

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MARCH 20, 2019

MINUTES

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 20, 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: Brian Carey, Julie DeMarco, Bryce Perry, Margaret Mary Fitzgerald, Mary Hogue, Ross Murray, Lynn Shivinsky, Bob Wall, Attorney Richard Akin, Fair TV

- 1) CALL TO ORDER - First Selectman Tetreau called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
- 2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Selectman Tymniak led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3) MINUTES

To consider and act upon the minutes of:

- i. Regular Meeting of February 20, 2019
- ii. Budget Hearing of March 4, 2019
- iii. Budget Deliberations of March 11, 2019
- iv. Budget Vote of March 13, 2019

Selectman Tymniak motioned to take Items 3) i-iv together. Selectman Bateson seconded the motion which carried unanimously, 3-0.

Selectman Tymniak motioned to wave the reading of Items 3) i-iv. Selectman Bateson seconded the motion which carried unanimously, 3-0.

Selectman Tymniak motioned to approve Items 3) i-iv. Selectman Bateson seconded the motion.

Public comment – none.

The motion carried unanimously, 3-0.

- 4) RECOGNITION

Recognition of League of Women Voters of Fairfield in Honor of Women's History Month

First Selectman Tetreau read a proclamation recognizing March 14th as National League of Women's Voter's Day in honor of their 99th birthday.

Bryce Perry said the League is a non-partisan, non-profit organization and their mission is to include participation in all things political. She said it is comprised of 67 members including men and women. She said they are well known for their debates that offer a great opportunity for the community to hear all the candidates. She said they also publish a voter's guide to show what the candidates are supporting. She said they also promote voters registration and attend new citizen's swearing-in ceremonies. Margaret Mary Fitzgerald shared recent and upcoming events and covered topics the league sponsors.

5) REAPPOINTMENTS

To hear, consider and act upon the following reappointment:

Golf Commission

Priscilla W. Schulz (D), 108 Flax Road, term 4/19 – 4/24

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

Public comment – none.

The motion carried unanimously, 3-0.

6) APPOINTMENTS

To hear, consider and act upon the following appointment:

Golf Commission

Keith S. Varian (R), 292 Hemlock Hills North, term 4/19 – 4/24
(to fill a vacancy for Corinne Halliday whose term is expiring)

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

Public comment – none.

The motion carried unanimously, 3-0.

The Board took Item 8 next.

8) SUSTAINABLE FAIRFIELD TASK FORCE

To hear a report on upcoming events and activities in the month of April

Mary Hogue-Forestry Committee, Bob Wall-Sustainable Task Force and Lynn Shivinsky-Mill River Committee presented. Ms. Shivinsky explained the "My Water Pledge" contest to be held in April that will teach Fairfield how to make a difference by making small changes. She said residents may sign up on the MRWC.fairfield.org website from April 1st-30th. Ms. Hogue mentioned other April events promoting the Pledge and sustainability; on April 8th at 7:00 p.m. Twig Holland of Aquarian (a former Town Employee) will share savings tips at the Fairfield Museum, Fairfield YMCA is holding a healthy kids event and the Forestry Committee is honoring Arbor Day. Mr. Wall discussed the drought restrictions in other parts of the country.

The Board took Item 9 next.

9) **CONSERVATION DIRECTOR (requires RTM approval and a report from the Town Plan and Zoning Commission)**

To hear and consider the following resolution as recommended by the Conservation Director:

RESOLVED, that the Town of Fairfield sell the property know as 150 Trail Street to Patricia F. Moss and Dr. Laurence J. Lowy for the sum of \$65,500 as more particularly set forth in Request for Proposal #2019-42R.

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

Brian Carey said this item came before the Board of Selectmen in February and it was decided there should be proper notice given to abutting neighbors of the sale. Mr. Carey said notifications were subsequently sent to the neighbors and the new bid came back higher than the original bid and \$500 higher than the appraisal. He said the next step is to certify the bid and send to the RTM. He said the Conservation Department feels this is a better process and going forward Purchasing will send notification to all abutting neighbors of any town property sales. He said the sale proceeds go into the General Fund unless BOS or RTM changes that. Selectman Bateson said he would like to see money go back into the Smith Richardson Fund. First Selectman Tetreau said this revenue was not included in the budget and there is no budget impact.

Selectman Tymniak motioned that the proceeds of the 150 Trail Street property sale be placed in the Grace Smith Richardson Trust Fund. Selectman Bateson seconded the motion.

Public comment on the Amendment – none.

The amendment passed unanimously, 3-0.

Public comment on the item as amended – none.

The item as amended passed unanimously, 3-0.

7) **ELDERLY AND DISABLED TAX RELIEF**

To hear a report from the Director of Human Services and the Assessor on the Town of Fairfield's Tax Relief Program for Elderly and Disabled Homeowners

Assessor Ross Murray explained the program process. Mr. Murray said the Assessor's Office takes applications through May 15 for seniors over 65 or those that are one hundred percent disabled. He listed the eligibility requirements. He said applicants should come prepared with their 1099 forms and any other filing documents for 2018. He said there is also a Freeze Program and a Deferred Tax option. He said applications are available in the Assessor's Office or at the

Bigelow Center. He said qualifications and required documents are listed online or applicants may call the Assessor's Office.

Human Services Director Julie DeMarco said they have tax assistance at the Bigelow Center on Mondays and Wednesdays between noon and 2:00 p.m. at which time seniors can obtain the tax relief application and information. She said they are getting the word out about the program.

10) TAX COLLECTOR

To consider and act upon tax refunds as recommended by the Tax Collector in the amount of \$46,996.26.

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

Selectman Tymniak asked what the several Honda and Toyota lease trust refunds were. Ross Murray said leasing companies apply in bulk, wait and submit all the request for refunds at once. He said these are leased cars that were turned in and the leasing entities have asked for proration.

The motion carried unanimously, 3-0.

11) To hear, consider and act upon any other business which shall properly come before this meeting – none.

12) TOWN ATTORNEY

Private Executive Session – Pending Litigation – Workers Compensation Cases

Selectman Tymniak motioned to enter into Private Executive Session at 5:33 p.m. Selectman Bateson seconded the motion which carried unanimously, 3-0.

Selectman Tymniak motioned to reconvene into Public Session at 5:57 p.m. Selectman Bateson seconded the motion which carried unanimously, 3-0. No votes were taken or motions made.

Selectman Tymniak motioned to accept Attorney Akin's recommendation. Selectman Bateson seconded the motion which carried unanimously, 3-0.

13) ADJOURN

Selectman Bateson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:58 p.m. Selectman Tymniak seconded the motion which carried unanimously, 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila Tesei, Recording Secretary