

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MARCH 11, 2019

MINUTES

A Public Executive Budget Session of the Board of Selectmen was held at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, March 11, 2019, in the First Floor Conference Room, Independence Hall. The meeting was recorded in its entirety by FairTV, Fairfield's Education and Government Access Channel.

Members Present: First Selectman Michael C. Tetreau, Selectman Christopher W. Tymniak, Selectman Edward J. Bateson

Others Present: Scott Bartlett, Nancy Burns, Philip Dwyer, Linda Gardiner, Emmet Hibson, Dr. Toni Jones, Robert Mayer, Denis McCarthy, Joseph Michelangelo, Doreen Munsell, Michael Zembruski, Fair TV

- 1) CALL TO ORDER - First Selectman Tetreau called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
- 2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Selectman Bateson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Selectman Tymniak motioned to waive the reading of Items 3, 4 and 5. Selectman Bateson seconded the motion which carried unanimously, 3-0.

Selectman Tymniak motioned to place Items 3, 4 and 5 before the Board. Selectman Bateson seconded the motion which carried unanimously, 3-0.

- 3) BUDGET EXECUTIVE BUDGET SESSION (no public comment)
To consider proposed revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$5,764,728 for the Water Pollution Control Authority for the Fiscal Year of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 as recommended by the First Selectman
- 4) PUBLIC EXECUTIVE BUDGET SESSION (no public comment)
To consider proposed revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$173, 668 for the Fairfield Regional Fire Training School for the Fiscal Year of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 as recommended by the First Selectman
- 5) PUBLIC EXECUTIVE BUDGET SESSION (no public comment)
To consider proposed revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$317,813,914 for the General Fund for the Fiscal Year of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 as recommended by the First Selectman

Linda Gardner distributed an adjustment document that was revised at 8:15 a.m., replacing the one previously distributed. She said the Governor's state revenue numbers came out after the budget book was printed. Ms. Gardiner reviewed revenue and expense adjustments made in order to bring the town budget in line with the Governor's recommendation.

Ms. Gardner said the health insurance numbers have been updated based on the January 2019 experience. She said the teacher pension cost transfer that the Governor is proposing of \$692,351 is an unfavorable adjustment. First Selectman Tetreau said the pension cost would go up over the next two years if adopted. He said if we're uncertain that it will pass it may make sense to put it in the town side of the budget so we can make adjustments and in the future we may decide to put in the BOE side. Robert Mayer said in the Governor's proposal the towns pay 25% of normal projected cost. First Selectman Tetreau said he expects the cap to increase even though the Governor is phasing it in. He said the Town would need to pay the 25% plus an additional cost share because the Town pays its teachers more than the state median salary. He said the State year after year passes off the cost to towns. He said we paid with our income tax and now we will be paying with our property tax. He said let the State pay for unfunded mandates. He said these changes put pressure on educational priorities. Selectman Tymniak said we have to fight it and it has been a complete failure on the State's part for last 20 years.

Robert Mayer explained the adjustment, state aid variance, investment income and current and prior year tax levy for the Contribution of Surplus - Schedule D.

Linda Gardiner said the expense adjustment in the Health Department was due to an increase in part time nursing hours for Assumption school.. She said the state law requires we supply the same or comparable services as we do for public schools. There is currently one part-time nurse and they are adding hours to keep two part-time nurses.

Mr. Mayer reported that the solid waste and recycling tipping fees increased from \$25 to \$75 per ton. He said additionally there is contracted work that DPW anticipates of an increased \$32k expense. First Selectman Tetreau said it is absurd the state law requires us to recycle items that we can't recycle. He said he is working with eleven other towns on this matter. Ms. Gardiner reported further WPCA adjustments.

Selectman Tymniak said the Governor decreased the BOE open choice revenue. Doreen Munsell reported school expenses and balances. Nancy Burns said they gave up \$45k which would have been used for student instruction and Ms. Munsell said it's a resource for teachers to teach students. She explained technology supplies and reviewed transportation and other line items. She said the cuts were made in response to the First Selectman's comments.

Scott Bartlett gave an update on the DPW vehicle replacement plan in budget cycles.

Mr. Mayer reviewed 2020 projections and workers comp. He said the mill rate would move .1 with a \$110k change.

4) ADJOURN

Selectman Tymniak motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:14 a.m. Selectman Bateson seconded the motion which carried unanimously, 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila Tesei, Recording Secretary