

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN SPECIAL MEETING**  
**Wednesday, September 14, 2022**  
**4:00 pm**  
**Via Webex**  
**and**  
**In-Person in the First Floor Conference Room,**  
**Independence Hall, 725 Old Post Road**  
**Fairfield, CT 06824**

A recording of this meeting can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rwIQy8UODQ8>.

**FINAL MINUTES**

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

OTHERS PRESENT: David Downie, Jennifer Anderson, WPCF Superintendent John Bodie, WPCA Vice-Chair Joe D'Avanzo, HR Director Cathleen Simpson, CFO Jared Schmitt, Attorney Catherine Creager, Town Attorney James Baldwin, FairTV

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) RESIGNATION

Economic Development Commission

Robert A. Valorie II (R) 50 Oyster Road, term 11/21-11/26  
(resigned on July 19, 2022)

The Selectpersons thanked Mr. Valorie for serving the Town.

4) FIRST SELECTWOMAN APPOINTMENTS (**for information only**)

a. Conservation Commission (Alternate)

David L. Downie (R) 655 Warner Hill Road, term 11/19-11/24  
(to fill a vacancy left by a member who moved to full member)

b. Economic Development Commission

Jennifer L. Anderson (R) 657 Mill Plain Road, term 11/21-11/26  
(to fill a vacancy for Robert A. Valorie II (R) who resigned)

Both Mr. Downie and Ms. Anderson were on the call. The Selectpersons thanked them for their willingness to serve the Town.

5) WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY (**requires BOF and RTM approval**)

To hear, consider and act upon a request from the WPCA to appropriate \$625,000 from the WPCA Fund Balance to finance the cleaning of the primary digester

Selectwoman Lefkowitz made a motion to approve Item 5.

Selectman Flynn seconded the motion.

WPCF Superintendent John Bodie said 40 – 60 % of the reduction of the solid waste is performed in the digester. He said the digester broke in March 2022. Mr. Bodie said a pipe could have clogged the digester and the pressure inside created pressure on the cover which caused the brackets to break. He said the tank will need to be cleaned prior to repairing the cover.

The motion carried unanimously.

6) HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR

To hear, consider and act upon compensation for Town department heads

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

First Selectwoman Kupchick said the increases given to union employees in FY 2023 are: ECC - 2.25%; Nursing and PETA -2.5%; and Police - 2.75%. She said the Police Captains received 2.75% to be in line with the recently negotiated and completed Police contract. She said Police Captains are exempt employees and do not receive overtime. She said non-union employees/department heads were given a 2.5% increase across the board.

Human Resources Director Cathleen Simpson said the proposed 2.5% increase for non-union employees/department heads seem more than reasonable considering the trends with the town employees' union contracts.

First Selectwoman Kupchick said the Town Human Resources department is performing an analysis on what other towns' employees earn and is putting together salary adjustments for some positions. She pointed out that Fairfield recently lost a department head to another town for a higher salary and how another department head had been grossly underpaid. She said the analysis should be completed by November. CFO Jared Schmitt said funds for the department heads' increases are covered in contingency.

The motion carried unanimously.

7) To consider and act upon tax refunds as recommended by the Tax Collector in the amount of \$19,016.00

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

8) TOWN ATTORNEY

- a. Executive Session – Pending Litigation – Berensci vs. Town of Fairfield with Attorney Catherine L. Creager
- b. Executive Session – Pending Litigation – Blight Issue at 166 Grasmere Avenue with Town Attorney Jim Baldwin (*item continued from special 08/24/22 BOS meeting*)
- c. Update on Penfield Remediation Recovery Efforts with Town Attorney Jim Baldwin

Selectman Flynn made a motion to go into Executive Session at 4:31 pm. Selectwoman Lefkowitz seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Selectwoman Lefkowitz made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 5:50 pm. Selectman Flynn seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

There were no votes taken during Executive Session.

Selectwoman Lefkowitz made a motion to proceed with the recommendation of counsel on Items 8a & 8b. Selectman Flynn seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Selectman Flynn made a motion to proceed with the Town Attorney's recommendations on Item 8c. Selectwoman Lefkowitz seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

9) Adjourn

Selectwoman Lefkowitz made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:51 pm. Selectman Flynn seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Pru O'Brien  
Recording Secretary