

BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING
Monday, May 15, 2023, 4:00 pm
Via Webex & 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: [BOS Regular Meeting 5/15/2023](#).

FINAL MINUTES

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Bob Ellwanger, David Dembowski, Joe DeMartino, Buildings Manager James Ryan, Human and Social Services Director Julie DeMarco, Purchasing Director Adam Tulin, Engineering Manager Bill Hurley, Engineer Megha Jain, Superintendent FPS Mike Testani, BOE Chairwoman Jennifer Jacobsen, CFO Jared Schmitt, CAO Tom Bremer, WPCF Superintendent John Bodie, Town Attorney James Baldwin, Attorney Rick Aiken

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 March 6, 2023, March 27, 2023, April 17, 2023, May 1, 2023

Selectwoman Lefkowitz made a motion to approve the minutes in Item 3. Selectman Flynn seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

4) RESIGNATIONS (*for information only*)

a) Affordable Housing Committee

Joanne T. Romano-Csonka (R) 694 Jennings Road, term 11/19-11/23
(resigned on May 3, 2023)

b) Bike and Pedestrian Committee

Jay F. Behan (R) 503 Fairfield Woods Road, term 11/20-11/24
(resigned on May 1, 2023)

c) Land Acquisition Commission (Alternate)

Christopher A. Verras (R) 243 Fairchild Avenue, term 11/20-11/24
(resigned on May 1, 2023)

The Selectpersons thanked the members for their service to the Town.

5) APPOINTMENTS

a) Affordable Housing Committee

Robert J. Ellwanger, Jr. (U) 85 Sasapequan Road, term 11/19-11/23
(to replace Joanne T. Romano-Csonka (R) who resigned)

- b) Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
David E. Dembowski (R) 300 Sturges Road, term 11/20-11/24
(to replace Jay F. Behan (R) who resigned)
- c) Land Acquisition Commission (Alternate)
Joseph M. DeMartino (R) 379 Wormwood Road, term 11/20-11/24
(to replace Christopher A. Verras (R) who resigned)

Selectman Flynn made a motion to approve Item 5 a-c. Selectwoman Lefkowitz seconded the motion, but also said she would be abstaining from the vote as she did not have a chance to contact the appointees.

The appointees expressed their thanks for being selected and look forward to this opportunity.

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

6) **PURCHASING AUTHORITY**

To hear and consider authorizing the Purchasing Authority to enter into the proposed contract with Wernert Construction Management, LLC to provide all labor, materials, equipment, and all else necessary to perform the Bigelow Senior Center Renovations as detailed in Bid #2023-53 in an amount not to exceed \$459,042.00 with additional authority to execute change orders to said contract in an amount not to exceed \$45,904.00 for a combined grand total amount not to exceed \$504,946.00. (Account #14501010-59996-81028 - ARPA – Senior Center Renovation).

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

ARPA funds have already been approved for this project. Purchasing Director Adam Tulin said this went through the normal bidding process and there were six responses. Buildings Manager James Ryan said there are three sets of bathrooms included in the contract that will be done one at a time as to not disrupt the programs and services at the Bigelow Senior Center. Selectman Flynn expressed his support for this project.

The motion carried unanimously.

7) **PURCHASING AUTHORITY**

To hear and consider authorizing the Purchasing Authority to enter into the proposed contract with RACE Coastal Engineering to provide consulting services and all else necessary to perform the inventory of tide gate and flood control structures as detailed in RFP #2023-107 in an amount not to exceed \$59,750.00 with additional authority to execute change orders to said contract in an amount not to exceed \$5,975.00 for a combined grand total amount not to exceed \$65,725.00. (Account #22809010-57000-023T1-Underwater Bridge Inspection-10-Year).

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

Purchasing Director Adam Tulin told the BOS that this contract had been reviewed and accepted by Town Attorney James Baldwin.

Engineering Manager Bill Hurley said this job has been split between RACE Engineering and GZA GeoEnvironmental. He said the Town has worked with both firms before.

The motion carried unanimously.

8) **PURCHASING AUTHORITY**

To hear and consider authorizing the Purchasing Authority to enter into the proposed contract with GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc to provide consulting services and all else necessary to perform the underwater bridge inspections as detailed in RFP #2023-107 in an amount not to exceed \$15,800.00 with additional authority to execute change orders to said contract in an amount not to exceed \$1,580.00 for a combined grand total amount not to exceed \$17,380.00. (Account #22809010-57000-023T1-Underwater Bridge Inspection-10-Year).

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

There was no discussion on this Item as it was in conjunction with Item 7.

The motion carried unanimously.

9) **CHIEF FISCAL OFFICER**

To hear, consider and adopt a resolution appropriating \$355,370 in FEMA reimbursement funds to the Board of Education and authorizing the expenditure of such funds on school security.

WHEREAS, the Town of Fairfield, Connecticut (the "Town") received grant funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency ("FEMA") in the amount of \$355,370 (the "Grant Funds") as reimbursement for money spent by the Town's Board of Education ("BOE") in fiscal year 2021 related to the purchase of personal protective equipment; and

WHEREAS, the Town desires to appropriate the Grant Funds to the BOE and authorizes said Grant Funds to be used for school security purposes; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

The Town hereby appropriates the Grant Funds to the BOE and authorizes the Grant Funds to be used for school security purposes.

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

This Item was approved by the BOF on May 4th and will go before the RTM on Monday 5/22/23.

BOE Chairwoman Jennifer Jacobsen gave some background on this Item. She explained that the BOE received recommendations and estimated associated costs through the Fairfield Police Department and other organizations and companies. All have been vetted and are through a State contract.

The motion carried unanimously.

10) WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

To hear, consider and authorize the Water Pollution Control Authority to enter into a contract with Woodward & Curran for services to include the measurement of the WPCF wastewater facilities' performance relative to technical management, operational efficiency, organization, finances, capital asset protection and other relevant and meaningful focal points and an evaluation of the physical condition of the WPCF's current assets, including an Organizational Evaluation as detailed in the April 27, 2023 proposal in an amount not to exceed \$104,000. [\$84,000 from Acct # 13013010-53200 and \$20,000 from Acct # 01005030-53200]

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

Town Attorney James Baldwin wanted to note for the record that there was a Scribner's error in the agenda. He said the name of the contracted firm is Woodard & Curran. He said there was no need for an amendment as it was Scribner's error.

CAO Tom Bremer addressed this Item. The proposal from Woodard & Curran from 4/27/23 is included in the backup. Mr. Bremer said WPCF needs to have an organizational and operational audit to reviewing replacing everything at the plant. He said facilities and buildings will be reviewed to see what work needs to be done and to learn the timeframe. Mr. Bremer said the team reviewing the results will be: Matt Manchisi, WPCA member, Tom Bremer and DPW Interim Director John Marsilio. Mr. Bremer said the study will result in a written report for the WPCF Superintendent and WPCA to focus on. He said it will take 4-6 weeks for the audit/review, but the WPCA and administration will have a good idea where to go from there. He said the study/audit will be looking into issues like are there enough people or should there be more people hired, job descriptions and how things are being done. Mr. Bremer wanted to state that this is not a study or focus on saving money, but it's about efficiency. Town Attorney Baldwin said he has proposed changes to the contract. Mr. Baldwin clarified that there will be no added fees for a presentation of the audit findings and backup.

There was a discussion.

The motion carried unanimously,

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

First Selectwoman Kupchick went through her announcements. The First Selectwoman stated:

- I hope everyone had a nice Mother's Day!

Last week, I presented to the Ukraine Aid International representative our Town Flag and a letter to give to the Mayor of Fairfield's sister city in Ukraine, Kostiantynivka. I have convened a group of caring community service-oriented residents and business owners to serve on the Sister City Committee to bring together the many people in our Town who want to help in various ways. I had the privilege of speaking to the Mayor of Fairfield's Sister City which was eye-opening. I also was on a call this morning with the Sister City Committee.

- If you are over the age of 45, we strongly encourage you to take the Age Friendly Fairfield survey by June 15th. Younger residents may also want to take the survey on behalf of any older family member or friend - or just to weigh in on your hopes for Fairfield in the future. Tell us what's important to you as you age, share your experiences, and let us know the extent to which our community is supporting the needs of Fairfield residents. For information about Age Friendly Fairfield and to take the survey, visit my May 12th newsletter or the Town's website.
- The Town is continuing to accept applications for the Fairfield COVID-19 Recovery Fund with ARPA funding. The Fund was established in 2022 to provide limited, one-time assistance to Fairfield residents who have been adversely impacted by the pandemic. Applicants must also demonstrate that they have exhausted any other assistance funds or available resources for which they may be eligible. For information about the application process and eligibility requirements for the COVID Recovery Fund call Fairfield Social Services at 203-256-3170 or go to www.fairfieldct.org/covidrecoveryfund.

12) TOWN ATTORNEY

Executive Session – Discuss Settlement Proposal Regarding Joseph Bienkowski v. Town of Fairfield with Town Attorney Jim Baldwin and Attorney Rick Aiken

Selectman Flynn made a motion to go into Executive Session at 4:41 pm. Selectwoman Lefkowitz seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Selectwoman Lefkowitz made a motion to end Executive Session at 4:52 pm. Selectman Flynn seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Selectman Flynn made a motion to accept the settlement agreement as recommended per the attorneys. Selectwoman Lefkowitz seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

13) Adjourn

Selectman Flynn made a motion to adjourn. Selectwoman Lefkowitz seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 4:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Pru O'Brien
Recording Secretary