

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING FINAL MINUTES

Monday, February 7, 2022

4:00 pm

Via Webex

A recording of the meeting can be found here: [Board of Selectmen 2-7-2022 RM - YouTube](#).

A regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, February 7, 2022 via Webex in Fairfield, Connecticut.

MEMBERS PRESENT: First Selectwoman Brenda L. Kupchick, Selectman Thomas Flynn, Selectwoman Nancy Lefkowitz

OTHERS PRESENT: Assistant Planning Director Emmeline Harrigan, Conservation Director Tim Bishop, Engineering Manager Bill Hurley, Parks and Recreation Director Anthony Calabrese, Fire Chief Denis McCarthy, Deputy Fire Chief Kyran Dunn, Executive Director of Operations, Fairfield Public Schools, Angelus Papageorge, CFO Jared Schmitt

1) **CALL TO ORDER**

First Selectwoman Kupchick called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

2) **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

First Selectwoman Kupchick led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3) **PLANNING DIRECTOR**

To hear a FEMA CRS progress report on action items outlined in the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan

Emmeline Harrigan presented this item. She said the Town participates in FEMA's voluntary community rating system, CRS, which awards a discount rating to communities that go above and beyond the minimum requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program's, NFIP's, floodplain management requirements. Ms. Harrigan said Fairfield's floodplain management efforts result in a 10% discount for its 2,053 policyholders or approximately \$337,661 in annual savings. She said one of the tasks required for the CRS participation is an annual review of Fairfield's Floodplain Management Plan. She said the plan consists of flood reduction action items that are located within MetroCOG's multi-town Hazard Mitigation Plan adopted in 2019. She said the Town has made progress on the following action items as part of the regional hazard mitigation plan:

- Riverside Drive Tidegate System
- WasteWater Treatment Facility
- ARPA Funds to Increase Town Resiliency
- Downtown Green Infrastructure Projects
- Rooter River Corridor
- Railroad Underpass Flooding (Working with CIRCA)
- 24-hour Remote Monitoring of the Tide Gate Markings in the Marina and Beach area to Better Emergency Management Preparation.

Ms. Harrigan said a full flood Floodplain Management Plan Report update as required for CRS participation is included in the meeting backup documents.

4) **NON-RECURRING CAPITAL – 15 YEARS (*requires BOF and RTM approval*)**

To hear, consider and adopt a bond resolution entitled, “A resolution appropriating \$358,445 for the costs of a nonrecurring capital project and authorizing the issuance of bonds to finance such appropriation”.

Selectman Flynn made a motion to approve Item 4. Selectwoman Lefkowitz seconded the motion.

CFO Jared Schmitt said this is a bond resolution for a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus for the Fire Department. He said there is also a grant for possible reimbursement. Fire Chief Denis McCarthy said he would like to get approval for the full amount until he is notified if the grant was approved. He said the Fire Department applied for the grant last year and were unsuccessful. He said this year, the Fire Department adjusted the request, the price increased, and the department applied for replacement, added technology and applied for the grant again. Chief McCarthy said the \$358,445.00 replaces 38 units. He said FEMA won't cover the whole cost and there will be a difference of \$116,627.00. He said the FEMA grant will be for \$241,818.00. Chief McCarthy said the last time the apparatus were replaced, 28 units were replaced with an AFC grant. He said this request is for the remaining 38. Selectman Flynn asked how often the apparatus are replaced. Chief McCarthy said every five years, the standards change. He said the new units will give warning when there is 33% of air left in the tank. There was a discussion about the length of the bond as Selectman Flynn stated the Town's policy is not to finance for longer than the life expectancy of the bonded item.

Selectman Flynn made an amendment to change the Bond Resolution from 15 years to 10 years. Selectwoman Lefkowitz seconded the amendment which carried unanimously.

The main motion, as amended, carried unanimously.

5) **NON-RECURRING CAPITAL – 20 YEARS (*requires BOF and RTM approval*)**

To hear, consider and adopt a bond resolution entitled, “A resolution appropriating \$3,867,899 for the costs of certain nonrecurring capital projects and authorizing the issuance of bonds to finance such appropriation”.

Selectman Flynn made a motion to approve Item 5. Selectwoman Lefkowitz seconded the motion.

The Department Heads went through the items in the 20-year bond resolution:

- Conservation: Pine Creek-McCleary Tidegate Repair, Riverside Creek Tidegate Repair
- Engineering: Underwater Bridge Inspection and Repairs, Increase Resiliency Ash Creek Open Space-Jennings Beach – Design

- Parks Department: Lake Mohegan-Restoration from Storm Ida Damage
- Parks & Recreation: Post-Tension Tennis Courts-Dwight, Jacky Durrell Pavilion Upgrades
- BOE: Boiler Burner Replacement-Burr Elementary School, Elevator Modernization-FLHS

All of the items were discussed with the Board members and the department head making the presentation. Selectman Flynn suggested taking the Underwater Bridge Inspection and Repair out of the bond resolution and make its own resolution with the same wording, but for a 10-year bond.

Selectwoman Lefkowitz made a motion to rescind the motion to approve the Non-Recurring Capital 20-year Bond Resolution. Selectman Flynn seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Selectwoman Lefkowitz made an amendment to remove the item *“Under water bridge inspection and repairs”* from the 20-year Bond Resolution. Selectman Flynn seconded the amendment which carried unanimously.

Selectman Flynn made a motion to approve the 20-year Bond Resolution, as amended, in the appropriated amount of \$3,717,899.00. Selectwoman Lefkowitz seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The amended Bond Resolution:

NON-RECURRING CAPITAL – 20 YEARS (*requires BOF and RTM approval*)

To hear, consider and adopt a bond resolution entitled, “A resolution appropriating \$3,717,899 for the costs of certain nonrecurring capital projects and authorizing the issuance of bonds to finance such appropriation”.

Selectman Flynn made a motion to approve a Bond Resolution for \$150,000.00 with the same language as the above resolution, but for 10 years: *“To hear, consider and adopt a 10-year bond resolution entitled, “A resolution appropriating \$150,000.00 for the costs of nonrecurring capital for Underwater Bridge Inspection and Repairs and authorizing the issuance of bonds to finance such appropriation”.*

Selectwoman Lefkowitz seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

- 6) To consider and act upon tax refunds as recommended by the Tax Collector in the amount of \$54,292.00

Selectman Flynn made a motion to approve Item 6. Selectwoman Lefkowitz seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

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

First Selectwoman Kupchick congratulated two Olympians from Fairfield, Kristen Santos and Mac Forehand.

First Selectwoman Kupchick said Social Services is seeking volunteers to help Seniors and Disabled residents with shoveling. She said anyone who is interested in volunteering can call 203-256-3166. She said there is more information in the newsletter she sends out every week and to sign up for the newsletter, go to the Town website at www.fairfieldct.org.

Selectman Flynn thanked everyone who signed the petition letter supporting the Co-op Hockey Team and asking CIAC to reconsider allowing the team into the State Tournament. He said a change in the decision has not yet been made.

Selectwoman Lefkowitz asked First Selectwoman Kupchick for an update on Town Meetings and if meeting hybrid will continue. First Selectwoman Kupchick said she is discussing this with IT and the BOE. She said the feedback has been very positive regarding the hybrid meetings on Zoom and Webex because regardless of people being at home or away, they can still participate. She said there is a supply chain delay, but IT will try to install a bridge system until the full system is in place.

8) TOWN ATTORNEY

Executive Session – Pending Litigation – Fluor Securities Litigation with Attorney Matthew Tuccillo and Town Attorney Jim Baldwin

Selectman Flynn made a motion to go into Executive Session at 6:00 pm. Selectwoman Lefkowitz seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Selectman Flynn made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 6:22 pm. Selectwoman Lefkowitz seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Selectman Flynn made a motion to approve the recommendations of Attorney Matthew Tuccillo, contingent upon the consideration and approval of the JRIB (Joint Retirement Investment Board). Selectwoman Lefkowitz seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

9) Adjourn

Selectman Flynn made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:24 pm. Selectwoman Lefkowitz seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pru O'Brien
Recording Secretary