

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD  
December 17, 2018**

A meeting of the Town of Fairfield was held on Monday, December 17, 2018 at 8 PM at the Education Center, 501 Kings Highway East, Fairfield.

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 PM by Moderator Phil Pires.

PRESENT:       30                               ABSENT:       10                               VACANCY:     0

PRESENT:       Lefkowitz, Gerber, Lopez, Perham, Dean, Durrell, Jacobs, Pistilli, Kelly, Pires, Spolyar, Garskof, Smey, Wolk, Ambrose, Berez, Gale, Havey, Bove, McDermott, Vergara, Wackerman, Iacono, Messina, Tallman, Farnen, Georgiadis, Herron, Horton, Sundman.

ABSENT:        Chessare, Fogel, Varian, Newman, O'Reilly, Siebert, Berchem, Cargill, Herley, Petise.

**ITEM NO. 1 ON CALL:**       PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Moderator Pires led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ITEM NO. 2 ON CALL:**       CONSIDERATION OF NOVEMBER 26, 2018 MINUTES

Brian Farnen, District 9 moved this item as distributed with the Call, duly seconded.

**VOTE:** The November 26, 2018 minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

**ITEM NO. 3 ON CALL:**       TO HEAR AN UPDATE FROM THE H. SMITH RICHARDSON BUIDLING COMMITTEE.

Pamela Iacono, District 7, noted that when she read the minutes of the building committee that there had been a discussion on how to reduce costs. She stated that she appreciated the points made but questioned the statement in the minutes that "...it was agreed upon that any further cuts would eliminate the character of the building". Ms. Iacono asked where the committee was charged with protecting the character of the building.

Hal Schwartz, HSR Building Committee Vice Chair replied that if the size of the building were to be reduced then ways of generating revenue would be reduced. A smaller clubhouse would reduce the number of players in tournaments and the number of tournaments booked would be reduced.

Ms. Iacono stated that she would like to see the building committee have a serious conversation about the size of the building, an octagon-shaped pro shop, fencing, chimney, etc. She stated that her caucus is seriously concerned about the size of building.

Margaret Horton, District 9, thanked the members of the building committee for their dedication. She stated that she agrees with Mr. Schwartz that the current facility is unusable but there is concern among the Body about the cost of a new building. She asked about the financial implications of going back for review.

Mr. Schwartz replied that the monies the Town appropriated have been spent on architectural concepts. He noted that delays in groundbreaking have the potential of raising construction costs between \$35,000-\$40,000 per month.

## **REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING**

**December 17, 2018**

**ITEM NO. 4 ON CALL:** TO HEAR A REPORT RELATED TO THE H. SMITH RICHARDSON GOLF COURSE FROM THE GOLF COMMISSION AND THE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

This Item was heard in Committee.

**ITEM NO. 5 ON CALL:** REAPPOINTMENT OF MITCHELL FUCHS (D) TO THE GREATER BRIDGEPORT TRANSIT AUTHORITY, TERM NOVEMBER 2018-2020.

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

Mr. Fuchs was present and addressed the Body, stating that he has served for 10 years on the GBTA and praised its leadership.

**VOTE:** The appointment of Mitchell Fuchs to the Greater Bridgeport Transportation Authority was approved by unanimous voice vote.

**ITEM NO. 6 ON CALL:** REAPPOINTMENT OF MARY S. BEYER (D), TO THE SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING COMMISSION, TERM NOVEMBER 2018-2022.

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

Ms. Beyer was present and addressed the Body, stating that she had been on this commission in the 1990s and was happy to be re-engaged with its work.

**VOTE:** The appointment of Mary Beyer to the Solid Waste and Recycling Commission was approved by unanimous voice vote.

**ITEM NO. 7 ON CALL:** REAPPOINTMENT OF ARTHUR N. GRAVANIS (R) TO THE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION, TERM NOVEMBER 2018-2023.

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

**VOTE:** The appointment of Arthur N. Gravanis to the Historic District Commission was approved by unanimous voice vote.

**ITEM NO. 8 ON CALL:** APPOINTMENT OF JAMES P. BOHAN (R) AS AN ALTERNATE TO THE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION, TERM NOVEMBER 2018-2023.

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

**VOTE:** The appointment of James P. Bohan as an alternate to the Historic District Commission was approved by unanimous voice vote.

**ITEM NO. 9 ON CALL:** CONSIDERATION FOR THE FIRST TIME OF AMENDMENTS TO THE ALARMS ORDINANCE, CHAPTER 45 OF THE TOWN CODE OF THE

## REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING

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TOWN OF FAIRFIELD, SPONSORED BY NANCY LEFKOWITZ, DIST. 1; PHIL PIRES, DIST. 4; JOSH GARSKOF, DIST. 5; RUTH SMEY, DIST. 5; LAUREN BOVE, DIST. 7 & KAREN WACKERMAN, DIST.7.

Hannah Gale, District 6, questioned whether private schools and places of worship would be disenfranchised in that they rely on volunteers and if they are fined for the failure of an individual to safeguard the alarm system. Ms. Gale asked if an exception could be made in such circumstances.

Police Captain Don Smith indicated that the current ordinance exempts public schools; however the current proposal does not include an exemption for places of worship or private schools. He is not aware of anything that would preclude an amendment to the ordinance to allow such an exemption.

The Moderator reminded the Body that there would be no vote on this item until next month.

**ITEM NO. 10 ON CALL:** THE MODERATOR HAS REFERRED AMENDMENTS TO THE TAX RELIEF FOR THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED HOMEOWNERS ORDINANCE, SECTION 95-7 TO SECTION 97-15.4 OF CHAPTER 95, ARTICLE III, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD, SPONSORED BY THE SENIOR & DISABLED TAX RELIEF COMMITTEE: CYNTHIA PERHAM, DIST. 2; MARK McDERMOTT, DIST. 7; JILL VERGARA, DIST. 7; PETER TALLMAN, DIST. 8 & MICHAEL HERLEY, DIST.10, TO THE LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE UNDER RULE 32 OF THE RTM RULES TO REGULATE.

This item has been reviewed by L&A and will be considered later in the meeting.

**ITEM NO. 11 ON CALL:** THE MODERATOR HAS REFERRED AMENDMENTS TO THE RECOVERY OF COSTS RELATED TO PROPERTIES WITH BREACHES OF THE PEACE, PUBLIC DISTURBANCES AND DISORDERLY CONDUCT, SECTION 61-1 OF THE TOWN CODE OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD, SPONSORED BY BRIAN FARNEN, DIST. 9; DRU GEORGIADIS, DIST. 9; AND MARGARET HORTON, DIST. 9, TO THE LEGISLATION AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE UNDER RULE 32 OF THE RTM RULES TO REGULATE.

The Moderator advised that the L&A Committee is still reviewing this Item.

**ITEM NO. 12 ON CALL:** THE MODERATOR HAS REFERRED A REUSABLE CHECKOUT BAG ORDINANCE, SPONSORED BY NANCY LEFKOWITZ, DIST. 1; ERIC NEWMAN, DIST. 2; HEATHER DEAN, DIST. 3; MATTHEW JACOBS, DIST. 3; SHARON PISTILLI, DIST. 3; PHIL PIRES, DIST. 4; JAY WOLK, DIST. 5; LAUREN BOVE, DIST. 7; MARK McDERMOTT, DIST. 7; JILL VERGARA, DIST. 7; DRU GEORGIADIS, DIST. 9 & SAMUEL CARGILL, DIST. 10, TO THE LEGISLATION AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE UNDER RULE 32 OF THE RTM RULES TO REGULATE.

The Moderator advised that the sponsors continue to work on the proposal.

**ITEM NO. 13 ON CALL:** TO HEAR AND CONSIDER FOR THE FIRST TIME AMENDMENTS TO THE TAX RELIEF FOR THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED HOMEOWNERS ORDINANCE, SECTION 95-7 TO SECTION 97-15.4 OF CHAPTER 95, ARTICLE III, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD, SPONSORED BY THE SENIOR & DISABLED TAX RELIEF

## **REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING**

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COMMITTEE: CYNTHIA PERHAM, DISTRICT 2; MARK McDERMOTT, DISTRICT 7; JILL VERGARA, DISTRICT 7; PETER TALLMAN, DISTRICT 8; AND MICHAEL HERLEY, DISTRICT 10.

Jill Vergara, Committee Chair highlighted four revisions in the proposal: eligibility, the credit program, elimination of the freeze program and concerns regarding the Town's expenditures on this program. She said that the proposal changes a homeowner's eligibility level from a total asset level of \$650,000 to an assessment of \$750,000, and that the credit program at present permits people earning less than \$75,000 to participate, but would under the proposal have an increase allowing \$79,000 of earnings.

Ms. Vergara stated that the freeze program would be eliminated because it is not utilized (there have been no participants in the past two years). She also said that the expenditures for the program would be from a 1.6% total tax levy which would be approximately \$4 million. This appropriation is necessary so that current participants in the program are not penalized. Ms. Vergara stated that the proposed changes would be presented to the Boards of Selectmen and Finance.

Speaking in support of the program were Gordon McKenzie of the Ffld. Senior Advocates, Bill Lenihan and Jerry Slomin.

The Moderator indicated that the Body would take action on this Item next month.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth P. Browne, CMC, MCTC  
Town Clerk

Recorded by: Frances Daly