

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
November 28, 2022

[RTM 11-28-2022 Regular Meeting - YouTube](#)

An organizational meeting of the Town of Fairfield was held on Monday, November 28, 2022 at 8 PM at 501 Kings Hwy East, Fairfield and via Webex.

The meeting was called to order at 8 PM by First Selectwoman Brenda Kupchick.

PRESENT: 34 ABSENT: 6 VACANCY: 0

PRESENT: Bateson, Furey, Gerber, McCormack, Perham, Galdenzi, Lambert, Pistilli, Karson, McCabe, Spolyar, Zezima, Garskof, Siebert, Wolk, Berez, Gale, Graceffa, Havey, Kuhn, McDermott, Vergara, Wackerman, Choniski, Ference, Iacono, Meyers, Brown, Georgiadis, Horton, Scinto, Astarita, Britton, Sparacino, Tallman

ABSENT: Longo, Ruggiero, Steele, Durrell, Barahona, Scinto

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

First Selectwoman Kupchick led the Body in the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence in memory of Christiano Cabase, a student at Osborn Hill School who passed away from RSV.

ITEM NO. 2 ON CALL: CONSIDERATION OF THE OCTOBER 24, 2022 MINUTES

Liz Zezima moved to amend under item 4, par. 6 insert “considered stepping” before down and insert “but resigned due to work conflicts” after pass, duly seconded. Pamela Iacono asked if Ms. Zezima listened to the meeting recording for accuracy. Ms. Zezima said she did not. Ms. Iacono said she would abstain because she did not know if it was accurate or not.

VOTE: The motion to amend the October minutes passed with 24 in favor, 0 opposed and 10 abstentions (Bateson, Furey, McCormack, Choniski, Iacono, Meyers, Astarita, Britton, Sparacino, Tallman).

VOTE: The October 24, 2022 minutes as amended were approved with 24 in favor, 0 opposed and 10 abstentions (Bateson, Furey, McCormack, Choniski, Iacono, Meyers, Astarita, Britton, Sparacino, Tallman).

ITEM NO. 3 ON CALL: TO ELECT A MODERATOR AND A DEPUTY MODERATOR FOR THE ENSUING YEAR.

Ms. Kupchick asked for nominations from the floor for a Moderator.

Liz Zezima, District 4 nominated Mark McDermott, duly seconded by Lisa Havey.

Upon motion made, duly seconded and carried unanimously, nominations for Moderator were closed.

VOTE: Mr. McDermott was elected Moderator by unanimous voice vote.

Mr. McDermott briefed the Body in matters pertaining to FOIA, ethics and conflicts of interest.

Mr. McDermott asked for nominations from the floor for Deputy Moderator.

Sharon Pistilli, District 3 nominated Marcy Spolyar, duly seconded by Tom Lambert.

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Upon motion made, duly seconded and carried unanimously, nominations for Deputy Moderator were closed.

VOTE: Ms. Spolyar was elected Deputy Moderator by unanimous voice vote.

ITEM NO. 4 ON CALL: TO NOMINATE AND ELECT MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

This item was withdrawn.

ITEM NO. 5 ON CALL: TO CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION RECOMMENDED BY THE TOWN CLERK:“RESOLVED, THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TOWN CHARTER AND STATE FILING RULES, THE REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING HOLD THEIR REGULAR MEETINGS FOR THE YEAR 2023 ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

January 23	April 4, 18, 19 & 24	June 26	October 23
February 27	May 1	August 28	November 27
March 27	May 22	September 18	December 18

Margaret Horton, District 9 moved this item as distributed with the call, dully seconded.

Amendment: Pamela Iacono moved to add, “and further resolved that the Standing Committees of the RTM meet on the following dates: January 17, February 21, March 20, April 17, May 15, June 19, August 21, September 11, October 16 and December 11”, duly seconded.

Jill Vergara, District 7 asked why this is being put into the minutes to which Ms. Iacono stated she thinks as a matter of practice the Committee meetings calendar should be approved so the public knows when they are meeting. Ms. Vergara said she thinks it’s great for transparency.

VOTE: The amendment adding the Standing Committee dates to the resolution was approved by unanimous voice vote.

VOTE: The 2023 RTM & Standing Committee dates were approved by unanimous voice vote.

ITEM NO. 6 ON CALL: REAPPOINTMENT OF JOHN B MAHONEY (U) TO THE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT BOARD TERM NOV. 2022-2027

Sharon Pistilli, District 3 moved this item as distributed with the Call, duly seconded.

Mr. Mahoney explained he had a long career in the business and took a step back and started his own firm. Serving on the Board is his way of giving back.

Jill Vergara, District 7 asked if Mr. Mahoney is registered as an Independent or Unaffiliated voter to which Mr. Mahoney indicated Independent.

VOTE: John Mahoney’s reappointment to the Employees Retirement Board was approved by unanimous voice vote.

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ITEM NO. 7 ON CALL: REAPPOINTMENT OF ROSINA C. NEGRON (U) TO THE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION TERM NOV. 2022-2027

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

Ms. Negron said she has served one term already and feels it is important to represent the stakeholders of the three historic districts in town.

Ms. Vergara commended Ms. Negron's attendance record and her fair application of the rules.

VOTE: Rosina Negron's reappointment the Historic District Commission was approved by unanimous voice vote.

ITEM NO. 8 ON CALL: REAPPOINTMENTS TO THE SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING COMMISSION FOR THE TERM NOV. 2022 – 2026 MARY S. BEYER (D), TIMOTHY W. BEZLER (D), KIRSTIN M. ETELA (D)

John Kuhn, District 7 moved this item as distributed with the Call, duly seconded.

Tim Bezler explained he has served a partial term. He is an environmental engineer and feels that the staff has made good progress educating the public on recycling and improving the transfer station.

Kirstin Etela said she has served a partial term and feels her talents as an environmental attorney are well suited to the Commission.

Due to technical difficulties, Misty Beyer joined the meeting via speakerphone later.

Sharon Pistilli moved to divide the item to vote on the Bezler and Etela reappointments, duly seconded and carried unanimously.

VOTE: Tim Bezler and Kirstin Etela's reappointments to the Solid Waste & Recycling Commission were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Misty Beyer said she is very concerned about solid waste and recycling issues. It is very challenging and there are interesting solutions; she looks forward to working with John Cottell and his staff to remove items from the waste stream.

VOTE: Misty Beyer's reappointment to the Solid Waste & Recycling Commission was approved by unanimous voice vote.

ITEM NO. 9 ON CALL: REAPPOINTMENT OF PIERRE RATZKI (D) TO THE GREATER BRIDGEPORT TRANSIT AUTHORITY TERM NOV. 2022-2026

Tom Lambert, District 3 moved this item as distributed with the Call, duly seconded.

Pierre Ratzki said the Authority is facing a lot of critical issues including electrification and funding from the federal government. Ms. Vergara said there are three bus stops in her district and asked for a status update on a bus shelter instead of people sitting on cans. Mr. Ratzki said he appreciates this issue being raised and will make it a priority.

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VOTE: Pierre Ratzki's reappointment to the Greater Bridgeport Transit Authority was approved by unanimous voice vote.

ITEM NO. 10 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 APPROPRIATING \$6,250,000 FOR COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE INSPECTION AND CONSTRUCTION PHASE OF THE EAST TRUNK WETLANDS CROSSING PROJECT, AUTHORIZING A GRANT TO REIMBURSE \$750,000 OF SUCH APPROPRIATION AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,000,000 TO FINANCE A PORTION OF SUCH APPROPRIATION,' BE, AND HEREBY IS, APPROVED."

This item was postponed by the Board of Finance.

ITEM NO. 11 ON CALL: TO HEAR, CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE: "WHEREAS, THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD (THE "TOWN") HAS ADOPTED, AT THE REQUEST OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY ("WPCA"), A RESOLUTION ENTITLED, 'A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$6,250,000 FOR COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE INSPECTION AND CONSTRUCTION PHASE OF THE EAST TRUNK WETLANDS CROSSING PROJECT, AUTHORIZING A GRANT TO REIMBURSE \$750,000 OF SUCH APPROPRIATION AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,000,000 TO FINANCE A PORTION OF SUCH APPROPRIATION" (THE "RESOLUTION"); AND WHEREAS, THE RESOLUTION APPROPRIATES \$6,250,000 (THE "APPROPRIATION") FOR COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE INSPECTION AND CONSTRUCTION PHASES OF THE EAST TRUNK WETLANDS CROSSING PROJECT (THE "PROJECT"); AND WHEREAS, THE APPROPRIATION SHALL BE FUNDED BY SEVERAL SOURCES INCLUDING: 1) \$3,500,000 FROM THE WPCA FUND BALANCE; 2) \$750,000 IN GRANT FUNDS FROM THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT'S URBAN ACT GRANT PROGRAM (THE "GRANT"); AND 3) \$2,000,000 IN BONDS ISSUED BY THE TOWN (THE "BONDS"); AND WHEREAS, THE RESOLUTION AUTHORIZES THE APPROPRIATION, THE NEGOTIATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE TERMS OF THE GRANT AND AUTHORIZES THE BONDS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,000,000; AND WHEREAS, WHILE THE TOWN IS LIABLE FOR THE DEBT SERVICE ON THE BONDS, FOR INTERNAL ACCOUNTING PURPOSES, IT IS APPROPRIATE THAT ALL COSTS OF THE PROJECT INCLUDING DEBT SERVICE ON THE BONDS BE ALLOCATED TO, AND REIMBURSED TO THE TOWN BY, THE WPCA; AND WHEREAS, THE WPCA HAS AGREED TO PAY FOR THE COSTS OF THE PROJECT AND THE DEBT SERVICE ON THE BONDS AUTHORIZED BY THE RESOLUTION; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, THAT THE DEBT SERVICE ON THE BONDS AS SUCH DEBT SERVICE BECOMES DUE SHALL BE PAID BY THE WPCA FROM ITS OWN FUNDS AND THE OBLIGATION OF THE WPCA SHALL BE SET FORTH IN A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (THE "MOU") WITH THE TOWN SATISFACTORY TO THE FIRST SELECTWOMAN; AND THE FIRST SELECTWOMAN IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE THE MOU ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN.

This item was postponed by the Board of Finance.

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ITEM NO. 12 ON CALL: RTM REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE REPORT

Karen Wackerman said the Committee members are she, Karen McCormack, Marcy Spolyar and Pamela Iacono. Their most recent meeting was November 1. They have asked the Engineering Department for a metes & bounds map of the districts. They have made a lot of progress and are fairly close to completion but do not know if Engineering will have the map available for their scheduled meeting on 12/6. Once completed, an ordinance will be forthcoming based on the metes & bounds for RTM approval.

Point of Information: Ms. Vergara noted the technical difficulties with tonight's hybrid meeting were unacceptable and embarrassing causing some members to leave the Webex because they could not participate in a meaningful way and hopes this is not the hybrid technology the Town will use going forward.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth P. Browne, MMC, MCTC
Town Clerk