

REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING

June 26, 2017

ITEM NO. 6 ON CALL: REAPPOINTMENTS OF DAVID G. BOTHWELL; JANICE I. CARPENTER AND LORETTA JAY TO THE ETHICS COMMISSION

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

VOTE: The reappointments of David G. Bothwell, Janice L. Carpenter and Loretta Jay were approved by unanimous voice vote. (Messrs. Sundman and M. Ambrose were absent for this vote.)

ITEM NO. 7 ON CALL: APPROVAL OF LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD AND OPERATION HOPE FOR CONTINUED USE OF THE PROPERTY AT 50 NICHOLS STREET FROM MAY 15, 2017 TO MAY 14, 2027 FOR THE HOMELESS AND AUTHORIZATION OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN TO EXECUTE SAME

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

VOTE: The approval of the lease agreement between the Town of Fairfield and Operation Hope for the continued use of the property at 50 Nichols Street was approved by unanimous voice vote. (Messrs. Sundman and M. Ambrose were absent for this vote).

ITEM NO. 8 ON CALL: APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED UNDER THE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE ACT (NAA) PROGRAM

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

VOTE: The Neighborhood Assistance Act was approved by unanimous voice vote. (Messrs. Sundman and M. Ambrose were absent for this vote).

ITEM NO. 9 ON CALL: APPROVAL OF PROGRAM YEAR 43 (OCTOBER 1, 2017 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2018) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CBDG) IS HEREBY APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$480,000

Peter Ambrose, District 1, moved this item as distributed with the call, duly seconded.

Director of Community and Economic Development Director Mark Barnhart stated that there was a revision to the grant application which should read that the amount of the grant should be \$460,120, with an income of \$19,880, leaving the total sources remaining at a level of \$480,000.

MOTION: Josh Garskof, District 5 moved to amend the resolution to reflect the aforementioned amounts of the grant and income as described by Mr. Barnhart.

VOTE: The amendment was approved by unanimous voice vote. (Messrs. Sundman and M. Ambrose were absent for this vote.)

VOTE: The approval of the block grant in the amount of \$480,000 was approved by unanimous voice vote. (Messrs. Sundman and M. Ambrose were absent for this vote.)

ITEM NO. 10 ON CALL: AUTHORIZATION OF FIRST SELECTMAN MICHAEL C. TETREAU TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION REQUESTING FUNDING TO DEVELOP A COMPLETE

REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING

June 26, 2017

STREETS IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR SOUTHPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE 2017 RESPONSIBLE GROWTH AND TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT (TOD) GRANT REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Michael Herley, District 10, moved this item as distributed with the Call, duly seconded.

Mr. Herley stated that he would not repeat the thanks he had expressed in subcommittee but wished to advise the Body that he had been able to speak with Senators Murphy and Blumenthal, as well as Congressman Himes, at the Blessing of the Fleet and all of them expressed that they would submit letters of support for this project.

VOTE: The item was approved by unanimous voice vote (Messrs. Sundman and M. Ambrose were absent for this vote.)

ITEM NO. 11 ON CALL: APPROVAL OF PURCHASE OF 2.8 ACRE UNDEVELOPED PARCEL KNOWN AS 5655 PARK AVENUE FROM 5655 PARK AVENUE, BPT, LLC, FOR \$167,500

Peter Ambrose, District 1, moved this item as distributed with the Call, duly seconded.

VOTE: This item was approved by voice vote with 31 in favor and 1 opposed (McCullough) (M. Ambrose was absent for this vote).

ITEM NO. 12 ON CALL: RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (DEEP) TO SECURE A UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 319 NONPOINT SOURCE GRANT IN THE SUM OF \$81,747 TO FUND A PROJECT ENTITLED 'MILL RIVER WATERSHED BASED PLAN/DEVELOPMENT OF WBP & WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAM (16-05)

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

Josh Garskof, District 5, asked about the risks the Town would face if this motion was approved.

Conservation Director Brian Carey said there is little risk and that this will help to improve the watershed.

VOTE: This item was approved by unanimous voice vote.

ITEM NO. 13 ON CALL: TO HEAR, CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE: "RESOLVED, THAT THE BOND APPROPRIATION ENTITLED 'A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$17,300,500 FOR THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE IMPROVEMENT AND RENOVATION OF HOLLAND HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 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.

REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING

June 26, 2017

Alex Durrell, District 3, stated that this proposed renovation of Holland Hill School is an opportunity to make Fairfield a better place. He stated that his 12-year-old daughter had attended the school, using playground equipment placed during the Eisenhower administration and having classes in rooms originally intended to be custodial closets. As the only state-certified teacher on this Body he felt he could assure the members of the importance of this opportunity to rebuild the school. He urged support of the project.

VOTE: This item was approved by unanimous voice vote.

ITEM NO. 14 ON CALL: AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 78-2 OF THE NOISE ORDINANCE

The Moderator noted that this item had been referred back to committee.

ITEM NO. 15 ON CALL: AMENDMENTS TO THE ANIMALS ORDINANCE

The Moderator noted this item was heard in the Legislation and Administration Committee.

ITEM NO. 17 ON CALL: RESOLVED, THAT A CERTAIN CONTRACT NEGOTIATED BY AND BETWEEN THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD AND FAIRFIELD PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES, UNIT 34 OF THE FEDERATION OF NURSES AND HEALTH PROFESSIONALS-CONNECTICUT STATE FEDERATION OF TEACHERS-AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS, AFL-CIO, CONCERNING CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR A PERIOD COMMENCING JULY 1, 2014 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2020 BE, AND HEREBY IS, RATIFIED

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

Tom McCarthy, District 7, noted that he had heard in subcommittee that Human Resources Director Emmett Hibson said his goals had been met in discussions about this contract, and that the nurses had been made whole in retroactive salary. Mr. McCarthy asked the First Selectman if he had shared these goals and thought about accelerating these contracts.

Mr. Tetreau stated that in the negotiation process the total financial package is important. He noted that the contract provided low salary increases in the future.

HR Director Emmet Hibson stated that in contract negotiations, the employer does need to look at the total package in order to be able to determine its cost and what options the employer has. He said that this union's only request was the retroactive salary increase. Mr. Hibson stated that the Town is trying to get contract negotiations resolved more quickly.

Mr. Tetreau added that it is not the Town's goal to get contracts resolved quickly, but to have the Town be in the best negotiating position. He noted that both long- and short-term issues are addressed during negotiations and each side brings its own comparisons.

Peter Ambrose, District 1, stated that the average cost the Town pays for a full-time employee's benefits is \$30,000, and that he thought this is unfair to the taxpayers, and that this cost should be pared down.

Mr. Tetreau answered that he did not think that figure was correct. Mr. Ambrose stated that he had worked out that number by dividing the total cost to the town for employee benefits by the number of full time employees. Mr. Hibson apologized that he had made an error in the calculation information that was provided and that the average full time employees benefit package was closer to \$22,000.

REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING

June 26, 2017

Carol Way, District 5, stated she had questioned what happened to benefits when a part-time employee becomes full time during the committee presentation. She stated that in 2013 that Town changed from a defined benefits plan to a 401(a) plan, and she wanted to be assured that in future no part-time employee would be able to go into a defined benefit plan, as Ms. Way felt that would be establishing a precedent. She asked Mr. Hibson if he had come up with a solution to this scenario.

Mr. Hibson replied that there are some part-time employees who, because of their length of service are granted rights by collective bargaining agreements if they should become full-time employees that are not granted to brand new hires. He stated that in the Public Health Nurses bargaining unit there is only one person who meets this criteria. Mr. Hibson explained that the language in the contract between the Town and this union does not exclude someone who changes from part-time to full-time employment from being eligible for benefits based on their longevity.

Ms. Way asked Mr. Hibson if he was stating that it is mentioned in the Town employees contracts that there is a right granted to part-time employees. Mr. Hibson replied that this is a right granted to nurses only, and that it is found in Article 15, Section 15.07 stating that both full- and part-time nurses who have continuous service are granted longevity.

The Moderator asked for a clarification if the part-time longevity counted, and Mr. Hibsen stated that he had researched this question and found that it does count.

Denise Gilbain spoke in favor of the contract.

VOTE: The Public Health Nurses' contract was approved with 22 in favor and 11 opposed (J. Jones, McCullough, Varian, Orriss, Way, McCarthy, Iacono, Tallman, Farnen, Cargill, Fattibene).

New Business:

Phil Pires, District 4, noted that Reps. Herley and Farnen are now co-sponsoring the animal ordinance amendment.

Alex Durrell, District 3, apologized to Rep. Dean for misspeaking, and noted that she is also a state certified teacher.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth P. Browne, CMC, MCTC
Town Clerk

Recorded by: Frances Daly