

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
October 25, 2017

A meeting of the Town of Fairfield was held on Monday, October 25, 2017 at 8 PM at the Education Center, 501 Kings Highway East, Fairfield.

The meeting was called to order at 8:01 PM by Moderator Pamela Iacono.

PRESENT: 35 ABSENT: 5 VACANCY: 0

PRESENT: P. Ambrose, J. Jones, McCullough, Varian, Gerber, Newman, Perham, Dean, Durrell, Orriss, Pine, Hochberg, Kelly, Lopez, Garskof, Smey, Way, Wolk, Gale, P. Jones, Neuberger, McCarthy, McDermott, Vergara, Wackerman, Ference, Iacono, Messina, Tallman, Farnen, Lee, Cargill, Fattibene, Herley, Sundman

ABSENT: Lynch, Pires, M. Ambrose, Georgiadis, Perugini

ITEM NO. 1 ON CALL: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Moderator Iacono led the Pledge of Allegiance. Moderator Iacono asked all to observe a moment of silence in remembrance of Bob Frigo, member of the Affordable Housing Commission and Sandy Mulligan, former member of the Board of Education.

ITEM NO. 2 ON CALL: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2017.

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

Josh Garskof, District 5 moved to correct Item 11 to reflect his affirmative vote on the amendment, duly seconded.

The amended minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

ITEM NO. 3 ON CALL: JOINT RETIREMENT INVESTMENT BOARD REPORT

This report was heard in committee.

ITEM NO. 4 ON CALL: TO HEAR, CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN: "RESOLVED, THAT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH A REQUEST FROM THE TOWN ATTORNEY, CERTAIN AMENDMENTS BE, AND HEREBY ARE, MADE TO THE FOLLOWING CELL TOWER LEASES: CELLCO PARTNERSHIP D/B/A AS VERIZON WIRELESS 3965 CONGRESS ST, T-MOBLIE MORTHEAST, LLC 100 REEF RD; SPRINT SPECTRUM REALTY COMPANY LLC 100 REEF RD, NEW CINGULAR WIRELESS PCS, LLC 100 REEF RD".

Karen Wackerman, District 7 moved this item as distributed with the call, duly seconded.

Peter Tallman, District 8, requested clarification from the Town Attorney, Stanton Lesser' regarding the leases is 55 per year. Attorney Lesser replied that the increase is 5% of the prior year so it is compounded.

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VOTE: This item passed by unanimous voice vote.

ITEM NO. 5 ON CALL: TO HEAR, CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS TO THE H. SMITH RICHARDSON CLUBHOUSE BUILDING COMMITTEE AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN: EDNA A. ALBRECHT (D), 323 OLD MILL ROAD, CHRISTOPHER C. COCOTAS (D), 122 OLDFIELD DRIVE, CRAIG A. CURLEY (R), 109 LAKEWOOD DRIVE, DONALD C. DIMARTINO (R), 84 SUNSET CIRCLE, FRANK T. GEIGER (U), 301 ADLEY ROAD, TAMARA L. GUARINO (U), 176 BRION DRIVE, JEFFREY T. HENDRICKSON (U), 1982 MERWINS LANE, KIMBERLY L. MARSHALL (D), 180 BROOKBEND ROAD, BRIAN J. NERREAU (R), 105 MOUNTAIN LAUREL ROAD, HAROLD G. SCHWARTZ (D), 400 EASTFIELD DRIVE, JACK SLANE (D), 35 BAILEY ROAD

The Moderator made a motion to take no action on this item in order to have a discussion. Thomas McCarthy, District 7 so moved this item, duly seconded.

Brian Farnen, District 9, thanked all of the individuals who volunteered to serve on this building committee. He stated that he thought this issue would be best handled in the next term by the new RTM, and also that he thought having a presentation on the scope of the project would be helpful.

Bill Gerber, District 2, stated that he had been examining last year's budget, and noted that the Town received between 400 and 640 thousand dollars in income from the H. Smith Richardson golf course, He stated that he thought this is a very important asset that the Town should take steps to preserve. Mr. Gerber said that the clubhouse hasn't been renovated in more than 50 years, but that he does agree with Mr. Farnen that since this issue came to committee without a presentation there is more information needed before action can be taken.

Thomas McCarthy, District 7 stated that while there are a great number of qualified candidates he would like to see a committee which is more bipartisan.

Moderator Iacono asked that the minutes reflect her request that the First Selectman and the Director of Parks & Recreation wait until the December meeting to bring this item back to the RTM, as the November RTM meeting is an organizational meeting.

Hannah Gale, District 6, requested information from the Golf Commission and Town Facilities Commission as well as a business plan. She stated that she is looking to the Boards of Selectmen and Finance to obtain this information before returning to the RTM.

The Moderator noted that there is a lot of information about this project which needs to be vetted before it is brought to the RTM.

VOTE: The motion to take no action was approved by unanimous voice vote.

ITEM NO. 6 ON CALL: TO CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE: "WHEREAS, IT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD TO EXPEND A TOTAL OF \$81,258 OVER A THREE YEAR PERIOD ON ENGINE MAINTENANCE COSTS ON THE 33' SAFEBOAT DEFENDER, \$60,994 OF SAID COSTS TO BE FUNDED BY A GRANT AVAILABLE UNDER THE FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT

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PROGRAM (PSGP) AND A TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT MATCH FROM THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE FIRST SELECTMAN MICHAEL TETREAU BE, AND HEREBY IS, AUTHORIZED TO ACCEPT IN THE NAME OF AND ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD A FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$60,994; AND

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

FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT \$81,258 IS HEREBY APPROPRIATED TO FUND SAID MAINTENANCE AND PURCHASES.”

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

Doug Jones, asked where the appropriation is coming from to which Moderator Iacono reminded him that the RTM does not entertain questions from the public.

VOTE: This item was approved by unanimous voice vote.

ITEM NO. 7 ON CALL:

TO CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE: WHEREAS, THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN ACCEPTED A FEDERALLY FUNDED ONE HUNDRED PERCENT REIMBURSABLE DISASTER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG-DR) IN A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$300,000 IN ORDER TO UNDERTAKE A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT-DISASTER RECOVERY-TRANCHE 2 PROJECT ENTITLED PINE CREEK DIKE ELEVATION PLANNING PROJECT ON FEBRUARY 3, 2016; AND

WHEREAS, SAID PROJECT IS EXPERIENCING DELAYS DUE TO CO-FUNDER U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS' INABILITY TO COMMIT TO FUNDING FIFTY PERCENT OF THE PROJECT COSTS; AND

WHEREAS, THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING (DOH) HAS REVIEWED THE TOWN'S REQUEST TO TRANSFER SAID GRANT FUNDS TO THE RIVERSIDE DRIVE COASTAL RESILIENCY AND FLOOD MITIGATION PROJECT AND IS WILLING TO GRANT SAID TRANSFER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$300,000;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD IS COGNIZANT OF THE CONDITIONS AND PREREQUISITES FOR STATE ASSISTANCE IMPOSED BY PART VI OF CHAPTER 130 OF THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES; AND THE ACCEPTANCE BY THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD OF A DISASTER RECOVERY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT TO BE USED AS ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE RIVERSIDE DRIVE COASTAL RESILIENCY AND FLOOD MITIGATION PROJECT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$300,000 IS HEREBY APPROVED; AND

FURTHER RESOLVED THAT FIRST SELECTMAN MICHAEL TETREAU BE, AND HEREBY IS, AUTHORIZED TO ACCEPT IN THE NAME OF AND ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD SAID GRANT;

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

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FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT AN ADDITIONAL \$300,000 IS HEREBY APPROPRIATED TO SAID PROJECT.”

Karen Wackerman, District 7 moved this item as distributed with call, duly seconded.

Eric Sundman, District 10, stated that many residents of the Pine Creek/Old Dam area were disappointed that more flood protection for the neighborhood was not included.

VOTE: This item was approved by unanimous voice vote.

ITEM NO. 8 ON CALL:

TO CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS TO THE ANIMALS ORDINANCE, CHAPTER 48 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD, SPONSORED BY HEATHER DEAN, DISTRICT 3, JENNIFER HOCHBERG, DISTRICT 4, PHILIP PIRES, DISTRICT 4, BRIAN FARNEN, DISTRICT 9 AND MICHAEL HERLEY, DISTRICT 10:

§ 48-1 REMOVAL OF FECES REQUIRED.

IT SHALL BE UNLAWFUL FOR ANY PERSON OR PERSONS OWNING, KEEPING OR HAVING CARE, CUSTODY OR CONTROL OF ANY DOG TO ALLOW OR PERMIT SUCH ANIMAL TO DEFECATE ON ANY PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNED BY ANOTHER PERSON, OR CONDOMINIUM COMMON ELEMENTS OR ANY TOWN PROPERTY WHATSOEVER, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO PARKS AND SCHOOL GROUNDS, UNLESS SUCH PERSON SHALL IMMEDIATELY REMOVE ALL FECES SO DEPOSITED BY SUCH ANIMAL **AND DISPOSE OF SAME IN A PROPER MANNER.**

§ 48-2 EXCEPTIONS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE SHALL NOT APPLY TO A GUIDE **OR SERVICE** DOG ASSISTING A BLIND, HEARING IMPAIRED OR MOBILITY- IMPAIRED OR DISABLED PERSON.

§ 48-3 PENALTIES FOR OFFENSES.

EACH VIOLATION OF § 48-1 OF THIS ARTICLE SHALL BE PUNISHABLE BY A FINE OF \$~~25~~ **100.**

This item was moved by Heather Dean, District 3 and duly seconded.

VOTE: This item was approved by unanimous voice vote.

ITEM NO. 9 ON CALL:

TO CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION RECOMMENDED BY THE FIRST SELECTMAN:“RESOLVED, THAT A CERTAIN MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT NEGOTIATED BY AND BETWEEN THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD AND THE COMMUNICATION WORKERS OF AMERICA, AFL-CIO (ECC) CONCERNING CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR THE PERIOD COMMENCING JULY 1, 2014 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2019 BE, AND HEREBY IS RATIFIED.”

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

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Carol Way, District 5 questioned the length of time that contract negotiations take. Ms. Way stated that in essence a 2% salary increase is actually more than it seems to be because the increase is retroactive while the employees' contribution to their health insurance is not retroactive.

Emmet Hibson, Director of Human Resources stated that there is no offset to the 2% increase.

Tom McCarthy, District 7 stated that if the pay increase is retroactive then the medical contribution should be as well and should be reflected in future negotiations.

Michael Herley, District 10 noted there is great respect for the employees who are covered by this contract. He also asked if everyone in the room were better off financially than they were two years ago, as he feels he is not better off. He stated that the challenges in Hartford have hurt the Town and that the Town's negotiators need to work harder to secure a better labor agreement.

Moderator Iacono stated that she was not in favor of this contract because of the retroactive salary increase without a retroactive health insurance contribution, though she noted that this class of employees is underpaid compared to other municipalities and perhaps a salary survey is in order.

Kevin Scrobolla, representative for CWA (Communication Workers of America) 1103 read a statement in support of this contract.

Representative Jay Wolk, District 5 stated that he was in favor of this contract. He thanked all the dispatchers who were in the audience for their service to the Town.

VOTE: The item passed with 24 in favor and 11 opposed (McCarthy, Varian, Tallman, McCullough, Way, Iacono, Herley, J. Jones, Fattibene, Farnen, P. Ambrose)

NEW BUSINESS

Moderator Iacono recognized the following members who are not seeking re-election and thanked them for their dedication: Mary McCullough, John Jones, Ron Pine, Paul Fattibene, and Ken Lee.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth P. Browne, CMC, MCTC
Town Clerk

Recorded by: Frances M. Daly