

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
April 3, 2017**

A meeting of the Town of Fairfield was held on Monday, April 3, 2017 at 7 PM at Penfield Pavilion, Fairfield Beach Road, Fairfield, CT.

The meeting was called to order at 7 PM by Moderator Pamela Iacono.

PRESENT: 34 ABSENT: 6 VACANCY: 0

PRESENT: P. Ambrose, J. Jones, Gerber, Lynch, Newman, Perham, Dean, Durrell, Orriss, Pine, Hochberg, Lopez, Pires, Zezima, Way, Wolk, M. Ambrose, Gale, P. Jones, Neuberger, McCarthy, McDermott, Vergara, Wackerman, Ference, Iacono, Messina, Tallman, Farnen, Georgiadis, Lee, Perugini, Fattibene, Sundman

ABSENT: McCullough, Varian, Garskof, Smey, Cargill, Herley

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

Moderator Iacono asked for a Moment in Silence in honor of Fern “Coach” Tetreau who recently passed away, father of First Selectman Mike Tetreau.

ITEM NO. 2 ON CALL: TO CONSIDER PROPOSED APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR OF JULY 1, 2017 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2018 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE, FOR ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE IN THE AMOUNT TO BE DETERMINED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE.

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

First Selectman Tetreau gave an overview of the budget that sees a \$14.2 million negative impact due to the Governor’s proposed state budget. There are reductions in state aid, ECS grant funding, special ed funding, PILOT and the proposed shift of \$9.2 million in expenses to the Town for State Teachers’ Pension costs. The budget also tries to mitigate the loss of revenue from the sale of GE to SHU. The proposed budget used the best available information possible, however the state budget would be adopted after our budget process has been completed and the mil rate has been set.

1270 LEGAL SERVICES

Phil Pires, District 4 recused himself and left the room.

Moderator Iacono expressed sympathies on behalf of the Body to Attorney Lesser on the passing of his father.

Town Attorney Lesser explained that the budget decreased from \$550,000 to \$452,600 because of few assessment appeals. There was a further reduction to \$414,000

Jill Vergara, District 7 asked if the reduction would affect the Town’s ability to defend itself in litigation to which Attorney Lesser said it should not.

Mr. Pires returned to the meeting at this time.

REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING

April 3, 2017

1330 HUMAN RESOURCES

HR Director Emmett Hibson explained the budget decrease by consolidating budget lines from 13 to 9 resulting in a 2.52% reduction.

1010 FIRST SELECTMAN

The fees & professional services budget of \$3,000 has been reduced to 0 by the BOF.

Dru Georgiadis, District 9 questioned the payroll increase. First selectman Tetreau explained an employee was reclassified who does significant work with the Town website and IT services and helped with the website software and constituent concerns software package.

Tom McCarthy, District 7 asked if this changes headcount in the IT Department to which Mr. Tetreau noted this is the most cost effective option right now.

1040 FAIRTV

McKay Jameson noted that FairTV has been improved significantly with a strategic plan and improved digital capabilities. This year's budget reflects a 5% decrease.

1070 REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

ROV Matthew Waggner indicated this is a local election year so there will be a reduction in poll workers. Tom McCarthy questioned the increase in part time payroll to which Mr. Waggner indicated it is for the salary increases for the two registrars that was approved by the BOS.

Dru Georgiadis what travel expenses are incurred and what affect the BOF cut would have. Mr. Waggner said they work with the HR Department to use a pool car for travel.

Pamela Iacono, District 8 questioned the training and utilization of the deputy registrars. ROV Steve Elworthy said the deputies need to be certified like the registrars, but they are trying to keep expenses down. Mr. Waggner noted it takes 2 years to be certified. Ms. Iacono suggested utilizing the deputies more in the office so they are exposed to various election procedures and to reign in the overtime costs.

1110 TOWN PLAN & ZONING

Jim Wendt explained the postage increase because of the new FEMA program requirements which will be an expense going forward.

1230 CONSERVATION

Conservation Director Brian Carey explained the department reorganized how it does some things resulting in a 12% budget decrease.

Ken Lee, District 9 questioned the maintenance budget reduction. Mr. Carey explained the reduction was due to the discontinuation of the USGS maintenance in the Rooster River; the historical data is still available.

REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING

April 3, 2017

Mark McDermott, District 7 questioned the elimination of the crewman position. Mr. Carey said the department is maintenance intensive. The request for the position may come back in the future.

Bill Gerber, District 2 asked how the department costs are linked to the applications. Mr. Carey said the inland wetlands program is basically paying for itself. Application fees go to the general fund.

1350 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Dru Georgiadis questioned the potential CDBG revenue loss to which Mr. Barnhart explained that PY43 starts on 10/1 and they have told their recipients not to expect any increased funding. It does not affect the department budget although a position is funded through the CDBG program.

Tom McCarthy asked where the .25 of the administrative assistant position funding comes from to which Mr. Barnhart replied from downtown parking fees that are paid by downtown businesses.

Bill Gerber asked if a market analysis had been done. Mr. Barnhart said the Economic Development Commission is working on a strategic plan and implementation will start next year including enhanced marketing.

Alex Durrell, District 3 asked if we are addressing strengthening our relationships with the universities to which Mr. Barnhart said both are members of the tourism & hospitality committee and noted the small business incubator program that the Town partnered with Fairfield U on. Mr. Tetreau said there was a strategic planning session with Fairfield U and they have had ongoing discussions with Sacred Heart University regarding revenue mitigation.

1050 ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Purchasing Director Gerald Foley noted the part-time employees are now in the First Selectman's Office.

3050 ASSESSOR

Deputy Assessor Ken Carvell said fees & professional services decreased 50% due to fewer assessment appeals.

Tom McCarthy asked why there is no salary adjustment for the Assessor position. Mr. Tetreau explained the search is ongoing and the hiring of an Assessor is anticipated.

3090 TAX COLLECTOR

Tax Collector Dave Kluczowski who has been in this position for one month noted the compliments he has received about the self-serve kiosk that takes credit cards and access to DMV and his staff's customer service efforts.

Liz Zezima, District 4 asked what advertising is required for the department. Mr. Kluczowski explained state statutes require legal notices for tax collection periods. Mark McDermott questioned delinquent tax collections. Mr. Kluczowski explained the tax lien sale process. Brian Farnen, District 9 questioned department headcount with technological advances that were made. Mr. Kluczowski said he can review staffing, but they are taking on additional tasks including sewer use and assessment collection.

3110 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING

April 3, 2017

IT Director David Kelly explained the significant reductions in the budget are due to the reduction in Microsoft licensing costs transitioning to a maintenance payment and a non-recurring funding to replace the data storage systems. Tom McCarthy asked when servers and PCs would be replaced. Mr. Kelly said servers are replaced on a 7-year cycle and PC's on a 5-year cycle. Servers are virtualized and cloud usage vs. servers is 50/50.

Pam Jones, District 6 questioned the IT software and Communications line items. Mr. Kelly explained the reduction is for the maintenance cost only going forward. IT pays for shared software through its budget such as MUNIS while department specific packages are paid from the individual departments. The communications line item is for phones and metro area communications.

7050 PARKS & RECREATION

Interim Recreation Director Anthony Calabrese said this budget is status quo. Dru Georgiadis asked about the funds budgeted for improvements at Sherman. Mr. Calabrese said there was talk about re-doing the bus loop and reworking the field. Joe Michelangelo said the project was part of the CIP and would be done this summer.

Mark McDermott asked if all organizations are paying the field rental fees that were increased to which Mr. Calabrese replied affirmatively.

Mr. Calabrese gave an overview of the revolving fund in response to Ms. Vergara.

Robin Orriss, District 3 asked what is included in fees & professional services to which Mr. Calabrese replied fireworks, Memorial Day parade and Sherman Green concerts. He noted this line has been reduced as they have been securing sponsorships for the concerts.

7070 WATERFRONT & MARINA

In response to several questions from the Body, Mr. Calabrese and Scott Walker, Parks & Commission Chair explained that the commission voted against increasing the marina fees this year because they have increased them a number of years in a row. Beach fees were increased but not the senior rate.

Several members of the Body felt it is necessary to increase the marina fees so we are competitive with other area marinas while others do not want it to be priced too high that the marina is for the "elite". The Commission also has to be cognizant of the multi-year wait for a slip and be responsive to supply and demand. In response to Ken Lee, it was noted that slips are only for Fairfield residents.

7113 H SMITH RICHARDSON GOLF COURSE

Jay Wolk, District 5 asked about any reductions to the maintenance budget. Messrs. Calabrese and Grace explained the budget has already been cut \$80,000 and the mower was already cut.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business this evening the meeting will reconvene tomorrow at 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING

April 3, 2017

Elizabeth P. Browne, CMC, MCTC
Town Clerk