MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD January 28, 2019

A meeting of the Town of Fairfield was held on Monday, January 28, 2019 at 8 PM at the Education Center, 501 Kings Highway East, Fairfield.

The meeting was called to order at 8:06 PM by Moderator Phil Pires.

PRESENT: 37 ABSENT: 3 VACANCY: 0

PRESENT: Chessare, Fogel, Lefkowitz, Gerber, Lopez, Newman, Perham, Dean, Durrell, Jacobs,

Pistilli, Kelly, Pires, Spoylar, Garskof, Siebert, Smey, Wolk, Ambrose, Berecz, Gale, Havey, Bove, McDermott, Vergara, Wackerman, Berchem, Iacono, Messina, Tallman,

Georgiadis, Herron, Horton, Cargill, Herley, Petise, Sundman

ABSENT: Varian, O'Reilly, Farnen

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

Moderator Pires led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM NO. 2 ON CALL: TO HEAR AN ADDRESS ON THE STATE OF THE TOWN BY THE

FIRST SELECTMAN.

See address attached hereto.

ITEM NO. 3 ON CALL: ANNUAL LEASE REPORT

This report was heard in Committee.

ITEM NO. 4 ON CALL: PUBLIC DISTURBANCES & DISORDERLY CONDUCT REPORT

This report was heard in Committee.

ITEM NO. 5 ON CALL: ANNUAL BLIGHT & CONDEMNATION REPORT

This report was heard in Committee.

ITEM NO. 6 ON CALL: APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 17, 2018 MINUTES

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

Pamela Iacono, District 8 moved the following amendments, duly seconded: change District 7 to 8 after Ms. Iacono's name; ITEM NO. 3 paragraph 3. Ms. Iacono stated that she would like to see the building committee have a serious conversation about the size of the building she called window dressing in the building, an octagon-shaped pro-shop, fencing, a timber beam ceiling, full masonry chimney etc. She stated that her caucus is seriously concerned about the size of the building in relation to return on investment and whether the numbers presented by the committee support the size.

VOTE: The motion to amend the minutes was approved by unanimous voice vote. (Mr. Ambrose was not present.)

Jill Vergara, District 7 moved the following amendments, duly seconded: ITEM NO.13 paragraph 2 line 4 change \$75,000 to \$90,000. Paragraph 3 line 3, change \$4 million to \$4.2 million. Line 4 change "(t)his appropriation" to "(t)his cap". Gerald Stuhlman was incorrectly identified.

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VOTE: The motion to amend the minutes was approved by unanimous voice vote. (Mr. Ambrose was not present for this vote.)

VOTE: The December 2018 minutes as amended were approved by unanimous voice vote.

ITEM NO. 7 ON CALL:

TO HEAR, CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONAS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE: WHEREAS, IT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY ("WPCA") TO UPGRADE EASTON TURNPIKE PUMP STATION AND FORCE MAIN IN THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD; AND

WHEREAS, THE COST TO DESIGN SUCH UPGRADE IS \$199,730; AND

WHEREAS, THE WPCA APPRORIATED AND AGREED TO SPEND ITS OWN FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$199,730 TO PAY SAID DESIGN COSTS;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE FIRST SELECTMAN OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO EXPEND IN THE NAME OF AND ON BEHALF OF THE WPCA UP TO \$199,730 TO FUND SAID DESIGN COSTS; AND

FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT THE FIRST SELECTMAN OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD IS AUTHORIZED TO ENTER INTO AND SIGN CONTRACTS ON BEHALF OF THE WPCA FOR PURPOSES OF COMPLETING THE DESIGN WORK.

Josh Garskof, District 5 moved this item as distributed with the Call, duly seconded.

VOTE: This item was approved by unanimous voice vote.

ITEM NO. 8 ON CALL:

TO HEAR, CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE: "RESOLVED THAT THE BOND RESOLUTION ENTITLED, 'A RESOLUTION APPRORIATING \$7,020,000 FOR THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW CLUBHOUSE, RENOVATION OF EXISTING GOLF CART BARN AND FOR OTHER SITE AND GROUNDS IMPROVEMENTS AT THE H. SMITH RICHARDSON GOLF COURSE AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPRORIATION,' BE AND HEREBY IS APPROVED."

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

Peter Tallman, District 8 stated that he spoke to a lot of people around town, including a number of golfers, who had difficulty in supporting spending this much money on this project.

Karen Wackerman, District 7 stated that the members of her caucus feel that this is an important investment for the Town. She said that while it would take 20 years to pay off the bond, the town will have 30+ years of use from the facility.

Erin Lopez, District 2 stated that she would be more comfortable bonding the paving in the project budget instead of through the DPW budget. She urged the Body to remember this action during the budget process.

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Michael Herley, District 10 stated that he feels that the financial projections about the economy are too bullish. He said that as a member of the Senior Tax Relief Committee the cap on income had to be lowered because of the cost of that program to the Town. If there is concern about the cost of the increase for the tax relief program how can the Body be comfortable with this.

Sharon Pistilli, District 3 said she is in favor of this item and feels the golf course is an asset to the Town which is an amenity that can be used by golfers and non-golfers alike. She thanked the members of the building committee for their hard work.

Lauren Bove, District 7, stated that she wished to reiterate that a lot of work has already been put into this project, and that the renovation is overdue by decades. She said the clubhouse building was at the end of its life 20 to 30 years ago. She noted that the cost of paving was in the DPW budget for next year. Ms. Bove stated that the current building is unsafe and does not meet current building codes.

Craig Curley, Chair of the H. Smith Richardson Clubhouse Building Committee, thanked the members of the committee for their hard work, as well as the members of the Representative Town Meeting, Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen for their support.

VOTE: This item passed with a vote of 29 in favor and 8 opposed. (Chessare, Smey, Berchem, Iacono, Messina, Tallman, Herron, Herley.)

ITEM NO. 9 ON CALL:

TO HEAR, CONSIDER AND ACT UPON AMENDMENTS TO THE ALARMS ORDINANCE, CHAPTER 45 OF THE TOWN CODE OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD, SPONSORED BY NANCY LEFKOWITZ, DISTRICT 1; PHIL PIRES, DISTRICT 4, JOSH GARSKOF, DISTRICT 5, RUTH SMEY, DISTRICT 5, LAUREN BOVE, DISTRICT 7AND KAREN WACKERMAN, DISTRICT 7.

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

Hannah Gale, District 6, stated that she would abstain on this item because her issue is with the original alarm ordinance, not this amendment, due to her personal experience. She said she feels the fees charged because of a false alarm in a place of worship or a private school are dangerous as it will lead to alarms not being armed in these places due to fear of setting off the alarm accidently.

Bill Gerber, District 2, thanked Deputy Chief Smith for having laid out the need for an alarm ordinance, and asked about the process for registering alarm systems.

Deputy Chief Donald Smith stated that the implementation would be next fiscal year to give ample time for set up, roll out and publicity. Registration will be mostly online.

Michael Herley, District 10, stated that he supports the ordinance. He asked if Chief Lyddy could speak to crime rate trends in town.

Police Chief Lyddy stated that the indexed crime rate in Fairfield has fallen by 2 percent from 2017 to 2018.

<u>AMENDMENT</u>: Jill Vergara, district 7 moved the following amendments to 45-2 Definitions Alarm Systems eliminate "which do not signal outside the alarmed premises" and Section 45-15 to reduce the fine from \$100 to \$50, duly seconded.

Josh Garskof, District 5, asked Chief Smith to comment on the proposed amendment. Chief Smith read from the proposed ordinance and stated that the current language already excludes smoke detectors.

Nancy Lefkowitz, District 1 asked if the proposed change in the fine was what the Police wanted. Chief Smith said they were satisfied that the \$100 fine was a good deterrent.

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VOTE: The motion to amend Chapter 45-2 Definitions Alarm Systems was approved by a vote of 36 in favor and 1 abstention (Herron).

VOTE: The motion to amend Chapter 45-15 reducing the fine from \$100 to \$50 failed with 15 in favor and 22 opposed:

IN FAVOR: Chessare, Dean, Kelly, Spolyar, Smey, Ambrose, Berecz, Gale, Havey, Vergara, Iacono,

Messina, Tallman, Cargill, Herley.

OPPOSED: Fogel, Lefkowitz, Gerber, Lopez, Newman, Perham, Durrell, Jacobs, Pistilli, Pires,

Garskof, Siebert, Wolk, Bove, McDermott, Wackerman, Berchem, Georgiadis, Herron,

Horton, Petise, Sundman

Michael Herley, District 10 asked the Town Attorney to opine on Section 45-5(A), asking if the word "which" should be changed to "that". Attorney Lesser stated there was no change necessary.

Hannah Gale, District 6, stated that she wished to clarify that her concern is not with the crime rate in Fairfield but rather an unfair burden being placed on private schools and places of worship by the levying of fines for false alarms.

Deputy Chief Smith stated that while he understood her concerns the point of the ordinance is to reduce the number of false alarms in There was only one false alarm in a house of worship last year. He believes that the schools want to have an incentive. He said that not training employees would lead to false alarms.

Michael Herley, District 10 said he supports the ordinance but disagreed with the Town Attorney's interpretation and so will abstain.

Jay Wolk, District 5 stated that the reason this ordinance is proposed is to reduce the number of false alarms providing more safety for police officers. He noted that he is guilty of having accidently set off an alarm system. He suggested people get their alarm companies to check their systems if they have multiple false alarms as well.

Heather Dean, District 3 stated that she felt Ms. Gale's concerns are legitimate and asked if the Police could give a report to the Body next year on the number of alarms. Chief Smith replied affirmatively in order to see the merits of this legislation.

VOTE: The amendments to Chapter 45 Alarms were approved with 35 in favor and 2 abstentions (Gale, Herley).

Pamela Iacono, District 8 moved to take Supplemental Item #1 out of order in deference to the Police personnel present, duly seconded.

SUPPLEMENTAL ITEM NO. 1:

TO HEAR, CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION RECOMMENDED BY THE FIRST SELECTMAN: "RESOLVED, THAT A CERTAIN CONTRACT NEGOTIATED BY AND BETWEEN THE TOWN OF FAIRIFELD AND LOCAL UNION #550, CONNECTICUT ORGANIZATION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY (COPS), CONCERNING CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30 2022 BE, ND HEREBY IS, AMENDED, IN THE MANNER DESCRIBED IN THE TENTATIVE AGREEMENT SO AS TO MAKE THE CONTRACT EFFECTIVE THROUGH JUNE 30,2022 AND TO INCORPORATE CERTAIN OTHER CHANGES REGARDING WAGES, HOURS AND OTHER MATTERS."

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Pamela Iacono, District 8 moved this item as distributed with the call, duly seconded.

Ms. Perham recused herself on this item and left the room.

VOTE: The contract between the Town and Local 550 was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Ms. Perham returned to the meeting.

ITEM NO. 10 ON CALL:

TO CONSIDER AND ACT UPON AMENDMENTS TO THE TAX RELIEFFOR THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED HOMEOWNERS ORDINANCE, SECTION 95-7 TO SECTION 97-15.4 OF CHAPTER 95, ARTICLE III, OF THE CODE FO THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD, SPONSORED BY THE SENIOR & DISABLED TAX RELIEF COMMITTEE: CYNTHIA PERHAM, DISTRICT 2, MARK MCDERMOTT, DISTRICT 7, JILL VERGARA, DISTRICT 7; PETER TALLMAN, DISTRICT 8; AND MICHAEL HERLEY, DISTRICT 10.

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

Jill Vergara moved to postpone this item to the February 25, 2019 meeting in accordance with CGS 12-129n in order for the amendments to be considered by the Board of Finance.

VOTE: The motion to postpone was approved by unanimous voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

Karen Wackerman, District 7 moved to add an Item regarding the establishment of a tax deferment program for certain federal employees, duly seconded.

VOTE: The motion to add the Tax Deferment Resolution was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Karen Wackerman, District 7 moved to suspend Rule 33 so this Item could be voted on at tonight's meeting, duly seconded.

Pamela Iacono, District 8 moved to waive the reading of the Resolution, duly seconded.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A TAX DEFERMENT PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

"WHEREAS, THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT HAS ENACTED A STATUTE, CONNECTICUT [HB-5765] PUBLIC ACT 19-1 (THE "ACT"), PERMITTING MUNICIPALITIES TO ELECT TO ALLOW THEIR RESIDENTS WHO ARE AFFECTED BY THE CURRENT FEDERAL SHUTDOWN TO DEFER PAYMENT OF THEIR MUNICIPAL TAXES; AND

WHEREAS, IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD TO ASSIST THOSE RESIDENTS WHO ARE AFFECTED BY THE SHUTDOWN; AND

WHEREAS, THE ACT REQUIRES A RESOLUTION FROM A MUNICIPALITY'S LEGISLATIVE BODY TO ESTABLISH A DEFERMENT PROGRAM UNDER THE ACT; AND

WHEREAS, THE REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING IS FAIRFIELD'S LEGISLATIVE BODY;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT A DEFERMENT PROGRAM IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED AS AUTHORIZED UNDER THE ACT TO DEFER THE DUE DATE FOR ANY MUNICIPAL TAXES ASSESSED BY THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD AGAINST ANY RESIDENT OF THE TOWN WHO IS AN AFFECTED EMPLOYEE; AND

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FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT AS USED IN THIS RESOLUTION THE FOLLOWING TERMS SHALL HAVE THE MEANINGS ASCRIBED TO THEM BELOW:

A. "AFFECTED EMPLOYEE" SHALL MEAN A FEDERAL EMPLOYEE WHO, DURING THE CURRENT SHUTDOWN OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, IS (A) A RESIDENT OF FAIRFIELD AND (B) REQUIRED TO WORK AS A FEDERAL EMPLOYEE WITHOUT PAY OR FURLOUGHED AS A FEDERAL EMPLOYEE WITHOUT PAY.

B. "MUNICIPAL TAXES" SHALL MEAN TAXES ON REAL PROPERTY, PERSONAL PROPERTY, OR MOTOR VEHICLES, OR WATER OR SEWER RATES, CHARGES OR ASSESSMENTS, OR ANY INSTALLMENT OR PORTION THEREOF WHICH REMAINS UNPAID, ASSESSED BY THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD.

C. "SHUTDOWN" SHALL MEAN THE FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2019 PARTIAL GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN THAT BEGAN ON DECEMBER 22, 2018; AND

FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT THE FAIRFIELD TAX COLLECTOR SHALL DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY FOR INCLUSION IN THE PROGRAM. IN DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY OF AN AFFECTED EMPLOYEE, THE FAIRFIELD TAX COLLECTOR MAY REQUIRE APPLICANTS TO PROVIDE THE PROOF LISTED IN SUBDIVISION 1 OF SECTION 3 OF THE ACT, AND/OR SUCH OTHER PROOF AS THE TAX COLLECTOR MAY REASONABLY REQUIRE. THE FAIRFIELD TAX COLLECTOR SHALL REQUIRE PERSONS IN THE DEFERMENT PROGRAM TO RECERTIFY ELIGIBILITY EVERY THIRTY (30) DAYS. FAILURE TO RECERTIFY WITHIN SUCH THIRTY (30) DAYS MAY RESULT IN A PERSON WHO WAS PARTICIPATING IN THE DEFERMENT PROGRAM TO BE DEEMED TO BE NO LONGER AN AFFECTED EMPLOYEE; AND

FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT THIS PROGRAM SHALL TAKE EFFECT FROM PASSAGE."

Tax Collector David Kluczwski said there are \$15,000 federal employees in the state but it is difficult to determine how many live in Fairfield without their self-reporting. He has been contacted by one federal employee but feels that the impact to the Town from this resolution would be minimal.

VOTE: The resolution establishing the Tax Deferment for Certain Federal Employees was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Beowie

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth P. Browne, CMC, MCTC

Town Clerk

Recorded by: Frances Daly



State

of the

Town

January 28, 2019

First Selectman Mike Tetreau

Good evening. Thank you Mr. Moderator, members of our Board of Selectmen, members of our Board of Finance, Board of Education, School Administration, members of our Representative Town Meeting, our State Delegation, other elected officials and members of the public for this opportunity to provide you with an update on our Town.

Let's start with one very important announcement. The main branch of the Fairfield Public Library will re-open tomorrow morning. Special thanks to Fire and DPW personnel who were on the job at 3am on a very cold Thanksgiving morning to limit the damage and begin the clean-up.

We have recently heard that Dr. Toni Jones will be leaving us at the end of this school year. I would like to thank her for her contributions to our community and our schools. We wish her well in her new school district.

Award Winning Town

Fairfield is a special place and a very special community. We don't want to ever take our town or our quality of life for granted. We need to remain vigilant and continuously look for opportunities for improvement.

Let's take a look at a few comparisons and what other people are saying about us.

Fairfield was given an A+ on the 2018 *Niche* report card of "Best Places to Live" in Connecticut. The grading took into account quality of schools, crime rates, housing trends, employment statistics and access to amenities.

Fairfield is ranked the #1 Most Business Friendly Town in Connecticut. *The Yankee Institute* stated "Fairfield's economic vitality and transportation infrastructure push it to No. 1 on our list." They went on to state further "Our aim is to bring a new statewide focus to the potentially positive power of local decision-making." This award is truly a team award that recognizes the efforts across all town departments and a commitment by all town managers and employees to make our town more business friendly.

Our Economic Development Director, Mark Barnhart, pointed out recently that on average we had one Ribbon-cutting a week for the past year welcoming new businesses to town. This is a measure of economic vitality that easily outdistances any other town in the State. It should also be noted that a significant number of our businesses are now women-owned. This growth in women leaders is also reflected in the make-up of our RTM with women making up 45% of the elected members.

Fairfield earned top honors as a Sustainable CT Community. We were one of only five towns to receive the Silver Award and were the town with the highest score — making us #1 in the State! A big thank you to the volunteers on the Sustainable Fairfield Task Force led by (Fairfielder of the Year) Mary Hogue and Bob Wall. This is another team award for our town employees because it is a comprehensive measure of the efforts by so many town departments.

Fairfield was named a top safe community. *SafeWise* published its report on the Safest Communities in Connecticut and ranked Fairfield in the top twenty. We really need to thank our dedicated public safety teams – Police, Fire and Emergency Communications for all they do to keep us safe every day.

Fairfield was ranked #11 among the top 50 safest College Towns in America. Fairfield was one of six towns repeating from last year. We know this has special meaning for Fairfield University and Sacred Heart University. The reports states "Fairfield which is considered one of the Northeast's top communities is a safe college town that offers a high quality of life, abundant outdoor recreation and a stellar safety record. Fairfield has a population of 61,000 residents which make its low crime rate even more impressive." Another big thanks to our Police Officers and the security teams at both universities.

This would be the time to congratulate our new Police Chief Chris Lyddy who will be leading our department going forward.

Fairfield American Little League won the State Championship for the 3rd year in a row. This continues a strong culture of success for both the Fairfield American and the Fairfield National programs. These young men not only display winning ways on the field but also off the field. They make our town proud with how they handle themselves in victory and defeat. They are a great example for all of us. A big thank you to the League volunteers and coaches that provide this opportunity for our young athletes.

The Fairfield Little League Girls Softball teams also have a strong tradition of success including this year's unprecedented achievements. Four teams were District Champions. The Juniors made it four consecutive years that they have competed in the State Championship game. The 10U team lost in the playoffs to the eventual State Champions. The 11U team brought the State Championship home to Fairfield. The 12U team won the State Championship and went on to compete in the Eastern Regionals before their season came to an end. What an amazing year! Again, a very special thank you to the volunteers and coaches that make this experience possible for our young athletes.

The American Institute for Architects bestowed on Pequot Library the 2018 CT Treasures Award. Pequot was voted the top architectural Treasure in this statewide People's Choice competition based on its iconic Romanesque Revival design. Southport has been home to Pequot Library for over 100 years and now the rest of the State is discovering just how special a treasure it is.

Our Town Clerk, Betsy Browne, was nationally recognized, receiving the E-Recording Catalyst Award. This award is in recognition of achieving faster turnaround time and higher service levels through the use of technology.

Fairfield's Water Pollution Control Authority won the 2018 New England Water Environment Association Energy Management Achievement Award. This award recognizes the progress our

team is making in reducing the amount of energy used per unit of water treated. In addition, John Bodie, Assistant Superintendent, was selected as the 2018 NEWEA Operator of the Year for the State of Connecticut. Congratulations to John and the entire team at our Water Pollution Control Facility.

These are just a few of the achievements that should make us all proud of our Town.

Top Performing Schools

Fairfield's top quality education has always been a source of great pride for our town. We really need to recognize the leadership of our Superintendent Dr. Jones, our Board of Education and the dedication of our teachers, administrators and staff. If you talk to Realtors, you will hear that the quality of our school system is the number one reason home buyers choose to move to Fairfield. We spend about 65% of our annual budget on our school system, or 65 cents out of every tax dollar. This is a very real measure of the value we place on education.

Our Board of Education points out the value of the comprehensive education that we provide. I know from personal experience at Holland Hill, Tomlinson and Ludlowe what a great foundation we provide and the opportunities our educational system creates. It enabled me to be accepted at one of the top universities in the nation. I am still quoting critical learning experiences from high school. I know the lasting impact of every one of my elementary school teachers. I am so fortunate that I had the opportunity to grow up in Fairfield. I am so proud to call Fairfield my hometown.

Let's look at some of the achievements of our schools and students from just this past year (this is limited to a select list of academic, athletic & artistic State and National level awards):

- FWMS 8th Grader Lily Bolash placed first in the State in the CT History Day competition

 qualifying for a trip to the Nationals.
- Holland Hill student Cristian Santa parlayed his Legos expertise into membership in the Legoland Creative Crew.
- Warde Boys Lacrosse player Ted Orben and Ludlowe Boys Lacrosse player Josh Evans received CHSKCA Academic All-American recognition.
- The Fairfield Girls' Co-op Ski team finished 1st and the Boys Co-op Ski team took 2nd at the State Championships.
- Warde Girls Lacrosse Libby McKenna received US Lacrosse High School All-American recognition.
- Ludlowe Indoor Track & Field's Tess Stapleton won the 55 meter hurdles at the CIAC
 State Open meet helping her team to finish 6th overall.
- Ludlowe Boys Track & Field team placed 8th in the State thanks to Ian Barlett's 1st Place finish in the 800 meter competition.
- Ludlowe Girls Track & Field team placed 7th in the State on the strength of Maya Mocarski's 1st Place finish in the 100 meter competition.

- The FLHS Cheerleading Team took top prize at the AmeriCheer International Championships in Florida.
- Warde's Sean Conway was named to the All USA Connecticut Boys Basketball team.
- The Fairfield Pubic Schools Music program was recognized by the NAMM Foundation for their excellence as one of the Best Communities for Music Education in the nation.
- Stratfield Elementary School student Sydney McKernan place 3rd at the National PTA Reflections Competition.
- Warde and Ludlowe music programs announced that a combined total of 34 students had been accepted to the Music Educators Association's All-State Festival.
- The Warde Dance Team finished in the top 10 at Nationals.
- Students from Riverfield Elementary and Bridgeport's Cesar Batalla School are competing and bonding over Chess.
- Art students from Warde and Ludlowe produced such a professional level of work that
 their art hangs in our Downtown Railroad stations, Sullivan Independence Hall and
 seasonally on banners along the Post Road. They are really, really well done. What a
 great way to welcome visitors to our town.

This is a broad range of excellence in activities in addition to the stellar academics our school system provides. A Special Thank You to BOE member Jessica Gerber for continually keeping us updated on these and many more achievements.

Two Universities and a Strong Commitment to our Community

Fairfield University has a growing national reputation. It was recently ranked the #1 Best Regional University in the North by *US News & World Report's* Best Colleges Report. The Dolan School of Business' new 86,000 square foot facility, scheduled to open this spring, will include simulated trading, a business analytics lab, an entrepreneurship center and much more. The university also has a growing impact on our town, from the Fairfield Center bookstore to the cultural events at the Quick Center and the Fairfield University Museum at Bellarmine Hall.

The University continues to work with the town and neighbors to help integrate and manage the impact on our neighborhoods of off campus student housing. They have contributed innovative ideas, staff and funding to improve the relationships. They are demonstrating a real commitment to working with us to maintain the quality of life for these neighborhoods.

Sacred Heart University is working to redefine its relationship with the town. We are beginning to have a true partnership across a series of important initiatives. Sacred Heart University has become an important and stable partner in adding real value to our town.

Sacred Heart has plans for adding a new swimming pool and ice rink facility on the recently purchased West Campus site. These projects would add significant new amenities to our town. Both these projects are just beginning to go through the Town Commission approval process. The University is stating that these resources will be available for resident and school team use.

Our town is looking for a new home for our Emergency Communications (911) Call Center and Sacred Heart has offered the use of a facility on their campus rent-free. With rising sea levels, it is time to move our Call Center out of its current location in a basement in the flood zone.

As we expand and update our sewage lines throughout our town, we need a new pumping station near Sacred Heart. This will help us serve the University expansion and the surrounding neighborhoods. The University is offering to invest \$1 million towards this \$2 million project to ensure it moves forward on a timely basis.

Sacred Heart is bringing an innovative business incubator program to campus in a joint venture with Verizon and Alley. This will provide a very significant education opportunity for their students. It will also be a key initiative in helping provide new business growth and new jobs to our town. This is an important step in helping us grow our commercial tax base.

Financial Strength

Fairfield has a strong financial foundation. We continue to properly fund our Long-term Liabilities like Pension and OPEB (Retiree Medical). We are one of only four towns in the state with AAA ratings from the nation's top 3 Credit Rating Agencies. Key descriptions from our recent rating report include:

- "Very Strong Management" S&P
- "History of strong operating performance" Moody's
- "The Bond ratings reflect expectation for Fairfield to maintain healthy financial flexibility throughout economic cycles, consistent with a strong operating performance and budget controls" – Fitch
- "Careful expenditure management combined with moderate tax rate increases and conservation financial forecasting has led to growth in reserves" – Fitch
- "Strong budgetary flexibility and very strong debt and contingent liability position" –
 S&P
- Chief Fiscal Officer Bob Mayer pointed out that "S&P upgraded the Town's Financial Management Assessment (FMA) to the highest score S&P gives. Only one-third of the AAA rated towns in Connecticut have S&P's highest FMA rating." A special thank you to the entire Finance team for helping earn this recognition.

In the midst of a very turbulent economy and decreasing support from the State, we have averaged a tax increase of 2% per year over the last five years. The rating agencies have called this moderate and Fairfield's Board of Finance has labeled these increases reasonable. We have kept our Mill Rate to one of the lowest in Fairfield County. By maintaining tight control over our expenses, we have also achieved one of the lowest cost of services per capita in Fairfield County. This is one of the best overall measures of town work force productivity.

Regional Shared Services

One approach to managing our costs is to join with other towns. We have a number of shared service initiatives underway to lower costs and improve service levels. Let's review a few of them.

We have joined with eleven other towns to form a cooperative venture to lower our costs for solid waste removal. We are saving several hundred thousand dollars every year.

We have joined forces with many of the same towns to lower our costs for Recycling. Just two years ago, we were being paid for our recyclables. With changes overseas, we are now paying to remove these products. This collaboration means we get the best pricing in a highly volatile market.

We are evaluating combining our Emergency Call (911) Center with Westport. Both centers would move to the Sacred Heart campus. In the long run, this will reduce costs and improve service levels.

We are working with Bridgeport and Trumbull to mitigate the impact of Rooster River flooding. Recent events have caused damage to homes and raised significant concern among our residents. We are working with our neighboring towns to develop plans and to seek funding to protect our neighborhoods.

We are working with MetroCOG to update our town Hazard Mitigation plan. MetroCOG is the regional planning organization comprised of Fairfield, Bridgeport, Stratford, Trumbull, Easton and Monroe. This plan addresses actions to mitigate flooding along the coast and along our rivers. This also helps us qualify for the Community Rating System (CRS) providing discounts on flood insurance premiums for our residents.

Our economic development efforts have been expanded as we work with the Fairfield 5 — Greenwich, Stamford, Norwalk, Westport and Fairfield. We are joining together to use our combined economic development resources to market our towns and Fairfield County to businesses currently located in or considering moving to the Tri-State area. If your business is in NYC, Westchester or northern New Jersey, Fairfield County has lower costs and a higher quality of life. There may be other areas we can collaborate in the future.

Grants

We look to use State and Federal Grants wherever possible to fund capital projects. This directly saves tax dollars. Here is a list of some of the more significant awards from the last few years totaling over \$6 million:

- Flood Mitigation
 - o Riverside Drive Resiliency \$200,000
 - o Pine Creek Dike Evaluation \$300,000

- Security
 - Port Security \$328,000
 - Body Cameras for Police \$742,000
- Economic Development
 - Fairfield Center Streetscapes \$250,000
 - Burr Homestead Renovations \$500,000
 - Fairfield Center Drainage Improvements \$300,000
 - Metro Center Sewer Line Replacement \$750,000
 - Stratfield Center Streetscape Improvements \$650,000
 Timing could not be better. A new private preschool was just announced to be developed on the site of the old Stratfield market.
 - o Black Rock Turnpike Safety Study \$375,000
 - Southport Community Connectivity Grant \$360,000
 - Post Road Safety Study \$375,000
 - Metro Center Transit Oriented Design Planning \$200,000
 - Fairfield Theatre Company Renovations \$950,000
 - Southport Harbor Improvements
 - Channel Dredging and Boat Ramp Reconstruction \$266,000

Economic Development

Connecticut towns are more dependent on property tax revenue to fund our operations than towns in any other State in the nation. While Fairfield has one of the lower Mill Rates in Fairfield County and one of the lowest cost of services per capita, there is more we can do. We need to grow our commercial tax base, grow our Grand List.

Only 4.5% of our land area is zoned commercial. Yet, this land generates 10% of our tax revenues. A 1% increase in our commercial zoned land will decrease the residential tax burden by 2%.

We need to look to our Town Plan and Zoning Commission to build this commercial growth into our Plan of Conservation and Development. This plan can guide us as to where development is most beneficial while protecting our neighborhoods, our downtown, Southport Village and historic areas. Target areas may include the Fairfield Metro Center, our old industrial areas and Commerce Drive.

The options are clear: we either grow our commercial tax base or watch our Mill Rate increase. The Plan of Conservation and Development will help us protect our town's character and charm while increasing value and improving affordability.

Bridgeport recently received \$7 million to provide needed updates to Sikorsky Airport. Due to recent advances in aircraft technology, new planes coming off the production lines will make commercial flights viable at Sikorsky. These planes can operate off the Sikorsky runways and

have range to reach Florida, Texas and Illinois. This provides a significant asset for Fairfield County businesses.

The Fairfield 5 is teaming up to build on these positives to market the benefits of our towns and Fairfield County. When you take a close look at Fairfield County, here is what you will find:

- Fairfield County is the only county in CT that has grown in population the last five years
- Fairfield County has a net gain in population from NYC and Westchester County
- Fairfield County has 25% of all CT jobs
- Fairfield County has 30% of all CT employers
- Fairfield County has 42% of all CT Income Tax revenues
- A recent study by Fitch Ratings talks about "the strong underlying economic trends that
 will support growth in Fairfield County". It goes on to say that "Fairfield County's low
 property taxes relative to New York City is another draw" and that "a growing number
 of millennials are fleeing the big cities in search of the traditional American dream of
 homeownership in the suburbs"
- "Fairfield County offers good schools, upscale shopping and a lower cost of living compared to New York City."
- Joseph Fontana, lead analyst for Fitch, says that "Fairfield County often represents a flight to affordability for companies looking to escape the high rents of New York City."
- Jim Fagan of Cushman & Wakefield "sees companies following their talented millennial works out to the suburbs and taking space in office buildings throughout Fairfield County particularly along major transportation lines."

These are just some of the trends that show why our town and our county are such a great value.

Next Steps

The Strategic Plan currently being developed will help provide the guidance from our community on how to maintain and grow Fairfield's value. A special thank you to the Strategic Plan Committee for their comprehensive efforts to engage our community in the planning process.

We do need to look to our TP&Z Commission for the road map in an updated Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD). This plan will show us the way to grow our town while protecting our charm and character.

The Federal government has a new tax plan. We will see and feel the impact in less than 90 days. The severe limitations on State and Local Tax (SALT) deductions seem to be targeted at residents in Connecticut. The impact of these changes will be hitting us right in the middle of our budget approval process.

The State has a new Governor and some new representation in the Legislature. We are cautiously optimistic about how they will work together to solve the fiscal challenges facing our State. The new Governor did commit not to make reductions to Municipal Aid. This is a very good sign.

As we have seen in the past with proposals to cut ECS funding or to transfer state pension costs to the towns, we need to stand ready to fight for Fairfield's future. We will need help from our Federal and State Delegations in the weeks and months ahead.

One topic to be the center of discussion throughout our entire budget process will be this year's Board of Education request for a five percent increase. This is five percent increase on the largest expense driver in our budget. This request comes at a time when we are still missing millions of dollars due to recent reductions in State Aid and Tax revenue. It is the highest request in over a decade. In fact, it is more than double the average increases over the past ten years. I know this is going to be a struggle for all of our Boards on how to integrate this into a budget with a reasonable tax increase.

In Summary

The major takeaway from tonight should be that even though some significant challenges exist, we have a strong foundation to build on. We have accomplished a great deal despite these challenges. We all came to Fairfield and stayed here for the great schools, a great quality of life, and a great location with easy access to local and regional amenities. These are some of the reasons that still create Fairfield's value today.

John Traynor is a Senior Vice President at People's United Bank and recent speaker at the Chamber of Commerce's Economic Outlook Breakfast. He is a source of valuable insight on the national, regional and local economy. In last year's presentation, he referred to Fairfield as the model for how Connecticut towns should manage in this economy. This year, he shared with us how often he talks about Fairfield in his presentations throughout the Northeast and how he is now referring to Fairfield County as the "engine that drives the CT economy."

Moving forward, we are all going to have to work together to continue to build Fairfield's value and keep Fairfield affordable for all.

Thank you.

RTM Ed & Rec Committee Meeting Riverfield Elementary School January 22, 2019 Minutes

1. Call to order

Meeting Called to Order at 9:47 pm.

2. Roll Call

Members	Present/Absent
Mark A. McDermott, District 7	Present
Jay Wolk, District 5	Present
Margaret Horton, District 9	Present
Steve M. Berecz, District 6	Present
Alice Kelly, District 4	Present
Brian Farnen, District 9	Present
Peter Tallman, District 8	Present
Keith Varian, District 1	Present

- **3.** A motion was made by Representative McDermott, and seconded by Representative Kelly, to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion passed unanimously.
- **4.** 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 Water Pollution Control Authority ("WPCA") to upgrade the Easton Turnpike Pump Station and Force Main in the Town of Fairfield; and WHEREAS, the cost to design said upgrade is \$199,730; and WHEREAS, the WPCA appropriated and agreed to spend its own funds in the amount of \$199,730 to pay said design costs; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the First Selectman of the Town of Fairfield is hereby authorized to expend in the name of and on behalf of the WPCA up to \$199,730 to fund said design costs; and FURTHER RESOLVED, that the First Selectman of the Town of Fairfield is authorized to enter into and sign contracts on behalf of the WPCA for purposes of completing the design work.

Moved by Representative Farnen; seconded by Representative Varian; motion passed unanimously.

Members	Vote
Mark A. McDermott, District 7	In favor
Jay Wolk, District 5	In favor
Margaret Horton, District 9	In favor

Steve M. Berecz, District 6	In favor
Alice Kelly, District 4	In favor
Brian Farnen, District 9	In favor
Peter Tallman, District 8	In favor
Keith Varian, District 1	In favor

Discussion: None

5. To consider and act upon the following resolution as recommended by the Board of Finance: "RESOLVED, that the Bond Resolution entitled, 'A Resolution Appropriating \$7,020,000 for the Costs Associated with the Construction of New Clubhouse, Renovation of Existing Golf Cart Barn and for Other Site and Grounds Improvements at H. Smith Richardson Golf Course and Authorizing the Issuance of Bonds to Finance such Appropriation,' be, and hereby is, approved."

Moved by Representative Wolk; seconded by Representative Kelly; motion passed 5-1-2, with Representative Farnen voting against and Representatives Tallman and Varian abstaining.

Members	Vote
Mark A. McDermott, District 7	In favor
Jay Wolk, District 5	In favor
Margaret Horton, District 9	In favor
Steve M. Berecz, District 6	In favor
Alice Kelly, District 4	In favor
Brian Farnen, District 9	Opposed
Peter Tallman, District 8	Abstained
Keith Varian, District 1	Abstained

Discussion: There was some discussion regarding the cost of the project. The Reps who voted in favor of the project expressed that they felt it was necessary to support the project at this time given the decrepit state of the current building and the costs to support its constant repairs and maintenance.

6. To consider and act upon 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, District 2; Mark McDermott, District 7; Jill Vergara, District 7; Peter Tallman, District 8; and Michael Herley, District 10.

Moved by Representative Kelly; seconded by Representative Horton; motion passed 6-0-2, with Representatives Farnen and Varian abstaining.

Members	Vote
Mark A. McDermott, District 7	In favor
Jay Wolk, District 5	In favor
Margaret Horton, District 9	In favor
Steve M. Berecz, District 6	In favor
Alice Kelly, District 4	In favor
Brian Farnen, District 9	Abstained
Peter Tallman, District 8	In favor
Keith Varian, District 1	Abstained

Discussion: None

7. To consider and act upon the following resolution recommended by the First Selectman: "RESOLVED, that a certain contract negotiated by and between the Town of Fairfield and the Local Union #550, Connecticut Organization for Public Safety (COPS), concerning conditions of employment for the period ending June 30, 2022 be, and hereby is, amended, in the manner described in the Tentative Agreement so as to make the contract effective through June 30, 2022 and to incorporate certain other changes regarding wages, hours and other matters."

Moved by Representative Varian; seconded by Representative Farnen; motion passed unanimously.

Members	Vote
Mark A. McDermott, District 7	In favor
Jay Wolk, District 5	In favor
Margaret Horton, District 9	In favor
Steve M. Berecz, District 6	In favor
Alice Kelly, District 4	In favor
Brian Farnen, District 9	In favor
Peter Tallman, District 8	In favor
Keith Varian, District 1	In favor

Discussion: None

8. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Representative Kelly; seconded by Representative Horton. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Margaret Horton Secretary, Ed & Rec Committee January 28, 2019



RTM Finance Committee Meeting Riverfield School, 501 Kings Hwy East January 22, 2019 Minutes

1. Call to order

Meeting was not called to order due to lack of quorum

2. Roll Call

The following members were present, (2) Rep Lopez, (3) Rep Jacobs and (5) Rep Siebert and (1) Rep Fogel. Absent were (2) Rep Newman, (7) Rep Bove, (10) Rep Herley, (4) Rep O'Reilly. No other parties were present.

Respectfully submitted by:

Erin Lopez Vice Chair, Finance Committee January 28, 2019

Legislative and Administrative Committee Meeting Minutes

January 22, 2019

I. Call to order

Mr. Josh Garskof, Chairman, moved, and Mr. Bill Gerber seconded a call to order of a meeting (the "*Meeting*") of the Legislative and Administrative Committee (the "*Committee*") of the Fairfield Representative Town Meeting (the "*RTM*") at 9:50 p.m. on January 22, 2019 at Riverfield Elementary School.

II. Roll call

The following members of the Committee were present: Josh Garskof, Pam Iacono, Christina Messina, Kerry Berchem, Bill Gerber, Phil Pires, Jill Vergara and Karen Wackerman.

III. Items on Call

Item 7. 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 Water Pollution Control Authority ("WPCA") to upgrade the Easton Turnpike Pump Station and Force Main in the Town of Fairfield; and

WHEREAS, the cost to design said upgrade is \$199,730; and

WHEREAS, the WPCA appropriated and agreed to spend its own funds in the amount of \$199,730 to pay said design costs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the First Selectman of the Town of Fairfield is hereby authorized to expend in the name of and on behalf of the WPCA up to \$199,730 to fund said design costs; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the First Selectman of the Town of Fairfield is authorized to enter into and sign contracts on behalf of the WPCA for purposes of completing the design work.

Ms. Wackerman moved, and Mr. Pires seconded, to approve Item 7, which passed unanimously.

8. To consider and act upon the following resolution as recommended by the Board of Finance:

"RESOLVED, that the Bond Resolution entitled, 'A Resolution Appropriating \$7,020,000 for the Costs Associated with the Construction of New Clubhouse, Renovation of Existing Golf Cart Barn and for Other Site and Grounds Improvements at H. Smith Richardson Golf Course and Authorizing the Issuance of Bonds to Finance such Appropriation,' be, and hereby is, approved."

Mr. Pires moved, and Ms. Wackerman, seconded, to approve Item 8, which passed with Messrs. Pires, Garskof and Gerber and Ms. Wackerman and Ms. Vergara in favor. Ms. Iacono and Ms. Messina abstained. Ms. Berchem, citing concerns with the Golf Commission's offering of season golf passes (with unlimited rounds and steeply discounted greens fees) and the potential impact on the pro forma financial information presented to the Committee, voted against.

9. To consider and act upon amendments to the Alarms Ordinance, Chapter 45 of the Town Code of the Town of Fairfield, sponsored by Nancy Lefkowitz, District 1; Phil Pires, District 4; Josh Garskof, District 5; Ruth Smey, District 5; Lauren Bove, District 7; and Karen Wackerman, District 7.

Ms. Wackerman moved, and Mr. Pires seconded, to approve Item 9, which passed unanimously.

10. To consider and act upon 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, District 2; Mark McDermott, District 7; Jill Vergara, District 7; Peter Tallman, District 8; and Michael Herley, District 10.

Procedural questions were discussed, including questions relating to the ripeness of a vote on Item 10. It was noted that Fairfield Town Attorney's office is currently reviewing whether Item 10 must first be recommended by the Board of Selectmen prior to a vote by the RTM.

Ms. Vergara moved, and Mr. Gerber, seconded, to approve Item 10, which did not pass. Ms. Vergara and Mr. Gerber voted in favor. Each of Mr. Garskof, Mr. Pires, Ms. Wackerman, Ms. Iacono, Ms. Messina and Ms. Berchem abstained.

11. To consider and act upon the following resolution recommended by the First Selectman:

"RESOLVED, that a certain contract negotiated by and between the Town of Fairfield and the Local Union #550, Connecticut Organization for Public Safety (COPS), concerning conditions of employment for the period ending June 30, 2022 be, and hereby is, amended, in the manner described in the Tentative Agreement so as to make the contract effective through June 30, 2022 and to incorporate certain other changes regarding wages, hours and other matters."

Ms. Pires moved, and Ms. Iacono seconded, to approve Item 11, which passed unanimously.

IV. Adjournment

Mr. Garskof moved and Mr. Gerber seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:19 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes submitted by: Kerry E. Berchem, Secretary

January 22, 2019

RTM Public Health & Safety Committee Meeting Minutes Riverfield Elementary School, Fairfield

Meeting was called to order at 9:45 p.m. Vice Chairwoman Rep Lefkowitz lead the meeting in chairwoman Smey's absence. Reps. Dean recorded the minutes in Rep. Gale's absence. Rep. Gale was present for most of the joint committee meeting however had to leave before the votes.

Present: Reps. Dean, Lefkowitz, Perham, Herron, Cargill & Durrell There was some confusion as to whether Rep. Durrell had been officially put onto this committee during a recent change in membership. His votes were counted.

Item to consider and act upon authorizing to expend \$199,730 on behalf of the WPA was properly moved by Reps. Cargill & Perham, passed unanimously.

Item to authorize the town to bond \$7,020,000 for costs concerning construction of a New Clubhouse Renovation of Existing Golf Cart Barn and for Other Side and Grounds Improvements at H. Smith Richardson Golf Course was properly moved by Reps. Dean and Herron. There was limited discussion. All members abstained.

Item to act upon amendments to the Alarms Ordinance, Charter 45 of the Town Code of the Town of Fairfield was properly moved by Reps. Perham and Herron, passed unanimously.

Item to act upon amendments to Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled Homeowners Ordinance, Section 95-7 to Section 97-15.4 of Chapter 95, Article III of the Town Code was properly moved by Reps. Cargill & Dean, all abstained until further information was received by the Town Attorney.

Item to act upon the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the police department and the town was properly moved by Reps. Dean and Herron, the votes were as follows: Reps. Perham recused herself.

Reps. Dean voted yes, the remaining Reps. abstained: Herron, Cargill, Lefkowitz, Durrell.

There was no other business.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather Dean, RTM D3 Acting Secretary Public Health & Safety

Public Works & Planning Committee

Meeting Minutes-January 22, 2019

I. Call to order

Marcy Spolyar moved and Sharon Pistilli seconded to call to order the regular meeting of the RTM's Public Works & Planning Committee at 9:45PM on Tuesday, January 22, 2019, at Riverfield School.

II. Roll call

Secretary Marcy Spolyar conducted a roll call. The following members were present (4): Sharon Pistilli, Marcy Spolyar, Lisa Havey, and Frank Petise. The following members were absent (4): Dru Georgiadis, Matt Ambrose, Eric Sundman and Stephen Chessara.

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

There was no quorum at the December 10, 2018 Public Works & Planning Committee so there were no minutes for review or approval.

IV. Items on the Call

Since there was not a quorum no votes occurred but all items on the call were discussed among attending members.

V. New business

None to report

VI. Adjournment

M. Spolyar moved and S. Pistilli seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Marcy Spolyar

Secretary, Public Works & Planning Committee

Date: 1/23/19