

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
FEBRUARY 21, 2018

MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 21, 2018 in the First Floor Conference Room, Independence Hall.

Members Present: First Selectman Michael C. Tetreau, Selectman Christopher W. Tymniak, Selectman Kevin P. Kiley

Others Present: Anthony Calabrese, Thomas Cullen, Dick Dmochowski, Philip Dwyer, Patti Dyer, Judy Ewing, Dr. Toni Jones, Jennifer Kealey, David Kluczowski, Donald Lamberty, Stanton Lesser, Sal Morabito, Thomas Quinn, Lynn Shavinsky, Scott Thompson, Mary Hogue, Rodney Van Deusen, Callie Acker, Jessica Gerber, Kelly Jacobson, Christine Vitale and additional parents from Sherman and Mill Hill Schools, FairTV

- 1) CALL TO ORDER - First Selectman Tetreau called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.
- 2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Selectman Tymniak led the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was held for the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Parkland, Florida tragedy and First Selectman Tetreau asked everyone to keep all school children in their prayers.
- 3) MINUTES To consider and act upon the minutes of:
 - a) Regular Meeting of January 17, 2018
 - b) Special Meeting of January 31, 2018Selectman Tymniak motioned to approve Items 3a) and 3b). Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried unanimously, 3-0.

4) RECOGNITION

Recognition of Fairfield Warde Dance Team for finishing tenth in the nation in the large Hip Hop division at the Universal Dance Association's National Dance Team Competition

Coach Jennifer Kealey stated she has coached the team for 12 years and this is the first time the Team qualified for National and place in the Top Ten. The Team practiced very hard all week and competed on Saturday and Sunday in Orlando. Coach Kealey explained the differences between dance, cheer and gymnastics. The team is hip-hop based with 17 girls and two assistant coaches.

Selectman Tymniak thanked the team for representing the Town of Fairfield and thanked the parents. Selectman Kiley complimented the team on their great work at the State and National levels. First Selectman Tetreau congratulated the team. The BOS presented certificates of congratulations to each team member and the coach.

5) RESIGNATIONS (for information only)

a) Flood and Erosion Control Board

Steven K. Stearns (U), 79 Oyster Road, term 11/15 – 11/20
(Resignation Date: February 6, 2018)

b) Historic District Commission

Rosina C. Negron (U), 952 Old Post Road, term 11/16 – 11/21 (alternate)
(Resigned to serve as a full member; Resignation Date: February 5, 2018)

6) REAPPOINTMENTS To hear, consider and act upon the following reappointment:

Flood and Erosion Control Board

Donald Lamberty (R), 75 French Street, term 11/17 – 11/22

Selectman Tymniak motioned to approve the item. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion.

The BOS thanked Mr. Lamberty for his service

Public comment – Dick Dmochowski, Flood & Erosion Control Board Chair, said Mr. Lamberty is very enthusiastic and is the Board's 'resident scientist'.

The motion carried unanimously, 3-0.

7) APPOINTMENTS

To hear, consider and act upon the following appointments:

a) Flood and Erosion Control Board

Rebecca G. Bunnell (D), 2005 Fairfield Beach Road, term 11/15 – 11/20

(to fill a vacancy for Steven Stearns who resigned)

Selectman Tymniak motioned to approve the item. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion.

First Selectman Tetreau said he is very impressed with Ms. Bunnell's enthusiasm and is looking forward to working with her.

Public comment – Dick Dmochowski said Ms. Bunnell will be a good addition to the Board and will bring it up to five members.

The motion carried unanimously, 3-0.

b) Special Projects Standing Building Committee (requires RTM approval)

Rodney J. Van Deusen, Jr. (D), 157 Longdean Road

(to fill a vacancy for Michael Giaquinto who resigned)

Selectman Tymniak motioned to approve the item. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion.

First Selectman Tetreau said Mr. Van Deusen was recently appointed to the H. Smith Richardson Building Committee and has served on the Planning & Zoning Commission. Selectman Kiley thanked Mr. Van Deusen for serving.

Public comment – none.

The motion carried unanimously, 3-0.

c) Strategic Plan Committee

i. Patti J. Dyer (D), 219 Toilsome Hill Road

(to fill a vacancy for Thomas Montelli who resigned)

ii. Kristen A. Tierney (U), 263 Putting Green Road
Selectman Kiley motioned to approve Items 7) c) i. and ii. Selectman Tymniak seconded the motion.

Selectman Kiley said these are two good candidates who have served the town well over the years and he is looking forward to working with them.

Public comment – none.

The motion carried unanimously, 3-0.

Selectman Tymniak noted committee breakdowns and resumes were not included in the packages.

8) MILL RIVER WETLANDS COMMITTEE

To hear an update from the Mill River Wetlands Committee

Lynn Shavinsky, Mill River Wetlands Committee President, gave a brief update. She said Joy Shaw founded the committee which is celebrating its 50th anniversary. Ms. Shavinsky displayed a poster of the River Lab Program that included photos of volunteers and students engaged in activities. The River Lab Program educates, advocates and engages the community in protecting and maintaining a healthy watershed. Ms. Shavinsky listed other activities the Committee has been involved in over the last 50 years such as community walks. She mentioned a book written by a woman who attended Fairfield's schools which was written and dedicated to Mrs. Shaw.

Selectman Tymniak said he grew up playing in the Mill River and now his children play there. He said this group helped improve the area and he appreciates the work they do. Selectman Kiley thanked the Committee for all the education it provides. First Selectman Tetreau said the Committee has good leadership, beginning with Joy Shaw. He said the beautification of Rockland Park, which the Committee helped with, is a great addition to the neighborhood. Neighbors have commented on fish life dramatically returning and bald eagles being sighted.

9) SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (requires RTM approval)

To hear, consider and act upon the following resolution as requested by the Superintendent of Schools: RESOLVED, that the Town of Fairfield authorizes the Town of Fairfield's Board of Education to apply to the Commissioner of Education and to accept or reject a grant for the Mill Hill Elementary School Renovation Project at Mill Hill Elementary School; and FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mill Hill Elementary School Building Committee is hereby established as the building committee with regard to the Mill Hill Elementary School Renovation Project at Mill Hill Elementary School; and FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Fairfield hereby authorizes at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the Mill Hill Elementary School Renovation Project at Mill Hill Elementary School.

Selectman Kiley motioned to approve the item. Selectman Tymniak seconded the motion.

Thomas Cullen, Executive Director of Operations for the Fairfield Public Schools, presented this item. He said the first part of the project is seed money to put a team together to hire an

architect. The item at the January 31st BOS meeting was tabled in order for Mr. Cullen to provide additional information which has been submitted. Sal Morabito, Manager of Construction, Security and Safety for the Fairfield Public Schools, discussed seed money, the state approval process and reimbursement rates.

Selectman Kiley motioned to table Item 9 and discuss Item 10. Selectman Tymniak seconded the motion which carried unanimously, 3-0.

The main motion carried unanimously, 3-0.

10) SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (requires Board of Finance and RTM approval)
To hear, consider and adopt a bond resolution entitled “A Resolution Appropriating \$1,500,000 for the Costs Associated with the Expansion and Renovation of Mill Hill Elementary School and Authorizing the Issuance of Bonds to Finance such Appropriation.”

Selectman Tymniak motioned to approve the item. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion.

First Selectman Tetreau thanked Mr. Cullen for a complete and thorough package. Mr. Cullen reviewed steps outlined in a February 13, 2018 letter and back-up that was requested at the January 31st BOS meeting. Mr. Cullen met with the BOE to discuss Ed Specs which were reviewed and discussed at length.

Dr. Toni Jones discussed a 504 building and made comparisons to Sherman and Mill Hill. The 2016 Milone & MacBroom report was reviewed. The Report relies on Mill Hill as a 504 redistricting to satisfy racial imbalance. Dr. Jones encouraged the Selectmen to look at all three reports. She said the schools are at capacity. Selectman Tymniak would like to discuss how the BOE came up with the capacity numbers. He is concerned about the 504 numbers. Dr. Jones said she will forward the link that answers all these questions. She said the BOE met for over an hour on the Ed Specs and voted unanimously to stay at a 504.

Several scenarios were included in the packet for redistricting. Mill Hill traffic and signage were discussed. Solar panels will be put on the new roof at Mill Hill without having to redo the new roof. Phil Dwyer explained why the BOE believes a 504 school is the way to go and he strongly encouraged the Selectmen to support it for a planning grant. Selectman Tymniak wants to see Mill Hill expanded, but he said he is concerned with over building. There are two time frames: one is suggested by the State and one is by practical construction of Mill Hill.

First Selectman Tetreau would like to invite Milone & MacBroom to a BOF and RTM meeting. Selectman Tymniak said at the last meeting the BOE/Central Office said they wanted the Sherman project rushed and the Mill Hill project would be more long-term. At today’s meeting, Selectman Tymniak noted that BOE/Central Office want the larger Mill Hill project start date set and the Sherman project can wait.

A discussion on the timeline began. Mr. Cullen and Mr. Morabito noted that June 30, 2019 is critical to get documentation to the State. They said it is a 16 month process. First Selectman Tetreau asked Mr. Cullen to revise and resubmit the timeline so no obligations are missed.

Phil Dwyer explained redistricting. Selectman Tymniak thought this should be a community dialogue. Selectman Kiley said approving the 504 school does not mean the Selectmen approve redistricting; it just gives the BOE/Central Office more options globally. Selectman Tymniak again stated he is concerned about over building at Mill Hill. Item 6 in the letter provides projections and they will send to FairTV.

Mr. Cullen and Dr. Jones referred to the Milone & MacBroom October 2017 facilities and planning report to note items to be done to get schools to standards. Trailers and portables were discussed.

Mr. Cullen explained contingency numbers and escalation. First Selectman Tetreau thought the 10% contingency number seemed low based on drainage, etc. Mr. Cullen will report back on that. Photos of the lot and portables were examined.

Public comment – Callie Acker, South Pine Creek Road, encouraged the Selectmen to view the link to find answers to many of the BOS questions.

Kelly Jacobson, Acorn Lane, is concerned about Mill Hill's immediate needs such as air quality and logistics and she doesn't want to wait to move forward with the \$1.5 M approval.

Jessica Gerber, 25 Shady Hill Road, said the RTM voted in favor on what is before the Selectmen and she strongly suggests the Selectmen listen to the December 12, January 9 and February 13 BOE meetings where these items were discussed at great length and where the BOE made it abundantly clear that it can amend the Ed Specs. She said the \$1.5M is needed regardless of the size of the school. Mrs. Gerber asked the Selectmen to please not delay the project because there are three-five portables that are over 10 years old.

Christine Vitale, 254 Verna Hill Road, said we need seed money for the core improvements.

Selectman Tymniak said he absolutely understands the need to renovate Mill Hill, but he said he is nervous about overbuilding. He does not support this.

Selectman Kiley said he supports the project for many reasons. It gives flexibility to see if 504 is the direction to move forward with and gives time to modify specs. He also said it solves overcrowding.

First Selectman Tetreau thanked Central Office for putting together the packet. He said this project is going to be a year considering the amount of work the school needs. He asked the Superintendent to please address serious concerns and maintenance issues now. First Selectman Tetreau said in the future, there needs to be more dialogue before projects like this come before the BOS to ensure everyone is on the same page. He supports this school that needs to get renovated.

The motion carried, 2-1. Selectman Tymniak opposed.

Selectman Tymniak motioned to untable item 9). Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried unanimously 3-0.

11) CLEAN ENERGY TASK FORCE

To hear, consider and act upon the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that in accordance with a request from the Clean Energy Task Force, the Town of Fairfield Sustainability Plan be, and hereby is approved.

Selectman Kiley motioned to approve the item. Selectman Tymniak seconded the motion.

Scott Thompson, CETF Chairman, requested the BOS' support for the sustainability plan. He explained the plan, vision and accomplishments. Mr. Thompson mentioned collaborative events with Sustainability Connecticut and Sustainable Fairfield County.

Selectman Tymniak said the Task Force has done a remarkable job. He would like the members' names included in the report to give due credit. He said other towns should look at Fairfield to model after. Selectman Kiley thanked CETF members for creating awareness and savings.

Public comment – none.

The motion carried unanimously, 3-0.

12) CLEAN ENERGY TASK FORCE

To approve a name change for the Clean Energy Task Force and to hear, consider and approve a charge for the newly named *Sustainable Fairfield* Task Force

Selectman Tymniak motioned to amend language in the paragraph on Membership to state, 'appointed by the BOS' and strike 'appointed by the First Selectman'. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried unanimously, 3-0.

Public comment – Mary Hogue said the Fairfield Forestry Committee is updating plans to bring together all plans with sustainability.

The motion, as amended, carried unanimously, 3-0.

13) DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

To hear a presentation on the Town's business recruitment strategy and marketing campaign.

The item was postponed and no action was taken.

14) DIRECTOR OF SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING (requires RTM approval)

To hear, consider and approve a Greater Bridgeport Regional Recycling Interlocal Agreement

The item was postponed and no action was taken.

15) FIRST SELECTMAN

To approve the following changes to the Board of Selectmen budget schedule:

- a. Modify the Monday, March 26 budget meeting to include both budget deliberations and the budget vote
- b. Cancel the Tuesday, March 27 budget vote meeting

Selectman Tymniak motioned to approve the item. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried unanimously, 3-0.

16) TAX COLLECTOR

To consider and act upon tax refunds as recommended by the Tax Collector in the amount of \$460,993.39.

Selectman Tymniak motioned to approve the item. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried unanimously, 3-0.

Tax Collector David Kluczowski explained what led up to the federal tax plan.

17) TOWN ATTORNEY Private Executive Session – Pending Litigation

The Board of Selectman moved into Private Executive Session at 7:27 p.m.

Selectman Tymniak motioned to reconvene into Public Session at 7:51 p.m. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried unanimously, 3-0.

All opposed the attorney's recommendation.

- 18) To hear, consider and act upon any other business which shall properly come before this meeting

There was no other business.

19) ADJOURN

Selectman Tymniak motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 p.m. Selectman Kiley seconded the motion which carried unanimously, 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Tesei
Recording Secretary