

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
November 28, 2016

A meeting of the Town of Fairfield was held on Monday, November 28, 2016 at 8 PM at the Education Center, 501 Kings Highway East, Fairfield.

The meeting was called to order at 8:06 PM by First Selectman Michael Tetreau.

PRESENT: 38

ABSENT: 2

VACANCY: 0

PRESENT: P. Ambrose, Bateson, McCullough, Varian, Gerber, Lynch, Newman, Dean, Durrell, Orriss, Pine, Gottlieb, Hochberg, Pires, Zezima, Garskof, Smey, Way, M. Ambrose, Gale, Neuberger, Solomon, McCarthy, McDermott, Vergara, Wackerman, Ference, Iacono, Messina, Tallman, Farnen, Georgiadis, Lee, Perugini, Cargill, Fattibene, Herley, Sundman.

ABSENT: Perham, Wolk

ITEM NO. 1 ON CALL: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE

Fire Chief Denis McCarthy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM NO. 2 ON CALL: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 26, 2016.

Ed Bateson, District 1, moved this item as distributed with Call, duly seconded.

VOTE: Upon motion made and duly seconded the minutes were approved with 2 abstentions (Orriss, Gottlieb)

ITEM NO. 3 ON CALL: TO ELECT A MODERATOR AND A DEPUTY MODERATOR FOR THE ENSUING YEAR.

Mr. Tetreau asked for nominations from the floor for a Moderator.

Tom McCarthy, District 7, nominated Pamela Iacono, duly seconded.

Upon motion made and duly seconded and carried unanimously, nominations for Moderator were closed.

VOTE: Ms. Iacono was elected Moderator with 34 in favor and 4 abstentions (Zezima, Smey, Vergara and Georgiadis.)

The Moderator asked for nominations from the floor for Deputy Moderator.

Peter Ambrose, District 1 nominated Hank Ference, duly seconded.

Upon motion made and duly seconded and carried unanimously, nominations for Deputy Moderator were closed.

VOTE: Mr. Ference was elected Deputy Moderator by unanimous voice vote.

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ITEM NO. 4 ON CALL: TO NOMINATE AND ELECT MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE.

Tom McCarthy, District 7, moved this item as distributed with the Call, duly seconded.

Tom McCarthy, District 7 and Philip Pires, District 4 nominated Tom McCarthy, District 7, Philip Pires, District 4, Michael Herley, District 10, Brian Farnen District 9 and Eric Newman, District 2 to the SLMC

VOTE: The nominated members of the SLMC were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Messrs. McCarthy and Pires noted that the SLMC will review current assignments for all committees.

ITEM NO. 5 ON CALL: TO HEAR, CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION AS RECOMMENDED BY THE TOWN CLERK: "RESOLVED, THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TOWN CHARTER AND STATE FILING RULES, THE REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING HOLD THEIR REGULAR MEETINGS FOR THE YEAR 2017 ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

January 30	April 3, 4, 5, and 24	July 24	October 23
February 27	May 1 & 22	August 28	November 27*
March 27	June 26	September 25	December 18

(*Annual Organizational Meeting; no other items to be discussed.)

Tom McCarthy, District 1 moved this item as distributed with the Call, duly seconded.

AMENDMENT: Phil Pires, District 4 moved to remove the asterisk from the November 27th meeting, duly seconded.

Mr. Pires explained this notation on the meeting date deviates from past practice in the scheduling of meetings of the Body when other discussions did take place during the organizational meetings. An item can be held over if necessary.

Ed Bateson, District 1 noted that this item had caught his eye because the meeting on November 27th 2017 will be different from other meetings in that it will be the first time new members are seated after the November Elections. In his experience as a former majority leader this is generally a difficult meeting as new members need be acclimated to the procedures of the RTM, which can be difficult for the two party leaders. Mr. Bateson said that he would not support this amendment for this one time but that it would be appropriate to allow other business to be discussed during the midterm meeting of this Body.

Josh Garskof, District 5 asked if it was possible to appeal to the Town Administration to hold any pending matters until the following meeting, however should there be some matter which is urgent it should be addressed by the RTM.

First Selectman Michael Tetreau agreed that it would be a good idea to hold any items that were not urgent until the following regular meeting. He also suggested that Mr. Bateson had made a good point regarding possible new members needing time to be brought up to speed. Mr. Tetreau suggested researching past organizational meetings to see if there had been any important issues brought before the

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Body during those meetings. Mr. Tetreau noted that the Body has the right to table any discussion it does not feel comfortable in resolving at any meeting.

Michael Herley, District 10 questioned whether the First Selectman meant that the Body should amend the calendar as proposed or to research past meetings to see how business was conducted at the organizational meetings of elections years, and to look at those agendas. Mr. Herley stated that he recalled an instance in an organizational meeting where the party leadership had to set a committee of the whole Body. He then asked if the Town Attorney would be able to speak to postponing a scheduled meeting. Mr. Lesser deferred to the Town Clerk, Betsy Browne.

Mrs. Browne explained the statutory requirement that the RTM schedule of meetings had to be on file in her office by January 31st. She recalled that a collective bargaining agreement was on the agenda for an organizational meeting because the clock had started for approval.

Mr. Herley asked Mrs. Browne if the RTM could change the calendar once it was voted on. Mrs. Browne replied that once the calendar was set a special meeting could be scheduled. Moderator Iacono stated that a special meeting did not need to be held on the same night as a calendared meeting.

Mr. Herley stated that he would not support the amendment.

Heather Dean, District 3 stated new members are trained prior to being seated as members of the RTM, and that this year has been unusual in that the Body has only met 6 times. She noted that both parties have great leaders whom she feels will be able to step up and help any new members become conversant with the duties and obligations of membership in the RTM.

Bill Gerber, District 2 advised that in 2013 the Body had discussed the Penfield Pavilion at the organizational meeting, and in 2012 there was discussion of replacing a roof. Mr. Gerber advised that in 2017 there will be a new teachers contract to consider.

Dru Georgiadis, District 9 stated that she supports this amendment, but questioned whether a one week delay will make a real difference in the ability of new members to understand complex issues.

Moderator Iacono noted that she had worked with the Town Clerk on the proposed calendar and suggested that Committee meetings and a special meeting the following week can be scheduled to make the process better for everyone.

Mr. Bateson stated that he is amenable to adding a meeting and stressed that the committee setting is extremely important for new members.

Brian Farnen, District 9 stated that he did not have strong feelings about the amendment, but if it failed he felt that there should be both organizational and committee meetings.

Ken Lee, District 9 noted that he was not confused at his first meeting.

Peter Ambrose, District 1 said he was in favor of the proposed amendment but felt it was not necessary to legislate the issue as there was enough talent in the Body to work out any potential issue.

At 8:35 PM the Moderator asked for a 5 minute recess.

The meeting reconvened at 8:40 PM.

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VOTE: The motion to eliminate the asterisk (in order to conduct regular business at the organizational meeting) on November 27 was approved with 34 in favor and 4 opposed (Bateson, McCullough, Iacono, Herley).

VOTE: The amended calendar was approved by unanimous voice vote.

ITEM NO. 6 ON CALL: TO HEAR, CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN: "RESOLVED, THAT THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD SELL THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS 2164 FAIRFIELD BEACH ROAD TO ROSARIO DEVICO AND ANTOINETTE DEVICO FOR THE SUM OF \$55,000 AS MORE PARTICULARLY SET FORTH IN REAL ESTATE SALES AGREEMENT BETWEEN SAID PARTIES."

Liz Zezima, District 4 moved this item as distributed with the Call, duly seconded.

AMENDMENT: Ed Bateson, District 1 moved to add the following sentence to the end of the resolution: "Proceeds from this sale shall be deposited in the H. Smith Richardson Conservation Trust Fund", duly seconded.

Mr. Bateson said his intent is to restore funds to the H. Smith Richardson Conservation Trust fund after funds had been used from that source last year to purchase property on the same street last year.

VOTE: The amendment was approved by unanimous voice vote.

VOTE: The item passed with 36 in favor and 2 opposed (Bateson, Fattibene)

ITEM NO. 7 ON CALL: TO HEAR CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE: "RESOLVED, THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH A REQUEST FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, THE FIRST SELECTMAN BE, AND HEREBY IS, AUTHORIZED, ON THE BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD, TO EXPEND UP TO \$300,000 TO FUND A SMALL TOWN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROJECT (STEAP) ENTITLED FAIRFIELD CENTER DRAINAGE AND PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS, ONE HUNDRED PERCENT OF SAID PROJECT COST TO BE REIMBURSED BY A SMALL TOWN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROJECT (STEAP) GRANT."

Heather Dean, District 3 moved this item as distributed with the Call, duly seconded.

VOTE: This item was approved by unanimous voice vote.

ITEM NO. 8 ON CALL: TO HEAR, CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE: "RESOLVED THAT MICHAEL C. TETREAU, FIRST SELECTMAN OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD, BE, AND HEREBY IS, AUTHORIZED TO EXPEND IN THE NAME OF AND ON THE BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD UP TO \$164,025 TO PURCHASE FIREFIGHTER SAFETY EQUIPMENT AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE EQUIPMENT, NINETY PERCENT OF SAID COST TO BE REIMBURSED BY A FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT (AFG) (\$149,114); AND FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT THE FIRST SELECTMAN IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED, ON BEHALF OF THE

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TOWN OF FAIRFIELD, TO ACCEPT SAID GRANT; AND FURTHER RESOLVED , THAT THE FIRST SELECTMAN IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED, ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS TO SECURE SAID GRANT.”

Jennifer Hochberg, District 4 moved this item as distributed with the Call, duly seconded.

VOTE: This item was approved by unanimous voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

Julie Gottlieb, District 4, advised that she is resigning because she needs to spend more time with her family. She noted that her son will soon be leaving home to go to college and that she wants to spend time with him and her husband. Ms. Gottlieb stated that it had been an honor and a privilege to serve the town and to work with the RTM, the Town Boards and Administration. She is proud of what has been accomplished and wished the Body well.

Moderator Iacono thanked Rep. Gottlieb for her service.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth P. Browne, CMC, MCTC
Town Clerk

Recorded by: Frances Daly