

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MARCH 13, 2019

MINUTES

A Public Executive Budget Session of the Board of Selectmen was held at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 13, 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: Linda Gardiner, Robert Mayer, Fair TV

- 1) CALL TO ORDER - First Selectman Tetreau called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.
- 2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Selectman Tymniak led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

- 3) PUBLIC EXECUTIVE BUDGET SESSION (**no public comment**)
To consider and act upon 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 and act upon 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 and act upon 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

Selectman Tymniak motioned to adopt the amendment titled 'Potential FY20 Budget Adjustments revised 3/13/2019'. Selectman Bateson seconded the item.

First Selectman Tetreau noted that the State teacher pension cost transfer that was on the adjustment document considered by the Board on Monday was removed from the adjustment document being considered and voted on today. He said he followed up with CCM and received mixed reviews on how likely CCM thought the cost transfer would occur.

Selectman Tymniak said that if the Board of Selectmen were to put the teacher pension cost in the budget, it would show the State that the Town is willing and prepared to accept the cost and the Town is not. Selectman Tymniak said he is adamantly against adding it in and anticipates multiple lawsuits if the proposal goes through. Selectman Tymniak wants the Town of Fairfield to fight it. Selectman Bateson agreed with both Selectmen and said it will never work out with state.

The amendment passed 3-0.

Linda Gardiner reviewed the adopted amendments to the General Fund budget noting that the new amount is \$317,560,021. Robert Mayer said there was no change in the Regional Fire Training School amount. He said the new WPCA amount is \$5,752,738.

Selectman Tymniak said this is yet another year of unfunded mandates by the State. He said he would like to see a “do no harm” from the State. He said the BOE seriously needs to look at the rising increase in their budget and that it is an unsustainable budget with declining enrollment. He mentioned the new budget timeline and the recycling issue. He said with a 2.24% increase he would have liked to have more time to examine the proposed budget. He said the Town side is solid but is disappointed the Town has to pick up slack on BOE side.

Selectman Bateson said with a budget this large and the limited timeframe, it is the best they can do. He said he thinks the BOE’s approach is unsustainable. He said this budget uses money from reserves and a tax sale and the Town has a good grand list but there are still so many unknown variables from the State. He said we need to start planning and restructuring and that it is not going to be easy moving forward.

First Selectman Tetreau said they received the recycling information late. He said he is unclear how we will restore some of the Town’s services that have been reduced in recent years. He said it is unanimous that teacher pension costs have put pressure on educational priorities. He said the transfer is not the right approach for the State to take and if the transfer takes place it will be the fastest growing line item in the budget going forward. He said we need to talk sooner with BOE.

Item 3 - WPCA Amount - \$5,752,738 as amended - all in favor, 3-0.

Item 4 – Fairfield Regional Fire Training School - no change - all in favor, 3-0.

Item 5 – General Fund - \$317,560,021 as amended - all in favor, 3-0.

First Selectman Tetreau said the recommended mill rate is unchanged at 26.95 which will be approximately \$206 per year for the median tax payer.

4) ADJOURN

Selectman Tymniak motioned to adjourn the meeting at 4:27 p.m. Selectman Bateson seconded the motion which carried unanimously, 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila Tesei, Recording Secretary