

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
April 5, 2018**

A meeting of the Town of Fairfield was held on Thursday, April 5, 2018 at 7 PM at Penfield Pavilion, Fairfield Beach Road, Fairfield, CT.

The meeting was called to order at 7 PM by Moderator Phil Pires.

PRESENT: 31 ABSENT: 9 VACANCY: 0

PRESENT: P. Ambrose, Lefkowitz, Lopez, Perham, Dean, Durrell, Jacobs, Pistilli, Kelly, Pires, Spolyar, Siebert, Smey, Berecz, Gale, Havey, Bove, McDermott, Vergara, Wackerman, Berchem, Iacono, Messina, Tallman, Farnen, Georgiadis, Herron, Horton, Cargill, Herley, Petise

ABSENT: Bateson, Varian, Gerber, Newman, O'Reilly, Garskof, M. Ambrose, Sundman

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

ITEM NO. 2 ON CALL: TO CONSIDER PROPOSED APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR OF JULY 1, 2018 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2019 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE, FOR ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE IN THE AMOUNT TO BE DETERMINED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE.

2130 PEQUOT LIBRARY

Executive Director Stephanie Coakley said Town funding is 28% of the operating budget. In response to Sam Cargill, District 10 Ms. Coakley explained the economic impact the thousands of visitors to the library, the book sale and musical events have on the businesses and restaurants in town.

2250 FAIRFIELD MUSEUM & HISTORY CENTER

Mike Jehle read a prepared statement; the museum has 37,000 visitors annually as well as 7,000 students. The economic benefit is approximately \$80,000 spend in town.

Phil Pires, District 4 asked if the upswing in visitors is because of capital improvements to which Mr. Jehle concurred especially with the reopening of the Sun Tavern. P. Ambrose, District 1 commended Mr. Jehle and his staff for their hard work and their recent award from the state.

Mark McDermott, District 7 inquired about the status of the kitchen renovation at the Burr Mansion. Mr. Jehle explained when it went out to bid the bids came in higher than the funding available; there were some grey areas regarding the HVAC, but he is confident the project will get back on track in the next several weeks.

6010 HEALTH

Health Director Sands Cleary noted the increases in payroll, fuel and the substitute nurse line.

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Nancy Lefkowitz, District 1 asked if there is anything we are not able to do because of funding. Mr. Cleary said they have been relatively level for the past 10 years. They try to get the department content out through grants and technology.

Dru Georgiadis, District 9 asked if the opioid crisis affects their services. Mr. Cleary said there is no fiscal impact; there are 2 doses of Narcan at each of the schools. The department works with Fairfield Cares. Ms. Georgiadis asked about grief counseling to which Mr. Cleary said that is not a service they provide.

Margaret Horton, District 9 asked if there were plans to expand into mental health or suicide prevention to which Mr. Cleary responded that there is no current initiative.

Pete Tallman, District 8 asked if there was any program to address the anxiety medication crisis, but Mr. Cleary said it is not currently on their radar.

6050 HUMAN & SOCIAL SERVICES

Terry Giegengack read a prepared statement. The overall budget increase is to restore funding for a full time social worker position.

1230 CONSERVATION

Conservation Director Brian Carey explained the increases in payroll and contracted property services wherein they are trying to increase efficiencies.

Pete Ambrose, District 1 complimented the land use departments – Conservation, TPZ & Building for their cooperation and how the permitting process in town is much easier and efficient than other municipalities.

1070 REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

Mr. Waggner explained this is the first year funding primary expenses in the department budget rather than putting the money in contingency.

Dru Georgiadis, District 9 commended Mr. Waggner for his role in the new citizen ceremony she attended.

Nancy Lefkowitz, asked if there were any get out the vote initiatives to which Mr. Elworthy explained those efforts are handled by the parties but they do hope to see an increase in voter participation and registration.

Pamela Iacono, District 8 asked why Overtime increased by 25% to which Mr. Waggner said it was money for the primaries.

5050 BUILDING

Building Official Tom Conley noted how the inspectors are trained in multiple disciplines and that the state will be coming out with a new Building Code which will require additional education and training.

Erin Lopez, District 2 noted that Mr. Conley had indicated that during their busy seasons it can take up to 2 weeks for an inspection and asked if it was due to a need for more staff or the amount of work. Mr.

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Conley said there is a high volume of work particularly at the universities, but they try to get projects going once the foundation is poured. Ms. Lopez asked about the increase in fuel.

Mike Tetreau explained that the departments deal in units of fuel and the Purchasing Department buys it.

Jill Vergara, District 7 asked the percentage of permits for the universities to which Mr. Conley explained that the permit fee is charges based on the value of the job and a fair dollar is received from them.

5011 & 5030 PUBLIC WORKS

Karen Wackerman, District 7 asked how the reduction in funding will impact the paving program. DPW Director Joe Michelangelo said they are using different techniques to extend the life of the roads.

Pamela Iacono, District 8 expressed her disappointment that paving and vehicles were not fully funded. A commitment had been made to no longer bond either program, but they should be funded through the budget.

Lauren Bove, District 7 asked about sick time use to which Mr. Michelangelo said each employee has 12 sick days and feels we have a “healthy” work force. Ms. Bove asked if we are prepared for a 100-year storm. Mr. Michelangelo said they are working to make the town more resilient by elevating homes, and hardening the infrastructure in flood zones. When plowing the trucks clear the storm drains to reduce flooding hazards.

Mark McDermott asked what grade he would give the road condition given that the paving budget was reduced significantly. Mr. Michelangelo gave the roads a B-.

Michael Herley, District 10 asked if the State roads were also deteriorating notably the Post Road in Southport. Mr. Michelangelo said anecdotally a lot of streets are not being paved and maintained accordingly.

Dru Georgiadis questioned the increase in utilities FTC by 32% to which Mr. Boman said there are solar panels there but the expansions have increased their utilities significantly.

Sharon Pistilli, District 3 asked about natural gas vehicles and Mr. Boman said Honda & Ford stopped making them.

Nancy Lefkowitz asked if the utility companies can take more responsibility for paving to which Mr. Michelangelo said the help a bit, but they only get a ½ a lane when they patch.

Erin Lopez asked about the 5-year plan. Mr. Michelangelo said there was a plan in which 3 o 4 vehicles would be replaced annually; the program won’t go over the cliff in one year, but it cannot be sustained long term.

Pete Tallman asked if services are subcontracted would that help reduce the wear on the trucks. Mr. Michelangelo said they are keeping the trucks longer and sinking more money into them.

7010 & 7011 – MAIN & BRANCH LIBRARY

The budget increase is due to restoring materials funding.

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7030 PENFIELD PAVILION COMPLEX

7050 PARKS & RECREATION

7070 WATERFRONT & MARINA

Recreation Director Anthony Calabrese explained the budget increase transferring utilities costs from DPW to the Penfield budget.

Steve Berez, District 6 asked if all 6 beaches would be staffed with lifeguards; Mr. Calabrese replied affirmatively but noted South Pine Creek could have reduced hours.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding revenues and fees. There is a push for off-peak programs/events at Penfield such as a comedy night.

Scott Walker, Parks & Recreation Commission Chair explained that marina fees were increased 5% and they are looking at other marinas to see if they are operating in the black or not before they look to increase fees again. The intent is to cover all marina costs including dredging. Non-resident beach parking may have been priced too high as people are parking offsite and walking.

7111 CARL DICKMAN GOLF COURSE

Dorene Herron, District 9 asked if the snow has affected the course opening. Mr. Calabrese said they were open 4 days and they are ahead of last year.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth P. Browne, CMC, MCTC
Town Clerk