Fairfield was held on Monday, August 26, 2013 at the Education Center, Kings Highway East, Fairfield, Connecticut.

The meeting was called to order at 8:25 P.M. by Moderator Jeff Steele.

PRESENT: 37                      ABSENT: 13                      VACANCY: 0

PRESENT: Becker, Herley, Meyer, P. Ambrose, Jennings, Mitola, Steele, Bateson, Ference, MacKenzie, McCullough, Dean, DeMartino, Mezzoff, Palmer, M. Ambrose, Garskof, Smey, Stamler, Brogan, Campbell, Marmion, Wolk, Hochberg, Hoffkins, Newman, Schwartz, Braun, Marks, McCarthy, Stopa, Felner, Pontrelli, Abercrombie, Lee, Ryan, Way

ABSENT: Lipp, Sundman, Varian, Conley, Hug, McAleese, Gottlieb, Patten, Kery, Domeika, Jacob, Mirabile, Hannum

**ITEM NO. 1 ON CALL:**                      PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

**ITEM NO. 2 ON CALL:**                      TO HEAR, CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS TO THE FAIRFIELD LUDLOWE HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN: MARC G. ANDRE (D), 130 LAKEVIEW DRIVE; MARC A. DONALD (U), 360 SZOST DRIVE; DONNA B. ERTEL (D), 375 SOUTH BENSON ROAD; TERRI F. LEOPOLD (U), 146 COLEMAN ROAD; JOSEPH R. PAGNOZZI (R), 1496 FAIRFIELD WOODS ROAD; ROBERT SICKELER (U), 175 WAKEMAN ROAD DAVID F. WEBER (D), 1654 NORTH BENSON ROAD

\*\*\*SEE COMMITTEE REPORT ATTACHED HERETO

Ed Bateson, District 3 addressed the appointees that this project was done differently in that the \$11 million for the project has already been approved. He asked that the Committee keep this in mind as they develop and approve the schematics of the project.

**VOTE:** The appointments to the Fairfield Ludlowe High School Building Committee as presented was approved by unanimous voice vote.

**ITEM NO. 3 ON CALL:**                      THE MODERATOR HAS REFERRED AMENDMENTS TO THE TAX RELIEF FOR THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED 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 ELDERLY AND DISABLED HOMEOWNERS TAX RELIEF ORDINANCE COMMITTEE, TO THE LEGISLATION AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE UNDER RULE 32 OF THE RTM RULES TO REGULATE. THE LEGISLATION AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE WILL HEAR THE ORDINANCE AT A SPECIAL MEETING ON AUGUST 19TH, 2013. A COPY OF THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE IS ATTACHED.

Moderator Steele noted that L & A Committee met but there was no quorum.

**MOTION:** Ed Bateson, District 3 moved to suspend Rule 32 of the RTM Rules to Regulate, referring the ordinance to L&A, duly seconded.

Ann Stamler, District 5 stated that waiving Rule 32 does not waive the requirement that it goes to the other committees explicitly.

**MOTION:** A. Stamler moved to amend the motion to waive Rule 32 and subsequently all other RTM subcommittees, duly seconded.

Josh Garskof, District 5 asked for clarification as to whether this Ordinance will go to subcommittees.

Moderator Steele said tonight the proposed amendments will be presented and discussed and it will appear on the Call again next month for discussion.

**VOTE:** The motion to waive Rule 32 of the RTM Rules to Regulate and subsequently all other RTM subcommittees was approved with 36 in favor and 1 opposed (Schwartz).

**ITEM NO. 4 ON CALL:** TO HEAR AND CONSIDER AMENDMENTS TO THE TAX RELIEF FOR THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED HOMEOWNERS 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 ELDERLY AND DISABLED HOMEOWNERS TAX RELIEF ORDINANCE COMMITTEE. A COPY OF THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE IS ATTACHED.

Tom McCarthy, District 8 and Chair of the Senior and Disabled Tax Relief Committee stated that liens have to be filed under the context of tax relief so they are collectible.

He noted the amendment to enhanced relief in section 95-11 "The total amount that can be deferred under option 2 (95-15B) is limited to a maximum of \$500,000 in any tax year."

He also noted the changes in 95-15 B – Tax deferral eligibility requirements.

Mr. McCarthy noted that this is modeled after Darien's program. There are currently 15 participants in the deferral program and a large bump in participation is not expected.

Hal Schwartz, District 7, stated that the Town needs to know what the revenue projections will be with this anticipated change. He asked Rep. McCarthy if he could have the figures for the next meeting.

Mr. McCarthy stated that the numbers will be very small, about \$50,000, average \$3700.00 per person but would have the Assessor and CFO confirm the numbers.

Ken Lee, District 10 stated that we haven't yet accomplished getting more seniors on tax relief, we need to give thought to what is it going to cost. Let's be sure we know what we are voting for.

Allen Marks, District 8 asked if changes have been reviewed for legal purposes.

First Selectman Tetreau said it was forwarded to Town Attorney Lesser.

Mr. Marks asked for clarification on the \$500,000 ceiling.

Mr. McCarthy said the \$500,000 is just for the deferral. The 2.5% is for the entire tax relief program.

Chris Brogan, District 6, referring to Section 95-15 B - the age went from 65 to 75. It is important that we start slow with the program over 75 and over \$80,000.

Mr. McCarthy said we are limiting the size of the pool since over time this will become a self-sustaining program.

Amy Mezzoff, District 4, Section 95-15 B, paragraph 3 should there be an "or" instead of and after rate of 3%. Also, questioned if the Town was in first position to collect on liens. You can not sign up for the program if you have a reverse mortgage.

**MOTION:** John Mitola, District 2, moved to amend section 95-11 as follows: "The total amount that can be deferred under 95-15, B is limited to a maximum of \$500,000 in any year. In the event that either foregoing limitation on relief is reached, relief shall be prorated among qualified applicants", duly seconded.

**VOTE:** The motion to amend Section 95-11 was approved by unanimous voice vote.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Kathy Braun, District 8 thanked First Selectman Tetreau, Shellfish Commission, Conservation Commission, Harbor Management Commission, Tom Steinke and our State delegation of Senator McKinney, and Reps. Kupchick, Hwang and Fawcett and CT DEP for their work in moving the cleanup forward of the former Exide property and Mill River. The Town of Fairfield and FairPlan have withdrawn their intervention and the restoration of the property can now go ahead.

#### **ADJOURMENT**

There being no other business, and upon motion made, duly seconded and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Elizabeth P. Browne  
Town Clerk

Recorded By: Kyle Fournier