

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD  
MARCH 24, 2014**

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town of Fairfield was held on Monday, March 24, 2014 at 8:00 P.M. at the Education Center on Kings Highway East.

The meeting was called to order at 8 PM by Deputy Moderator Hank Ference.

PRESENT: 42                      ABSENT: 8                      VACANCY: 0

PRESENT: Donovan, Meyer, Sundman, Ambrose, Burshtein, Steele, Varian, Bateson, Devlin, Ference, Mackenzie, Dean, DeMartino, Gerber, Palmer, Waldron, Garskof, Smey, Way, Marks, Marmion, Wolk, Zezima, Hochberg, Hoffkins, Newman, Pires, Schwartz, Braun, Durrell, Li, McCarthy, Melaragno, Iacono, Jacob, McArdle, Pontrelli, Tymniak, Cafferelli, Farnen, Perugini, Ryan

ABSENT: Herley, Lipp, McCullough, Schindler, Domeika, O'Brien, Gottlieb, Neuberger

**ITEM 1 ON CALL: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Moderator Hank Ference welcomed Judge Daniel F. Caruso to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Judge Caruso asked the Body to support the Town's historic 375<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Food Drive to benefit Operation Hope, Merton House, Bridgeport Rescue Mission and A Project From the Heart by volunteering, donating and visiting the website [www.ffldfooddrive375.org](http://www.ffldfooddrive375.org)

**ITEM 2 ON CALL: APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 24 MEETING**

The minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

**ITEM 3 ON CALL: TO HEAR A REPORT FROM THE NOT FOR PROFIT COMMITTEE**

Chairman Chris Dewitt presented the report (see attached).

Sheila Marmion, District 6 thanked Mr. DeWitt for the committee's work but had concerns. She felt the committee was passing the buck. The not for profits all provide services to the town, but we don't have uniform criteria. She is disappointed in the process.

Peter Ambrose, District 2 said he did not wish to abdicate his ability to review these entities by having a third party involved. He wants to retain the process to evaluate them.

Carol Way, District 5 said she was a development director for one of the entities. She had to submit an evaluation and go through a review process. She indicated that this entity was brought through the process by a former Chief of Staff.

John Donovan, District 1 said he had reviewed the NFP Committee minutes online and felt that performance metrics and transparencies need to be put in place, but did not like the idea of a lump sum of money.

Allen Marks, District 6 believes there is a question of fairness if a third party does not elect to give them funding.

Ellen Jacobs, District 9 said there seemed to be some overlap and suggested some sort of consolidation or cooperation among them. If the RTM is eliminated from the review process then it eliminates the voice of the neighborhoods they represent.

Jeff Steele, District 2 asked how changes to the process would have to be made.

First Selectman Tetreau said the BOS just received the report in January and has not had a chance to discuss it yet. They will review and discuss it after the budget season. Mr. Steele asked if the RTM will vote on this. Mr. Tetreau indicated that the BOS and BOF determine the budget process. Mr. Steele stated that we collectively represent the Town giving this to a third party is not the way to go.

Selectman Cristin Vahey explained that she served on the not for profit committee - this conversation did not advance as it should have. She shared how Greenwich has a lump sum of money for the NFPs along with a staff member who spends 40% of their time reviewing metrics, etc. Norwalk has an application process for the NFPs.

Pamela Iacono, District 9 indicated that a lump sum is not the way to go. She asked what the next process would be if the Boards decide against this.

Mr. Dewitt said he takes responsibility for the gap in time. He is ready to go as soon as the BOS is ready to redirect the committee.

Mr. Tetreau stated the BOS needs to review this and if necessary approve a narrower charge to the committee.

Ms. Iacono asked that the committee provide regular updates to the RTM and asked that a copy of the original charge be provided to the Body.

Peter Ambrose, District 2 asked the First Selectman for an opinion from the Town Attorney as to the approval of any changes in the budget process.

Ed Bateson, District 3 asked who adopts the policy if the BOF dictates the budget process. Mr. Tetreau said just the format is determined by the BOF according to the Town Charter.

Mr. Bateson said he hopes the BOS and BOF will review and discuss this very carefully and will not go along with a lump sum pool of money.

BOF member David Becker voiced his concern about removing elected boards from the process.

Mr. Tetreau reiterated that the BOS has not had a chance to review and discuss this. He asked for patience as they would do their review after this year's budget process.

**ITEM NO. 4 ON CALL:**

TO HEAR, CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN: "WHEREAS, THE SOUTH CENTRAL CONNECTICUT REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY, AS AGENT FOR THE SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS AND PARTICIPATING MUNICIPALITIES, HAS UNDERTAKEN THE PERMITTING, CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF A REGIONAL FACILITY FOR THE COLLECTION OF HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE AND

CONDITIONALLY-EXEMPT SMALL QUANTITY GENERATOR BUSINESS WASTE AT ITS HEADQUARTERS AT 90 SARGENT DRIVE IN NEW HAVEN; AND WHEREAS, THE MUNICIPALITIES PARTICIPATING IN THE FACILITY ARE ABLE TO HAVE RESIDENTS DROP OFF THEIR HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE ON SATURDAY MORNINGS FROM 9:00 A.M. - NOON AND CONDITIONALLY-EXEMPT SMALL QUANTITY GENERATORS DELIVER BUSINESS WASTE ON SATURDAY MORNING BY APPOINTMENT FROM 7:00 A.M. - 8:30 A.M. FROM SPRING THROUGH FALL FOR PROPER PROCESSING, TRANSPORTATION, AND DISPOSAL; AND WHEREAS, THE FACILITY IS OWNED, MANAGED AND OPERATED UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE SOUTH CENTRAL CONNECTICUT REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PARTICIPATING NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD DECLARES ITS COMMITMENT TO CONTINUE PARTICIPATION IN THE REGIONAL HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION CENTER FOR A MINIMUM THREE-YEAR PERIOD (JULY 1, 2014 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2017), AND CONFIRMS ITS INTENT TO CONTRIBUTE FINANCIALLY FOR THE OPERATION, PROCESSING, TRANSPORTATION, AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE; AND FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT FIRST SELECTMAN MICHAEL C. TETREAU BE, AND HEREBY IS, AUTHORIZED TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE SOUTH CENTRAL CONNECTICUT REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY FOR THE OPERATION OF THE FACILITY. SUCH AGREEMENT WILL PERMIT THE AUTHORITY TO ACT AS ITS AGENT TO MAINTAIN THE FACILITY, TO CONTRACT WITH A VENDOR FOR THE TRANSPORTATION AND DISPOSAL OF WASTE, TO RECEIVE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM GRANT SOURCES, TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER MUNICIPALITIES, AND TO OPERATE THE FACILITY.”

The Deputy Moderator moved this item as distributed with the Call, duly seconded.

Sheila Marmion, District 6 asked if we didn't have this collection where could we go.

Michael Zembruski Director of Solid Waste & Recycling explained that you would have to hire someone.

Ms. Marmion noted that this provides an opportunity to dispose hazardous material in an environmentally correct way.

Laura Devlin, District 3 asked if this were postponed until the April 28 meeting would it jeopardize the Town for service this year. She asked what the cost per household (ours is \$60 per household) was to other towns who do not participate and if there were other options available to us.

Tom McCarthy, District 8 asked Mr. Zembruski if he were satisfied with the household rate to which Mr. Zembruski replied yes.

**MOTION:** Laura Devlin moved to postpone item 4 to the April 28 meeting duly seconded by Tom McCarthy.

Ms. Devlin said there are questions she would like clarified – the household participation rates for the annual event, she'd like more than one year's statistics and secondly looking at the cost per household in other Towns in the area – is Fairfield the only town that participates and what other options are available.

Ruth Smey, District 5 asked if we did not participate as part of the consortium what would happen.

Mr. Zembruski explained we would have to go out to bid. \$16,907 is for the operation of the facility, auditing, security and an additional per user fee. We are charged \$42 per household.

Hal Schwartz, District 7 asked what other towns offer this service.

Mr. Zembruski said Greenwich, Westport and Norwalk have collections that residents can use but there is a cost. They do not have a high turn out.

Mr. Schwartz asked if they have it in their budget to which Mr. Zembruski replied affirmatively.

Kevin Hoffkins, District 7 felt that going out to bid could not be cheaper and felt postponing it would not help either.

Ed Bateson, District 3 explained that this has been approved for years, but there are several new members who bring a fresh perspective and new questions so if it is not going to harm anything by postponing it for a month we can get the answers to their questions.

Kathy Braun, District 8 said this is a very valuable service with 21 collections – 1 in town and 20 in New Haven that should be promoted more.

Mr. Zembruski said brochures are sent to all households and all media outlets.

**VOTE:** The motion to postpone the household hazardous waste agreement to April 28 was approved with 21 in favor and 20 opposed. (DeMartino was not present to vote).

**IN FAVOR:** Ambrose, Burshtein, Steele, Bateson ,Devlin, Ference ,Mackenzie Gerber, Palmer, Garskof, Marmion, McCarthy, Melaragno, Iacono, Jacob, McArdle, Pontrelli, Tymniak, Farnen, Perugini, Ryan

**OPPOSED:** Donovan, Meyer, Sundman, Varian, Dean, Waldron, Smey, Way, Marks, Wolk, Zezima, Hochberg, Hoffkins, Newman, Pires, Schwartz, Braun, Durrell, Li, Cafferelli

**ITEM NO. 5 ON CALL:** ACCEPTANCE OF .12 ACRES LOCATED AT 224 RIVERVIEW CIRCLE FROM LILLIAN E. FAZEKAS. SAID PROPERTY TO BE DONATED SUBJECT TO EXISTING REAL PROPERTY TAXES

The Deputy Moderator moved this item as distributed with the Call, duly seconded.

**MOTION:** Hal Schwartz, District 7 moved to postpone this item to the April 28 meeting due to ongoing negotiations, duly seconded.

**VOTE:** The motion to postpone was approved with 40 in favor and 1 abstention (Iacono) (Mr. DeMartino was not present to vote).

**ITEM NO. 6 ON CALL:** TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION TO (1) ESTABLISH THE MILL HILL SCHOOL ROOF BUILDING COMMITTEE; (2) AUTHORIZE THE PREPARATION OF SCHEMATIC DRAWINGS AND OUTLINE SPECIFICATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT; AND (3) AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO FILE AN APPLICATION FOR A SCHOOL BUILDING GRANT.

The Deputy Moderator moved this item as distributed with the Call, duly seconded.

**VOTE:** The resolution was approved by unanimous voice vote. (Mr. DeMartino was not present to vote).

**ITEM NO. 7 ON CALL:** BLIGHT PREVENTION ORDINANCE REFERAL

Ed Bateson, District 3 explained that a change in language was presented in L&A.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Ruth Smey, District 5 congratulated Peter Ambrose on the arrival of his new granddaughter.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business and upon made, duly seconded and carried unanimously, the meeting adjourned at 9:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth P. Browne  
Town Clerk

Recorded By: Kyle Fournier