

REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING

JUNE 22, 2020

another officer is required to intervene to which Chief Lyddy responded affirmatively. He further explained that there are certain exceptions when a body camera may be turned off and the officer records aloud that the camera is being turned off, but Department policy is to keep them on.

Alice Kelly, District 4 asked if there are plans to enhance training. Chief Lyddy noted the department has a robust State-mandated training program in place. The bias training has been stale so they have been looking at specialized and more “outside the box” training.

Dru Georgiadis, District 9 asked if the elimination of traffic stops has been considered. Chief Lyddy said the State would issue guidance on that.

Jill Vergara, District 7 asked about the Office of Professional Standards. Chief Lyddy said it is the Internal Affairs Division which deals with policies and procedures; he noted that recently an officer who holds his JD was transferred to the division to assist with the recently enacted policies from the State. In response to Ms. Vergara he noted that a body camera policy is already in place.

Bill Gerber, District 2 asked if there is any outreach to minority groups regarding racial profiling. Chief Lyddy explained that their interaction pre-dates the national conversation noting that there are officers who meet with the NAACP and other minority groups, however they have been put on hold because of Covid19.

Meredith Odinak, District 4 asked about de-escalation training and the hiring of social workers. Deputy Chief Smith explained that officers have crisis intervention preparation training to de-escalate incidents where an individual is mentally ill or under the influence. Chief Lyddy said the FPD has a partnership with Bridgeport Mental Health.

Bill Perugini, District 9 asked about a moratorium on traffic stops. Chief Lyddy said it would be a tradeoff as some of the “best arrests” by the officers were a direct result of motor vehicle stops.

Rick Grauer, District 9 asked what effect this has had on the budget. Chief Lyddy said there was increased staffing for the 3 protests including 1 in which threats were made. He further explained that the FPD put a lot of time and effort into its policies and want them to be as transparent as possible.

ITEM NO. 4 ON CALL: APPOINTMENT OF DOUGLAS E. METCHICK (D) ALTERNATE TO THE HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION, TERM NOV. 2019-2021

Jay Wolk moved this item as distributed with the Call, duly seconded.

Doug Metchick gave an overview of his experience and background.

VOTE: Doug Metchick’s appointment as an alternate member of the Harbor Management Commission was approved by unanimous voice vote.

ITEM NO. 5 ON CALL: TO HEAR, CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN: RESOLVED, THAT THE APPLICATIONS RECEIVED UNDER THE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE ACT (NAA) PROGRAM ARE HEREBY APPROVED, AND THAT THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IS HEREBY DESIGNATED AS THE MUNICIPAL LIAISON OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD FOR THIS PROGRAM.

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Mark McDermott moved this item as distributed with the Call, duly seconded.

VOTE: The Neighborhood Assistance Act program was approved by unanimous voice vote.

ITEM NO. 6 ON CALL: TO HEAR, CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:RESOLVED, THAT THE PROGRAM YEAR 46 (OCTOBER 1, 2020 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2021) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) IS HEREBY APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$550,000, WHICH INCLUDES ENTITLEMENT GRANT FUNDS OF \$521, 653 AND PROGRAM INCOME OF \$28,347, AND
FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT BRENDA L. KUPCHICK, FIRST SELECTWOMAN OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD, BE, AND HEREBY IS, AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS THAT FACILITATE THE TOWN’S PARTICIPATION IN SAID CDBG PROGRAM.

Lisa Havey moved this item as distributed with the Call, duly seconded.

AMENDMENT: Pamela Iacono, District 8 moved to amend the resolution to reflect the \$545,500 grant amount and \$23,847 in program income, duly seconded.

VOTE: The motion to amend the resolution to reflect the grant amount of \$545,500 and program income of \$23,847 was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Jill Vergara, District 7 asked what Woofgang is. Mark Barnhart said it is a pilot program for developmentally disabled young people offering vocational training. Ms. Vergara asked about the affordable housing programs. Mr. Barnhart said there are loan programs offered for down payment and closing cost assistance. Seniors utilize the handyman program for repairs to their homes. He works closely with DPW to prioritize neighborhoods that need sidewalks and meet the moderate income requirements.

VOTE: The resolution to approve the PY46 CDBG grant was approved by unanimous voice vote.

ITEM NO. 7 ON CALL: TO HEAR, CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION AS RECOMMENDED BY THE TOWN PLAN AND ZONING COMMISSION: “RESOLVED, THAT THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD ABANDON THE REMAINING PORTION OF THE TOWN-OWNED PAPER STREET KNOWN AS CHERRY STREET WHICH INTERSECTS WITH KINGS HIGHWAY, AS SHOWN ON THE ATTACHED MAP, RESERVING, HOWEVER, AN EASEMENT FOR A SEWER, THE LOCATION AND DIMENSIONS OF WHICH SHALL BE AS DETERMINED BY THE TOWN ENGINEER, WHICH EASEMENT SHALL BE RECORDED ON LAND RECORDS OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD.”

Jay Wolk moved this item as distributed with the Call, duly seconded.

Town Planner Jim Wendt explained this is a paper street that extends off Kings Highway between Fairfield Automatic Transmission and Circle Collision. TPZ Commission voted to approve the abandonment.

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Attorney Peter Ambrose said there would be no adverse effect on traffic and will allow additional parking for the aforementioned properties.

Lisa Havey, District 6 asked if there were a possibility of additional structures being built on the properties. Mr. Wendt indicated that a building cannot be placed on the easement area.

Ms. Georgiadis asked what additional tax revenue would be generated. Attorney Ambrose could not ascertain how much, but it does increase the taxability of both parcels by the Town. Ms. Georgiadis asked if a variance would be required for additional building height. Mr. Wendt said the lot size does not dictate the height.

Ms. Vergara asked if the no building in the easement area is in writing. Attorney Ambrose said it would be written into the easement maintenance agreement as the Town must have access to the easement area and all parties are committed to that.

Pamela Iacono, District 8 asked if approval was necessary tonight as there are some outstanding concerns. Attorney Ambrose said it is not urgent, but they had been working on it for quite some time.

Karen Wackerman, District 7 requested information about the tax revenue and the cost benefit vs exposure for the neighbors there.

Mr. Gerber asked what rights the current owners have to build on the properties. Mr. Wendt noted that any proposal on either property would require a public hearing before the TPZ Commission.

MOTION: Lisa Havey moved to postpone the item to the next meeting, duly seconded.

VOTE: Motion to postpone carried by unanimous voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth P. Browne, MCTC, MMC
Town Clerk