

BOARD OF SELECTMEN SPECIAL MEETING FINAL MINUTES
Wednesday, May 4, 2022
3:00 pm
Via Webex

A recording of this meeting can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=86zVcec7-eE>.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Fairfield Public Schools Executive Director of Operations Angelus Papageorge, BOE Chair Christine Vitale, Bond Counsel Attorney John Stafstrom, Town Attorney James Baldwin

1) CALL TO ORDER

First Selectwoman Kupchick called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

First Selectwoman Kupchick led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3) FIRST SELECTWOMAN

To hear an update on State budget developments and municipal aid
First Selectwoman Kupchick said the Connecticut House of Representative passed the State budget this past Monday which included an additional \$1.2 million in PILOT funding due to the increased assessed value of the Town's two universities. She said this is helpful and will add to the Town's revenues. She said Senate passed budget last night. She also said the Town will receive additional funding in educational cost sharing, town road aid and LOCIP. She said she sent a letter to the Board of Finance asking the Board to take this additional funding into consideration when increasing the revenue to reduce the Mill Rate.

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

Fairfield Public Schools Executive Director of Operations Angelus Papageorge said this request is for Phase I of adding air conditioning to three schools. He said the full amount is being asked from town bodies up front to both follow State protocols and to show the State that should the project be reimbursable by the State the Town approved the funding. First Selectwoman Kupchick said she forwarded an email from FPS Manager of Construction, Security and Safety Sal Morabito to the State explaining that this project is being done to improve indoor air quality in the buildings due to COVID and is not part of a renovation. Mr. Papageorge said he is following all the guidelines in the event this does become reimbursable. He said the requested funded is the total assessed amount by the engineering firm and is accurate.

BOE Chair Christine Vitale said the goal is to be fully prepared should the State reimburse the Town for this project. She said the goal is to make sure the most healthy environment is being created for those in the buildings and the buildings themselves.

Attorney John Stafstrom said the bond language is consistent with what's been done in the past, but the only difference is the appropriation is more than what's being bonded because the Town knows it will get a grant for \$1,116,320. He said there's a clause authorizing the First Selectwoman to apply for and receive the grant which would reduce the appropriation amount and therefore reduce the amount of the bonding.

There was no public comment.

The motion carried unanimously.

5) To consider and act upon tax refunds as recommended by the Tax Collector in the amount of \$20,539.76

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

There was no public comment.

The motion carried unanimously.

6) TOWN ATTORNEY

Executive Session – Discuss resolution of blighted properties at 447 Stratfield Road and 335 Kings Highway with Town Attorney James Baldwin

Selectman Flynn made a motion to go into Executive Session at 3:43 pm. Selectwoman Lefkowitz seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Selectwoman Lefkowitz made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 4:28 pm. Selectman Flynn seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

No votes were taken while in Executive Session.

Selectman Flynn made a motion to resolve the blight liens at 447 Stratfield Road and 335 Kings Highway in accordance with the advice from the Town Attorney. Selectwoman Lefkowitz seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

7) Adjourn

Selectman Flynn made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:30 pm. Selectwoman Lefkowitz seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Pru O'Brien
Recording Secretary