

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING FINAL MINUTES
Monday, May 2, 2022 - 4:00 pm

A recording of the meeting can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1wNe9IMduoI>.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Parks And Recreation Director Anthony Calabrese, Purchasing Director Gerald Foley, Engineering Manager Bill Hurley, Town Attorney Jim Baldwin, WPCF Superintendent John Bodie, CFO Jared Schmitt, Attorney John Stafstrom, Buildings Manager James Ryan, Police Chief Robert Kalamaras, Fire Chief Denis McCarthy, Deputy Fire Chief Kyran Dunn, Conservation Director Tim Bishop, Interim DPW Director John Marsilio, Assistant DPW Director John Cottell

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) MINUTES

To consider and act upon the minutes of April 18, 2022

Selectwoman Lefkowitz made a motion to approve the minutes of 4/18/22 as written. Selectman Flynn seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Selectwoman Lefkowitz made a motion to waive the reading of Items 4-11. Selectman Flynn seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4) PURCHASING AUTHORITY

To hear, consider and authorize the Purchasing Authority to enter into the proposed contract with J. Antonelli Roofing (a division of The Property Group of CT, Inc.) to provide labor, materials, equipment and all else necessary to supply and install siding on the exterior of the Jennings Beach Pavilion facility, 880 South Benson Road [per bid #2022-63], in an amount not to exceed \$73,400.00. [Account #14501010-59996-81008 ARPA Funds].

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

Parks and Recreation Director Anthony Calabrese said this had been approved already through the ARPA funding. He said an RFP went out and J .Antonelli Roofing won the bid. There was no public comment.

The motion carried unanimously.

5) ENGINEERING MANAGER

To hear, consider and approve a contract with SLR International Corporation for the Post and Reef Roads Drainage Study (aka Downtown Drainage/Green infrastructure project) in the amount of \$204,000 for engineering support services to assist the Town of Fairfield in identifying and analyzing potential mitigation solutions to flooding issues in the area along Post Road, generally between Thorpe Street and Reef Road, in Fairfield, CT. [Account #14501010-59996-81004 - ARPA funding – Downtown Resiliency – Permeable Surfacing].

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

Engineering Manager Bill Hurley said SLR developed concept plans for green infrastructure in 2019. He said ARPA money was used to continue this resiliency project downtown to resolve flooding issues. He said there will be 1-2 different plans giving his department options. Mr. Hurley said \$1.4 million was approved last year and there is still \$1.2 million remaining. He said he will get an estimate prior to going out to bid so he will know if more money is needed.

There was no public comment.

The motion carried unanimously.

6) TOWN ATTORNEY (*requires RTM approval*)

To hear, consider and authorize the First Selectwoman to enter into the proposed MOU Agreement with the City of Bridgeport for the Fairchild Wheeler Detention Project from ARPA funds dedicated to Rooster River flood mitigation [ARPA Rooster River Account #14501010-59996-81007 - Rooster River Detention Area].

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

Mr. Hurley said this project has been in the works for months and it will be shared with Bridgeport.

There was no public comment.

The motion carried unanimously.

7) WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY (*requires BOF approval*)

To hear, consider and approve a recommendation from the WPCA to transfer not more than \$325,000 from the WPCA Fund Balance for the proposed Carriage Drive sewer line extension project pursuant to C.G.S. §7-253 and the agreement with participating homeowners (*found in the backup*).

Selectwoman Lefkowitz made a motion to approve Item 7. Selectman Flynn seconded the motion.

Mr. Hurley said the septic systems on Carriage Drive failed and the residents requested to be added to the Town sewer line. He said the Town will pay for the sewer extension for the residents and they will pay the Town over 20 years along with paying regular annual sewer fees.

There was no public comment.

The motion carried unanimously.

8) CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER – 20 YEARS (*requires BOF and RTM approval*)

To hear, consider and adopt a bond resolution entitled, “A resolution appropriating \$2,400,000 for the costs of the East Trunk Wetlands Crossing project and authorizing the issuance of bonds to finance such appropriation”.

Selectman Flynn made a motion to approve Item 8. Selectwoman Lefkowitz seconded the motion.

Items 8 & 9 were discussed together because they are related. WPCF Superintendent John Bodie said two-thirds of the Town sewage goes through the East Trunk. He said heavy rain causes back-up in certain areas. He also said there will be additional residences and possibly a hotel at the Metro Center. Mr. Bodie said there will need to be improvements so it will flow properly. CFO Jared Schmitt said this will be done with typical bonding and authorization. He said Item 9 will be financed through an agreement between the Town and the WPCA. He said the WPCA will pay the 20-year bond back to the Town.

There was no public comment.

The motion carried unanimously.

9) **WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY - SUPPLEMENTAL RESOLUTION - *(requires BOF and RTM approval)***

To hear, consider and act upon the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, the Town of Fairfield (the "Town") has adopted at the request of the Water Pollution Control Authority ("WPCA") a Resolution entitled "A resolution appropriating \$2,400,000 for the costs of the East Trunk Wetlands Crossing project and authorizing the issuance of bonds to finance such appropriation" (the "Resolution"); and

WHEREAS, the Resolution appropriated \$2,400,000 for costs associated with the East Trunk Wetlands Crossing Project (the "Project") and authorized the issuance of bonds (the "Bonds"); and

WHEREAS, while the Town is liable for the debt service on the Bonds, for internal accounting purposes, it is appropriate that the costs of the Project including debt service on the Bonds (the "Costs") be allocated to the WPCA; and

WHEREAS, the Town's WPCA has agreed to pay for the costs of the Project and the debt service on the Bonds authorized by the Resolution.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, That the debt service on the Bonds as it becomes due shall be paid by the WPCA from its own funds and the obligation of the WPCA shall be set forth in a memorandum of understanding with the Town satisfactory to the Board of Selectmen.

Selectman Flynn made a motion to approve Item 9. Selectwoman Lefkowitz seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

First Selectwoman Kupchick made a motion to postpone Items 10 & 11 to a BOS meeting in June. Selectwoman Lefkowitz seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

10) **CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER – 20 YEARS *(requires BOF and RTM approval)***

To hear, consider and adopt a bond resolution entitled, "A resolution appropriating \$2,100,000 for the costs to upgrade the Fairfield Beach Road pump station and force main and authorizing the issuance of bonds to finance such appropriation"

11) **WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY - SUPPLEMENTAL RESOLUTION *(requires BOF and RTM approval)***

To hear, consider and act upon the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, the Town of Fairfield (the "Town") has adopted at the request of the Water Pollution Control Authority ("WPCA") a Resolution entitled "A resolution appropriating

\$2,100,000 for the costs to upgrade the Fairfield Beach Road Pump Station and Force main and authorizing the Issuance of Bonds to Finance Such Appropriation” (the “Resolution”); and WHEREAS, the Resolution appropriated \$2,100,000 for costs associated with the upgrades to the Fairfield Beach Road pump station and force main project (the “Project”) and authorized the issuance of bonds (the “Bonds”); and

WHEREAS, while the Town is liable for the debt service on the Bonds, for internal accounting purposes, it is appropriate that the costs of the Project including debt service on the Bonds (the “Costs”) be allocated to the WPCA; and

WHEREAS, the Town’s WPCA has agreed to pay for the costs of the Project and the debt service on the Bonds authorized by the Resolution.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, That the debt service on the Bonds as it becomes due shall be paid by the WPCA from its own funds and the obligation of the WPCA shall be set forth in a memorandum of understanding with the Town satisfactory to the Board of Selectmen.

12) CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER – 20 YEARS (*requires BOF and RTM approval*)

To hear, consider and adopt a bond resolution entitled, “A resolution appropriating \$2,874,911 for the costs of town-wide facility system upgrades and authorizing the issuance of bonds to finance such appropriation”.

Selectwoman Lefkowitz made a motion to amend Item 12 as advised by CFO Jared Schmitt to “a resolution appropriating \$1,949,778.00”. Selectman Flynn seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Selectman Flynn made a motion to approve Item 12 as amended. Selectwoman Lefkowitz seconded the motion.

Buildings Manager James Ryan said there was a Town-wide facilities audit and public works is working on the most urgent life safety items. He said the report was shared with the Boards in January and February. DPW Director John Marsilio said there is really no choice because the buildings are being used and the employees and Town are at risk.

There was no public comment.

The motion carried unanimously.

13) CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER – 10 YEARS (*requires BOF and RTM approval*)

To hear, consider and adopt a bond resolution entitled, “A resolution appropriating \$7,000,000 for the costs associated with the emergency radio project, authorizing a grant to reimburse \$3,500,000 of such appropriation and authorizing the issuance of bonds to finance such appropriation”.

Selectwoman Lefkowitz made a motion to approve Item 13. Selectman Flynn seconded the motion.

Police Chief Kalamaras said this is a \$7 million project. He said there was a grant received for \$3.5 million which will allow Police and Fire to purchase public safety radios. The radios have been on the Capital Plan for years. Having these radios will allow Police and Fire to communicate with the surrounding towns as current radios do not connect to the state service. This is vitally important as there are failed communications daily. Upgrades for the radios and software will be sustained by the State.

There was no public comment.

The motion carried unanimously.

- 14) **CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER – 20 YEARS (*requires BOF and RTM approval*)**
To hear, consider and adopt a bond resolution entitled, “A resolution appropriating \$2,250,000 for the tide gate system project and authorizing the issuance of bonds to finance such appropriation”.

Selectwoman Lefkowitz made a motion to approve Item 14. Selectman Flynn seconded the motion.

Conservation Director Tim Bishop said these tide gates are similar to other projects. He said this item is for the Pine Creek tide gate off of Old Dam Road which drains lower Pine Creek to Long Island Sound. Mr. Bishop said this was originally installed in 1980 and was repaired in 1999 and is at the end of its lifetime. He said the Town has conditional approval through DEEP and is waiting for approval from the State Historic Preservation Office and Army Corp of Engineers. He said the Town is also currently looking into grants to recoup costs.

There was no public comment.

The motion carried unanimously.

- 15) **CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER – 15 YEARS (*requires BOF and RTM approval*)**
To hear, consider and adopt a bond resolution entitled, “A resolution appropriating \$450,000 for the costs of the transfer station repair project and authorizing the issuance of bonds to finance such appropriation”.

Selectwoman Lefkowitz made a motion to approve Item 15. Selectman Flynn seconded the motion.

Interim DPW Director John Marsilio said the report on the Transfer Station was done prior to his employment with the Town. He said the building suffers from decades of neglect and the facility needs to be repaired. He said it has been there for 40 years and these repairs will extend the life of the building another 35 years.

There was no public comment.

The motion carried unanimously.

- 16) **CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER – 10 YEARS (*requires BOF and RTM approval*)**
To hear, consider and adopt a bond resolution entitled, “A resolution appropriating \$4,125,000 for the costs of the Roger Ludlowe Middle School turf field project and authorizing the issuance of bonds to finance such appropriation”.

Selectman Flynn made a motion to approve Item 16. Selectwoman Lefkowitz seconded the motion.

Parks and Recreation Director Anthony Calabrese shared his presentation on the Webex which is also available in the backup documents online. Mr. Calabrese said this project is incorporated in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan which will be presented this summer.

Mr. Calabrese said people will speak out against the artificial Turf, but there is no study or conclusive evidence that there is any harm ingesting the air or that it should cause any health issues. He said the field will have an eight-year warranty and an 8-10-year life expectancy.

Please see public comment from Peter Tallman below.

The motion carried unanimously.

Items 17-20 were postponed to a Special BOS Meeting on Wednesday, May 4, 2022 at 3:00 pm.

- 17) CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER – 20 YEARS (*requires BOF and RTM approval*)
To hear, consider and adopt a bond resolution entitled, “A resolution appropriating \$22,701,443 for the costs associated with Phase I of the air conditioning upgrade project at various schools, authorizing grants to reimburse \$1,116,320 of such appropriation and authorizing the issuance of bonds to finance such appropriation”.
- 18) To consider and act upon tax refunds as recommended by the Tax Collector in the amount of \$20,539.76
- 19) To hear, consider and act upon any other business which shall properly come before this meeting
- 20) TOWN ATTORNEY
Executive Session – Discuss resolution of blighted properties at 447 Stratfield Road and 335 Kings Highway with Town Attorney James Baldwin
- 21) Adjourn
Selectman Flynn made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:36 pm. Selectwoman Lefkowitz seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Pru O’Brien
Recording Secretary

Item 16 Public Comment Via Email:

From: Peter Tallman <tallmanp723@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, May 2, 2022 11:00 AM

To: Board of Selectmen <BOS@fairfieldct.org>

Subject: Meeting of 5/2/22

Re: Item #16 - Installation of Turf at RLMS

Dear BOS,

I'm sending this to you in case I won't have the opportunity to speak tonight.

While installing turf at RLMS would be a big boost for our youth programs, of equal benefit would be to that of Ludlowe High School. As most bodies are aware by now, FLHS has some of the worst/least athletic facilities in Fairfield County, with the possible exception of Bridgeport Central (Brien McMahon HS is currently installing a turf softball field, to go with their turf football field, to go with their turf baseball/athletic field). The installation of turf would be a huge step in the right direction for the 1,100 student/athletes currently in the high school, nearly 70% of the student body. The existing field is a combination of dirt and crabgrass due to the amount of use it gets. And if it's even a little wet, this field, as well as Sturges Park - Ludlowe's other "facility" - is shut down by our Parks and Rec Dept. This isn't the case at Warde, who are in control of their own fields.

A side benefit of the RLMS turf could include the return of their front lawn into what it is, a beautiful front lawn, not an athletic field that doubles up as a mini dog park on the weekends. This is desperation.

We have a golden opportunity to give our student-athletes and their families what they deserve. It's been 17 years.

Sincerely,

Peter Tallman

Item 16 Public Comment Via Email:

From: Amy Cooke <amycooke925@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 8:59 AM
To: Board of Selectmen <BOS@fairfieldct.org>
Cc: BOEMEMBERS@fairfieldschools.org
Subject: Agenda Item #16 - RLMS turf field project

Dear Board of Selected Persons:

I'm writing with regards to item #16 of today's meeting agenda.

I ask that you adopt the resolution to appropriate \$4.125MM for the costs of the RLMS turf field project. As you know Fairfield is severely lacking in field facilities compared to our neighboring towns. This would have a HUGE impact on our town athletic programs across all levels. Athletics serve such an important role in attracting families to our beloved town - it is a project with immediate and long term benefits.

Thank you for your time and your continued service.

-Amy Cooke
178 Horseshoe Lane
cc: BOEMEMBERS@fairfieldschools.org

Item 16 Public Comment Via Email:

-----Original Message-----
From: suzannemiska (null) <suzannemiska@aol.com>

Sent: Friday, April 29, 2022 5:28 PM
To: Board of Selectmen <BOS@fairfieldct.org>
Subject: Turf Field RLMS question/concern

Dear Members of the Board of Selectman:

In reviewing the items in the agenda for your meeting it seems that the debt ceiling for the Town must be large given the volume of bonding issues that you are voting on. While I appreciate the need for Town infrastructure I can't support \$4.1 million for a turf field. Given the rental charges that the Town receives as outlined in the Parks and Recreation spring catalog that bond will not be covered in revenue before it comes due.

Additionally, could someone ask why that field is being set for turf after not 5 years ago the Town sued Mr. Parisi and his lacrosse jamboree for damage to the field and the BOE ripped up the whole field and re-sodded it and regraded it? How much did that cost as the suit was due to the fact there was no insurance viable from the organization to cover the damage. Was the suited settled and the Town paid? What's the maintenance and upkeep of these turf fields? Is the outside group pushing for these fields giving their \$1 million dollars as promised?

Unless the revenue will offset the expense I can not see spending \$4.1 million dollars on a turf field when you haven't told us the cost for Penfield or the numbers on remediation from the full pile. If this didn't meet ARPA then it's a frivolous expense to rip up a new grass field when millions of dollars is potentially going to be needed for Penfield.

Please decline this request and not waste taxpayers funds.

Thank you for your time,
Suzanne Miska

Suzanne Miska
Sent from my iPhone