

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF TH TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
SEPTEMBER 27, 2021**

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town of Fairfield was held on Monday, September 27, 2021, via telecommunication.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 P.M. by Moderator Karen Wackerman.

PRESENT: 40 **ABSENT:** 0 **VACANCY:** 0

PRESENT: Bateson, Monahan, O’Shea, Ruggiero, Gerber, McCormack, Perham, Steele, Durrell, Jacobs, Nickel, Pistilli, Karson, A. Kelly, Spolyar, Zezima, Diaz, Garskof, Siebert, Wolk, Ambrose, Gale, Havey, Powell-Dunmore, Kuhn, McDermott, Vergara, Wackerman, Ference, Iacono, Messina, Tallman, Georgiadis, Grauer, C. Kelly, Perugini, Altobelli, Astarita, Britton, Petise

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

Moderator Karen Wackerman led the Body in the Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence. The Moderator asked those present to keep in their thoughts First Selectwoman Brenda Kupchick whose mother recently passed away.

ITEM NO. 2 ON CALL: APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD JULY 26, 2021

Upon motion made, duly seconded and carried with 2 abstentions (Zezima, Kuhn), the minutes of the previous meeting were approved as presented.

ITEM NO. 3 ON CALL: RESOLVED, THAT THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD ABANDON THE REMAINING PORTION OF THE TOWN-OWNED PAPER STREET KNOWN AS CHERRY STREET, WHICH INTERSECTS WITH KINGS HIGHWAY, AS SHOWN ON THE ATTACHED MAP, RESERVING, HOWEVER, AN EASEMENT FOR A SEWER, THE LOCATION AND DIMENSIONS OF WHICH SHALL BE AS DETERMINED BY THE TOWN ENGINEER, WHICH EASEMENT SHALL BE RECORDED ON LAND RECORDS OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD

Mark McDermott moved this item as distributed with the Call, duly seconded.

Jill Vergara, District 7, moved to amend the resolution by replacing it with the following wording: “RESOLVED, that the Town of Fairfield discontinue the remaining portion of the public right of way known as Cherry Street, which intersects with Kings Highway as shown on the attached map, reserving a 20-foot easement for a storm sewer upon which no structures shall be built. The location and dimensions of said easement shall be as determined by the Town Engineering

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Manager and recorded on the Town of Fairfield land records,” duly seconded and carried unanimously.

VOTE: The resolution as amended was approved by unanimous voice vote.

ITEM NO. 4 ON CALL: RESOLVED, TO ACHIEVE THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT’S (ARPA’S) PURPOSES WITH RESPECT TO THE INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES GRANTS TO STATES, FUNDS BE, AND HEREBY ARE, EXPENDED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$22,834 TO PURCHASE SEVERAL ITEMS AND SERVICES THAT RESPOND TO THE PANDEMIC, INCLUDING MOBILE SHELVING UNITS FOR SPACE FLEXIBILITY, OUTDOOR SOLAR POWERED STATIONS, NANOSEPTIC SELF-CLEANING ITEMS FOR FACILITY TOUCH POINTS AND A WIFI COUNTING SYSTEM, 100% OF SAID PURCHASE TO BE FUNDED BY AN ARPA GRANT TO CT PUBLIC LIBRARIES AS ADMINISTERED BY THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT; AND

FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT FIRST SELECTWOMAN BRENDA L. KUPCHICK IS AUTHORIZED TO MAKE, EXECUTE AND APPROVE ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD, ANY AND ALL CONTRACTS OR AMENDMENTS THEREOF TO SECURE SAID GRANT

Pam Iacono moved this item as distributed with the Call, duly seconded.

VOTE: The resolution to approve the ARPA plan for the library was approved by unanimous voice vote.

MOTION: Rep. Iacono moved to take item 6 out of order, duly seconded and carried unanimously.

ITEM NO. 6 ON CALL: APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO THE HARBOR MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE

Rep. Iacono moved this item as distributed with the Call, duly seconded.

MOTION: Rep. Iacono moved to waive the reading of the item, duly seconded and carried unanimously.

MOTION: Dru Georgiadis moved to amend the ordinance by adding “natural person or entity” to section 8E, duly seconded and carried unanimously.

VOTE: The motion to approve the amendments to the Harbor Management Ordinance as amended was approved by unanimous voice vote.

ITEM NO. 5 ON CALL: **WHEREAS**, ON MARCH 11, 2021, THE \$1.9 TRILLION AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 (THE “ARPA”) WAS ENACTED, WHICH INCLUDES \$1.6 BILLION IN RELIEF FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS; AND **WHEREAS**, THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD (THE “TOWN”) IS EXPECTED TO RECEIVE A TOTAL OF \$24,830,536 IN ARPA FUNDS FROM THE CORONAVIRUS STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUND AND THE CORONAVIRUS LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUND (THE “RECOVERY FUND GRANT”); AND **WHEREAS**, TO DATE, THE TOWN HAS RECEIVED \$12,415,283 OF THE RECOVERY FUND GRANT WITH AN ADDITIONAL \$12,415,283 EXPECTED TO BE RECEIVED BY JUNE OF 2022; AND **WHEREAS**, THE TOWN DESIRES TO ACCEPT THE RECOVERY FUND GRANT AND APPROPRIATE SAID FUNDS FOR COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROJECTS SET FORTH IN EXHIBIT 1, IN THE AMOUNTS DESIGNATED FOR EACH PROJECT AS SET FORTH IN THE EXHIBIT 1. **NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS:RESOLVED**, THAT, THE TOWN IS AUTHORIZED TO ACCEPT THE RECOVERY FUND GRANT; AND IT IS **FURTHER RESOLVED**, THAT, **\$24,790,000** OF THE RECOVERY FUND GRANT FUNDS, SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY, BE APPROPRIATED FOR COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROJECTS SET FORTH IN THE ATTACHED EXHIBIT 1, IN THE AMOUNTS DESIGNATED FOR EACH PROJECT AS SET FORTH IN THE EXHIBIT 1; AND IT IS **FURTHER RESOLVED**, THAT, THE FIRST SELECTWOMAN IS AUTHORIZED TO TAKE ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE THE INTENT OF THIS RESOLUTION

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

MOTION: Rep. Garskof moved to waive the reading of this item, duly seconded and carried unanimously.

Dru Georgiadis, District 9, moved to amend the resolution by reducing \$450,000 for a performance stage and lavatory facilities for Fairfield Museum and History Center, duly seconded.

Rep. Georgiadis cited neighbors’ concerns and flood plain issues.

Bill Perugini, District 9, said he supported the museum but agreed with Rep. Georgiadis.

Hannah Gale, District 6, said this is a rare opportunity to get necessary facilities for the museum and said that Director Michael Jehle would not build something inappropriate.

Rep. Vergara said there has been no community input.

Rep. Zezima, District 4, agreed with Reps. Georgiadis and Perugini.

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Rep. Gale read an email from Director Jehle, urging the Body to reject the amendment, saying he would not push forward a project without neighborhood input.

VOTE: The motion to reduce the ARPA grant by \$450,000 was approved with 28 in favor, 12 opposed.

IN FAVOR: Bateson, Monahan, Ruggiero, Gerber, Perham, Jacobs, Nickel, Pistilli, Karson, A. Kelly, Spolyar, Zezima, Diaz, Garskof, Siebert, Wolk, Ambrose, Havey, Kuhn, McDermott, Vergara, Wackerman, Ference, Georgiadis, C. Kelly, Perugini, Altobelli, Astarita

OPPOSED: O'Shea, McCormack, Steele, Durrell, Gale, Powell-Dunmore, Iacono, Messina, Tallman, Grauer, Britton, Petise

After a lengthy discussion which included questions about paving, electric cars, and Rooster River flooding, the Body moved to a vote.

VOTE: The motion to approve the ARPA grant, as amended, was approved unanimously by roll call vote.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth P. Browne, MMC, MCTC
Town Clerk

Recorded by: Ann Roche