

REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING

February 27, 2017

VOTE: Upon motion duly made and seconded the appointments of Andrew C. Becker and Hugh F. Dolan were approved by unanimous voice vote. (M. Ambrose was absent for this vote)

ITEM NO. 5 ON CALL: TO HEAR, CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING REQUEST FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS THAT THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING AS TOWN STREETS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE TOWN PLAN AND ZONING COMMISSION:

Ennis Lane	Michaela Circle	Southport Ridge
Guydan Lane	Oliva Place	Southport Terrace
High Point Lane	Pansy Circle	Stonewall Lane
Mailands Road	Patricia Circle	West Morgan Ave
Meadow Ridge Road	Sconset Drive	Westlea Lane

Jill Vergara, District 7 moved this item as distributed with the Call, duly seconded.

Moderator Iacono indicated that the Town Engineer asked that this item be amended to include streets that were recommended but omitted.

AMENDMENT: Robin Orriss, District 3 moved the following amendment, duly seconded:

That the Town of Fairfield accept the following as Town streets as recommended by the Town Plan and Zoning Commission:

Ash Creek Boulevard	Blue Bell Lane	Cricker Brook Lane
Eastlea Lane	Ennis Lane	Evelyn Street
Fogg Wood Circle	Fulling Mill Lane	Guydan Lane
High Point Lane	Mailands Road	Meadow Ridge Road
Michaela Circle	Midlock Road	Oliva Place
Osborne Lane	Pansy Circle	Patricia Circle
Rolling Hills Drive	Running Brook Circle	Sconset Drive
Sherwood Farm Rd	Southport Ridge	Southport Terrace
Split Rock Road	Springer Road	Still Meadow
Stonewall Lane	Walbin Court	West Morgan Avenue
Westlea Lane		

Heather Dean, District 3 asked if all the streets being added on in the proposed amendment are able to accommodate emergency vehicles and snow plows.

DPW Director Joseph Michealangelo and Bill Hurley, DPW Engineering Manager answered that all streets named in the resolution and the proposed amendment are currently being maintained by the Department of Public Works, and all can support emergency vehicles.

VOTE: The motion to amend the recommended streets to be accepted as Town streets was approved by unanimous voice vote. (M. Ambrose was absent for this vote)

VOTE: The resolution to accept the streets as recommended by the Town Plan & Zoning Commission was approved by unanimous voice vote. (M. Ambrose was absent for this vote).

REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING

February 27, 2017

ITEM NO. 6 ON CALL:

TO HEAR CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE: "WHEREAS A RESOLUTION ENTITLED, 'A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$1,000,000 FOR THE COSTS OF THE TOWNS COMPREHENSIVE LED LIGHTING PROGRAM AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY CONSERVATION MEASURES AND AUTHORIZING THE FUNDING OF SUCH APPROPRIATION' WAS APPROVED BY THE REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING ON DECEMBER 19, 2016; AND WHEREAS, THE TOWN IS ONLY GOING TO RECEIVE A GRANT OF \$269,697 RATHER THAN \$500,000 AND THE TOTAL COST OF THE PROJECT IS NOW \$769,697 RATHER THAN \$1,000,000; NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE RESOLUTION APPROVED BY THE REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING ON DECEMBER 19, 2016, REGARDING THE \$1,000,000 LED LIGHTING PROGRAM IS HEREBY RESCINDED AND A RESOLUTION ENTITLED, 'A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$769,967 FOR THE COSTS OF THE TOWN'S COMPREHENSIVE LED LIGHTING PROGRAM AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY CONSERVATION MEASURES AND AUTHORIZING THE FUNDING OF SUCH APPROPRIATION' BE, AND HEREBY IS APPROVED."

Mary McCullough, District 1 moved this item as distributed with the Call, duly seconded.

VOTE: The resolution as approved by unanimous voice vote. (M. Ambrose was absent for this vote.)

ITEM NO.7 ON CALL:

TO HEAR CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE: "RESOLVED, THAT A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$2,859,433 FOR THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REPLACEMENT OF THE COMMERCE DRIVE/STATE STREET BRIDGE OVER ASH CREEK, AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT TO FUND \$2,759,433 OF SUCH APPROPRIATION AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE \$100,000 OF SUCH APPROPRIATION PROVIDED THAT ACCEPTANCE OF THE GRANT IS CONTINGENT UPON THE TOWN RECEIVING FROM THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT ITS COMMITMENT TO MAKE THE REQUIRED CONTRIBUTION FOR THE DESIGN PHASE,' BE, AND HEREBY IS, APPROVED."

Josh Garskof, District 5 moved this item as distributed with the Call, duly seconded.

VOTE: This item was approved by unanimous voice vote. (M. Ambrose was absent for this vote.)

ITEM NO.8 ON CALL:

TO HEAR, CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE: "RESOLVED THAT A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$2,003,000 FOR THE COSTS OF CERTAIN NONRECURRING CAPITAL PROJECTS AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION' BE, AND HEREBY IS APPROVED."

Robin Orriss, District 3 moved this item as distributed with the Call, duly seconded.

Moderator Iacono noted this was the 20-year bond issue.

REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING

February 27, 2017

Heather Dean, District 3 asked that Mike Jehle from the Fairfield Museum give a written report in 90 days as to the Burr Mansion renovation and to be present at the June meeting to answer questions the Body may have.

DPW Director Joe Michelangelo reported that construction is nearly complete from the STEAP grant and should be able to close out in about 90 days.

Thomas McCarthy, District 7, asked where the proceeds from events at the Burr mansion were deposited and what the projected payback period to the Town for improvements to the Mansion were expected to be.

First Selectman Tetreau stated that all funds collected by activities at the Burr Mansion go to the Fairfield Museum, where it is kept separate for maintenance for the mansion. Mr. Tetreau stated that historically the mansion has been operating at a deficit due to deferred maintenance, and that the improvements to the mansion will result in greater rental income which in turn will make the Burr Mansion self-sufficient.

Peter Tallman, District 8, questioned if the hope is that the capital improvements made will lead to 150 events per year at the mansion. He questioned a \$2 million figure. Mr. Tetreau noted that the \$2 million came from a projected overall economic impact study.

Mike Jehle, Fairfield Museum Director confirmed the \$2 million was from an overall economic impact report projection and not rental income. The improved property would generate about \$300,000 per year in rental income.

Tom McCarthy, District 7, asked what the payback period would be for the money spent on improvements to the mansion. Mr. Jehle responded that he expects it be about 7 years.

Brian Farnen, District 9, stated that he is struggling with the need to allocate this money during these tough economic times. Mr. Jehle noted that the emergency funding allowed \$600,000 to be leveraged.

Michael Herley, District 10, noted that he disagrees with capital non-recurring items being considered outside the Town budget particularly now with what is happening with the state budget.

VOTE: This item passed with 33 in favor and 2 opposed (Farnen, Perugini)

ITEM NO.9 ON CALL:

TO HEAR, CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE: "RESOLVED THAT A RESOLUTION ENTITLED 'A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$335,000 FOR THE COSTS OF CERTAIN NONRECURRING CAPITAL PROJECTS AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION,' BE, AND HEREBY IS APPROVED."

Ronald Pine, District 3 moved this item as distributed with the Call, duly seconded.

VOTE: This item was approved by unanimous voice vote.

ITEM NO.10 ON CALL:

TO HEAR, CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE: "RESOLVED, THAT A RESOLUTION ENTITLED 'THE BOND RESOLUTION ENTITLED 'A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$2,275,000 FOR THE COSTS OF CERTAIN NONRECURRING CAPITAL PROJECTS AND

REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING

February 27, 2017

AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION' BE, AND HEREBY IS APPROVED."

Mark McDermott, District 7, moved this item as distributed with the Call, duly seconded.

MOTION: Hannah Gale, District 6 moved to reduce this item by \$1,250,000 to repair the turf fields, duly seconded.

Ms. Gale explained she has become aware of an EPA study which is ongoing regarding the potential health risks caused by the use crumb rubber. She felt the Body had a moral imperative to consider possible public health issues before voting on this item, and, given that her understanding was that the EPA's study results were expected in the summer of 2017, she asked to have the Body wait until the results were made public before proceeding with the replacement of these two fields.

Peter Tallman, District 8 said the material has been around for 15 years. No study has shown any link between tis surface and a health risk.

Parks & Recreation Director Anthony Calabrese said that currently the alternatives have not been around enough for testing.

Mr. Tallman stated that he had been on the Warde field and was appalled at its condition, stating that he is greatly concerned about the safety of the athletes who use the fields.

Mr. Calabrese noted that the Town plan is to bid out the work on the tennis courts as well as the two fields to be replaced this summer.

Mr. Tallman said the resources that we rely on – the coaches, the athletic directors at the schools, do not have concerns about this. Only 5 municipalities out of 39,000 have banned it.

Jill Vergara, District 7 noted that crumb rubber is categorized as a hazardous waste, and feels as though there is a tidal change coming which will view this material as something like asbestos. She visited the fields in question and found that they were in very poor shape, but is worried about the potential harm kids could have using these fields in the condition they are in, and so cannot support the amendment.

Jay Wolk, District 5 asked if the life expectancy of these turf fields is 5-10 years, could they be replaced if the EPA should find that they are unsafe. Mr. Calabrese indicated they could be replaced. Mr. Wolk said he would vote against the motion since they could be addressed at that time.

Bill Perugini, District 9, acknowledged that all the scientific research has not shown any level 1 peer reviewed evidence that crumb rubber does cause health risks.

Michael Herley, District 10, stated that since there were 2 members of the Board of Selectmen present, he asked in light of the discussion before the Body, would they change their votes on replacing the fields if the issue came before them tonight.

First Selectman Tetreau stated that the risk of injury to a participant in a game on these fields was so high, and the lack of any study showing public health risks would lead him to still vote to replace the fields.

Mr. Herley stated that he agreed with the First Selectman and would vote against the motion.

REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING

February 27, 2017

Heather Dean, District 3, applauded Rep. Gale's concern for the student athletes and coaches. The Body's past practices had been to consider the safety and wellbeing of its school children where toxic materials are concerned, and that being the case, she could not support the proposed amendment.

Carol Way, District 4, asked Mr. Calabrese if it were possible to plant natural turf on the playing fields instead of the crumb rubber. Mr. Calabrese stated that no one in the state has gone from artificial turf to grass, and that there are zero natural turf fields in the FCIAC. He could not guarantee that a natural turf field would be any safer than the artificial turf.

Ms. Gale stated that she appreciated everyone's opinion, but noted that there are carcinogens in recycled rubber tires.

Ms. Vergara asked that the material be tested for lead prior to installation to which Mr. Calabrese answered that the test would be done right from the start.

Sara Evans, 63 Fox Street spoke in favor of the motion.

VOTE: The motion to reduce the bond resolution by \$1,250,000 failed with 3 in favor (Gale, McCullough, M. Ambrose), 29 against and 1 abstention. Mr. Durrell was not present to vote.

The discussion was then directed to the main item of this resolution, the dredging of the marina.

George Herrington, 93 Rolling Ridge Road spoke in favor of the dredging.

Bill stated that he is convinced that the emergency response boats are able to safely get out of the marina to respond to any distress call, but asked if Mr. Michelangelo could inform the Body about the dredging of the channel into the marina.

Mr. Michelangelo stated that the filling in of the channel with silt on the eastern side (Ash Creek) has caused conditions where in cases of extreme low tide there is only a depth of three feet causing inbound boats to have to wait for outbound boats to clear the channel. The last time the channel was dredged was in the late 1980's.

Brian Farnen, District 9, said he cannot support this project until he knows what is happening in the State budget.

Jay Wolk, District 5, asked if this was not done now how long could the Town safely delay the dredging of the channel to which Mr. Michelangelo responded that the Town is looking to complete this work next winter. The longer it is delayed would cause more boats to be unable to use the marina, a one lane channel and a size restriction on boats using the channel.

Mark McDermott, District 7, noted that this is a safety issue and that marina fees could be increased.

Ronald Pine, District 3, stated that the marina is a real gem in town. He noted that a sailboat ran aground in the middle of the channel this past July 4th holiday; it's a safety issue that needs to be addressed.

VOTE: The bond resolution was approved with This item was approved with 29 in favor, 1 opposed (Gale), 2 abstentions (Farnen, Herley). (McCullough and M. Ambrose were not present to vote).

REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING

February 27, 2017

ITEM NO.11 ON CALL:

THE MODERATOR HAS REFERRED AMENDMENTS TO THE NOISE ORDINANCE, CHAPTER 78 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD, SPONSORED BY RAY NEUBERGER, DISTRICT 6; BRIAN FARNEN, DISTRICT 9; WILLIAM PERUGINI, DISTRICT 9; AND SAMUEL CARGILL, DISTRICT 10, TO THE LEGISLATION AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE, UNDER RULE 32 OF THE RTM RULES TO REGULATE.

This item was held in committee.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth P. Browne, CMC, MCTC
Town Clerk

Recorded by: Frances Daly