

BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING
Monday, October 17, 2022, 7:00 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: [youtube.com/watch?v=BVeg6R25Yjs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BVeg6R25Yjs).

FINAL MINUTES

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Jay Behan, Purchasing Director Gerald Foley, Manager of Construction, Security & Safety for Fairfield Public Schools (FPS) Sal Morabito, FPS Superintendent Dr. Steve Tracy, Town Attorney James Baldwin, CFO Jared Schmitt, Director of Parks & Recreation Anthony Calabrese, Director of Community & Economic Development Mark Barnhart, Stratfield Village Association Co-President Jamie McCusker, Engineering Manager Bill Hurley, Fairfield Forestry Committee Chair Mary Hogue, Members of the Fairfield Forestry Committee, Ryan Romeo, Geoff Steadman, Tree Warden Jeff Minder

1) CALL TO ORDER

First Selectwoman Brenda 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 October 3, 2022

Selectwoman Lefkowitz made a motion to approve the minutes of 10/3/22 as written.

Selectman Flynn seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

4) RESIGNATION (*for information only*)

Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee

Scott B. Craighead (D) 385 Surrey Lane, term 11/20-11/24

(resigned on September 21, 2022)

The Selectmen thanked Mr. Craighead for his service.

5) APPOINTMENTS

Bike and Pedestrian Committee

Jay F. Behan (R), 503 Fairfield Woods Road, term 11/20-11/24

(to fill a vacancy for Scott B. Craighead (D) who resigned)

Selectwoman Lefkowitz made a motion to approve the appointment of Jay Behan to the Bike and Pedestrian Committee. Selectman Flynn seconded the motion.

Selectwoman Lefkowitz stated for the record that she will be abstaining from the vote.

She said she spoke to Mr. Behan and it had nothing to do with him, but instead the process of his appointment. There was a discussion about the process with the First Selectwoman.

The motion carried 2-0-1 (Lefkowitz abstained).

6) PURCHASING AUTHORITY

To hear, consider and authorize the Purchasing Authority to enter into the proposed contract with JLY Enterprises LLC, dba JLY Construction Managers to provide all labor, materials, equipment and all else necessary for the replacement of the elevator at the Fairfield Woods Middle School, as detailed in bid #2022-199, in an amount not to exceed \$220,680.00 with additional authority to execute change orders to said contract in an amount not to exceed \$22,068.00; for a combined grand total amount not to exceed \$242,748.00. [Account #22809010-57000-021B1 – CAPITAL OUTLAY -20YR and Account #11-52039566-55000

– Fairfield Public Schools Major Maintenance Project - FW]

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

Purchasing Director Gerald Foley said this elevator has been problematic for years and this upgrade will make it more reliable for students. Manager of Construction, Security and Safety for Fairfield Public Schools Sal Morabito said there are two accounts referenced because the contractor recommended replacing the piston which exceeded the capital outlay for this project. Mr. Morabito said the other funds are coming from the maintenance account. Town Attorney James Baldwin said the contract was fine.

The motion carried unanimously.

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

7) BOARD OF EDUCATION (*requires RTM approval*)

To hear, consider and act upon the following resolution as recommended by the Board of Education:

“RESOLVED, that the Town of Fairfield authorizes the Board of Education of the Town of Fairfield to apply to the Commissioner of Administrative Services and to accept or reject a grant for the Fairfield Warde High School - Fitts House RTU Replacement Project at Fairfield Warde High School; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Fairfield Warde High School - Fitts House RTU Replacement Building Committee is hereby established as the building committee with regard to the Fairfield Warde High School - Fitts House RTU Replacement Project at Fairfield Warde High School; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Fairfield hereby authorizes at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the Fairfield Warde High School - Fitts House RTU Replacement Project at Fairfield Warde High

School.”

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

Mr. Morabito said there is an HVAC grant fund through the State, but jobs that are “shovel ready” will be more favorable for the grant. He said applications must be in by December 1, 2022

The motion carried unanimously.

- 8) **NON-RECURRING CAPITAL – 20 YEARS (*requires BOF and RTM approval*)**
To hear, consider and adopt a bond resolution amending and restating a 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” to increase the appropriation and bond authorization by \$100,000 to a total of \$3,817,899. Selectman Flynn made a motion to approve Item 8. Selectwoman Lefkowitz seconded the motion.

Parks and Recreation Director Anthony Calabrese said this project has already been through all the boards and was approved on the original quote amounts. He said when it went out to bid, everything had changed and the two bids received came back \$100,000 over the original estimates. Mr. Calabrese is asking for approval of the increased amount. CFO Jared Schmitt said prices are increasing and the Town is seeing it on the ARPA projects as well. He said this project is not on the ARPA list. Selectman Flynn started a discussion about cost increases, inflation and prioritizing capital projects. Mr. Calabrese explained that the lights were installed in 1989 and need replacement.

The motion carried unanimously.

- 9) **CHIEF FISCAL OFFICER (*requires BOF and RTM approval*)**
To hear, consider and adopt a resolution entitled, “A resolution appropriating \$24,800,000 for the costs related to uses of Coronavirus state fiscal recovery fund and the Coronavirus local fiscal recovery fund specified in Exhibit A*,” To reduce the appropriation to \$22,640,000 and revise certain uses of funds in the project list as reflected in the attached amended Exhibit A*.

**Exhibit A can be found in the backup.*

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

Mr. Schmitt gave an update on the ARPA projects. He said there was money left from projects that came in under budget and some that were not approved after the money was appropriated. He said the Stratfield Village project has been going on for almost five years- the Stratfield Village Association (SVA) also raised money for the project, but the estimate came in significantly over the original. Mr. Schmitt gave an overview of ARPA funds to date. Community and Economic Development Director Mark Barnhart said the estimate was prepared a while ago and changes were made that were required by the state.

Mr. Barnhart said this caused the bid to come in much higher. He said some of the design plans were eliminated and a State grant will cover some of the funds. He said the project will cost an additional \$650,000. SVA Co-President Jamie McCusker thanked the Town for getting this project done and said the neighborhood agrees that this is needed for the businesses and the safety of bikes and pedestrians. He said the intersections are not safe for traffic and need beautification, but safety is the real priority. Mr. McCusker said he is also frustrated by the increased costs and said he thinks because of the economy, this is a now or never situation after five years. The Selectpersons thanked the SVA for all their hard work and for coming together as a community to improve their neighborhood. *(Full discussion can be found in the recording linked at the top of this document.)*

The motion carried unanimously.

10) PURCHASING AUTHORITY

To hear, consider and authorize the Purchasing Authority to enter into the proposed contract with Colonna Concrete & Asphalt Paving, LLC to provide all labor, materials, equipment and all else necessary to perform streetscape improvements within the Stratfield Village area, as detailed in bid #2023-04, in an amount not to exceed \$1,725,620.00 with additional authority to execute change orders to said contract in an amount not to exceed \$172,562.00 for a combined grand total amount not to exceed \$1,898,182.00. Authorization is contingent on the allocation of additional funding for this project

Selectwoman Lefkowitz made a motion to approve Item 10. Selectman Flynn seconded the motion.

Selectman Flynn made an amendment to change wording in the resolution from “Stratfield Village area” to “Stratfield Village Business District”. Selectwoman Lefkowitz seconded the amendment which carried unanimously.

Selectman Flynn made an amendment that the approval of this Item be contingent on the allocation of additional funding for this project and subject to review and approval of the Town Attorney. Selectwoman Lefkowitz seconded the amendment which carried unanimously.

The main motion, as amended, carried unanimously.

11) FAIRFIELD FORESTRY COMMITTEE

To hear a presentation from the Fairfield Forestry Committee on the Community Forest Management Plan and tree survey

Geoff Steadman presented a PowerPoint to the BOS and it is included in the backup documents. It can also be seen on the meeting recording through the link at the top of this document.

Fairfield resident Ryan Romeo said he has a goal to get kids and adults to acknowledge climate change and learn about ways to help. He said planting trees and picking up garbage will help. Fairfield Forestry Committee Chair Mary Hogue called Ryan Romeo a “local lorax”.

Ms. Hogue introduced the Committee and there was a discussion about planting trees in Town. First Selectwoman Kupchick thanked them for the presentation and also wanted to acknowledge the Town's Tree Warden Jeff Minder. Both Selectwoman Lefkowitz and Selectman Flynn thanked the Forestry Committee for all it does.

The BOS received this email:

From: Stuart, Tracy
Sent: Sunday, October 16, 2022 1:06 PM
To: Board of Selectmen <BOS@fairfieldct.org>
Subject: Fairfield Forestry Committee

Hi -

I'm writing in support of their initiatives to plant more trees in Fairfield.

Thank you
Tracy

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

Selectwoman Lefkowitz said she has been getting emails about the ballot question regarding the Charter Revision and wanted to discuss it prior to Election Day. First Selectwoman Kupchick said she recently sent out a newsletter, which has over 26,000 subscribers, to the community focused solely on the Charter Revision question on the ballot and the explanatory text that goes along with it. First Selectwoman Kupchick said she has sent out the links to all of the Charter Revision Commission meetings in over 30 newsletters. She said the newsletters and the meeting recordings will help the public understand how revisions came to be and how the ballot question was done. Selectwoman Lefkowitz said she is concerned that the ballot question is misleading and said she will share that she voted no to the question on the ballot and will not support it on Election Day. Selectman Flynn spoke about the process and the many compromises along the way. Mr. Flynn said these proposed changes are not perfect, but they are much better than what the Town has now and it will be good for the Town. (*Access the full discussion using the meeting recording link above*).

- 13) TOWN ATTORNEY

Executive Session – Potential property acquisition with Town Attorney and Director of Community & Economic Development

Selectman Flynn made a motion to go into Executive Session at 5:58 pm. Selectwoman Lefkowitz seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Selectman Flynn made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 6:20 pm. Selectwoman Lefkowitz seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Selectman Flynn made a motion to take the recommendation of the Town Attorney.
Selectwoman Lefkowitz seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

14) Adjourn

Selectwoman Lefkowitz made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:21 pm.
First Selectwoman Kupchick seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Respectively submitted,

Pru O'Brien
Recording Secretary