



RTM

DECEMBER 18, 2023

**ITEM NO. 5 ON CALL:**

TO HEAR, CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS OF ALTERNATES TO THE HARBOR COMMISSION AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN: MICHAEL D. BAISLEY (IT) (TO FILL HARRIS VACANCY) BELINDA J. SHEPARD (D) (TO FILL HENRY VACANCY TERMS NOV. 2023-2025

This item was on the Consent Calendar.

**ITEM NO. 6 ON CALL:**

TO HEAR, CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN: "RESOLVED, THAT THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD AND ITS BOARD OF SELECTMEN AND REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING MAY ENTER INTO WITH AND DELIVER TO THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION, DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY, ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS WHICH IT DEEMS TO BE NECESSARY OR APPROPRIATE; AND FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT FIRST SELECTMAN WILLIAM A. GERBER OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD, IS AUTHORIZED AND DIRECTED TO EXECUTE AND DELIVER ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS ON BEHALF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD, ITS BOARD OF SELECTMEN AND THE FAIRFIELD REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING, AND TO DO AND PERFORM ALL ACTS AND THINGS DEEMED TO BE NECESSARY OR APPROPRIATE TO CARRY OUT THE TERMS OF SUCH DOCUMENTS, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, EXECUTING AND DELIVERING ALL AGREEMENTS AND DOCUMENTS CONTEMPLATED BY SUCH DOCUMENTS."

This item was on the Consent Calendar.

**ITEM NO. 7 ON CALL:**

TO HEAR, CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE: "RESOLVED, THAT, TO ACHIEVE THE PURPOSES OF THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY'S (FEMA) PORT SECURITY GRANT (PSG) TO MAINTAIN OR REESTABLISH MARITIME SECURITY, FUNDS BE, AND HEREBY ARE, EXPENDED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$43,015 TO OFFSET THE MAINTENANCE COSTS OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT'S MARINE VESSELS, 75% (\$34,412) OF SAID MAINTENANCE COSTS BE FUNDED BY THE PSG GRANT AND 25% (\$8,603) OF SAID GRANT TO BE MATCHED BY THE FAIRFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT OVER A THREE-YEAR BUDGET CYCLE (\$2,868 FY1, \$2,868 FY2, \$2,868 FY3) AS ADMINISTERED BY THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA); AND FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT, FIRST SELECTMAN WILLIAM A. GERBER, 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."

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Amendment: Rob Blanchard, District 6 moved to amend the resolution by substituting \$34,412 for the total amount \$25,809 for the 75%, duly seconded and carried by unanimous voice vote.

**VOTE:** The PSG resolution as amended 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, AS PART OF THE FAIRFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT’S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES, FUNDS BE, AND HEREBY ARE, EXPENDED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$190,000 OVER A TWO-YEAR PERIOD TO EXPAND POLICE CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAMS (CIT) BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAMS FOR PROPER RESOURCES, STAFFING, TRAINING, AND EQUIPMENT TO MEET THE EVER-INCREASING DEMANDS FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES, AND TO NAVIGATE CULTURAL, FINANCIAL, AND COMMUNICATIVE BARRIERS THAT UNDER-SERVED COMMUNITIES FACE WHEN ATTEMPTING TO ACCESS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES, 100% OF SAID PURCHASE TO BE FUNDED BY THE COPS GRANT PROGRAM AS ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT, FIRST SELECTMAN WILLIAM A. GERBER, 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.”

This item was on the Consent Calendar.

**ITEM NO. 9 ON CALL:** TO HEAR, CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE: “RESOLVED, TO ACHIEVE THE PURPOSES OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES ARPA GRANT FOR ADDITIONAL SERVICES THAT COULD INCLUDE NUTRITION, WELLNESS, EDUCATIONAL, SOCIAL, AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES, FUNDS BE, AND HEREBY ARE, EXPENDED IN THE AMOUNT UP TO \$131,000 TO BUILD AN ADA COMPLIANT, OUTDOOR FITNESS FACILITY THAT WILL INCLUDE A VARIETY OF ACCESSIBLE STRENGTH, AGILITY, AND CONDITIONING EQUIPMENT THAT WILL SERVE SENIORS WITH DISABILITIES OR PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS; AND FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT, FIRST SELECTMAN WILLIAM GERBER, 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.”

This item was on the Consent Calendar.

**ITEM NO. 10 ON CALL:** TO HEAR, CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE:

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“RESOLVED, TO ACHIEVE THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT’S PURPOSES OF EXPANDED PROGRAMMING, A PORTION OF \$350,000 IN FUNDS BE, AND HEREBY ARE, EXPENDED IN THE AMOUNT UP TO \$140,000 TO BUILD AN ADA-COMPLIANT, OUTDOOR FITNESS FACILITY THAT WILL INCLUDE A VARIETY OF ACCESSIBLE STRENGTH, AGILITY, AND CONDITIONING EQUIPMENT THAT WILL SERVE SENIORS WITH DISABILITIES OR PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS; AND FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT, FIRST SELECTMAN WILLIAM GERBER, 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.”

Kristin O’Neill, District 5 moved this item, duly seconded.

**VOTE:** The resolution passed by unanimous voice vote.

**ITEM NO. 11 ON CALL:** TO HEAR, CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE: “RESOLVED, THAT, AS PART OF THE FAIRFIELD HEALTH DEPARTMENT’S IMMUNIZATION ACTIVITIES AND MEDIA CAMPAIGNS TO PROMOTE THE IMPORTANCE OF VACCINATIONS, FUNDS BE, AND HEREBY ARE, EXPENDED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$143,667 TO SUPPORT THE SUPPLEMENTAL STAFFING TO INCREASE VACCINATION ACTIVITIES FOR INFLUENZA, COVID-19, AND ROUTINE VACCINATIONS, 100% OF SAID PURCHASE TO BE FUNDED BY IMMUNIZATIONS AND VACCINES FOR CHILDREN COVID-19 SUPPLEMENTS AND MEDIA FUNDING WITH A PROJECT PERIOD OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2023 TO JUNE 30, 2025, AS ADMINISTERED BY THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH (DPH); AND FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT, FIRST SELECTMAN WILLIAM A. GERBER, 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.”

Margaret Horton, District 10 moved this item, duly seconded.

Ken Astarita, District 1 asked who the target audience of the marketing campaign is and if there are guidelines to follow. Santana Jaronko said it is geared toward adults and parents to keep up with vaccinations; the guidelines are for the expenditure of the funds. Mr. Astarita asked how to build confidence in vaccinations once again. Ms. Jaronko said this will promote influenza and covid vaccines. Health Director Sands Cleary said the plan is to follow the CDC guidelines to rebuild confidence in vaccinations. Mr. Astarita said it’s extremely important that we develop a successful program.

Jeff Steele, district 3 asked how a media consultant would be chosen. Mr. Cleary said no decisions have been made regarding the media campaign; they’ve listened to a presentation from YNHH, they have a list of state approved contractors or then can develop an RFP.

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Dru Georgiadis, District 9 said there has been vaccination for 20 years that needs to be addressed to put people at ease.

Brooke Sparacino asked if the Covid vaccine has been proven to which Mr. Cleary responded affirmatively.

Melissa Straus, District 3 asked what allocations would be made for the various vaccinations. Mr. Cleary said there is no specific amount for each malady as its to reduce hesitancy for all vaccinations.

**VOTE:** The resolution passed with 37 in favor and 1 opposed (Sparacino).

**ITEM NO. 12 ON CALL:** TO HEAR, CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE: “RESOLVED, THAT, AS PART OF THE FAIRFIELD HEALTH DEPARTMENT’S CONTINUED EFFORTS TO FURTHER WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BY RETAINING STAFF, FUNDS BE, AND HEREBY ARE, EXPENDED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$152,729 FOR THE COST OF FAIRFIELD'S CONTINUED EFFORTS TO FURTHER FAIRFIELD HEALTH DEPARTMENT’S WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BY RETAINING STAFF. 100% OF SAID PURCHASE TO BE FUNDED BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT AS ADMINISTERED BY THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH (DPH). FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT, FIRST SELECTMAN WILLIAM A. GERBER, 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.”

This item was on the Consent Calendar.

**ITEM NO. 13 ON CALL:** TO HEAR, CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN: “RESOLVED, THAT THE PURCHASE OF 376 QUINCY STREET WITHIN THE PARKVIEW COMMONS DEVELOPMENT, BE AND HEREBY IS APPROVED, AND TO AUTHORIZE THE USE OF THE HOUSING TRUST FUND TO PAY ALL COSTS TO FINANCE SAID PURCHASE.”

This item was on the Consent Calendar.

**ITEM NO. 14 ON CALL:** TO HEAR, CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN: "RESOLVED, THAT THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD AUTHORIZES THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD TO APPLY TO THE COMMISSIONER OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND TO ACCEPT OR REJECT A GRANT FOR THE RIVERFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER RTU REPLACEMENT PROJECT AT RIVERFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL; AND FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT THE RIVERFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER RTU REPLACEMENT BUILDING

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COMMITTEE IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED AS THE BUILDING COMMITTEE WITH REGARD TO THE RIVERFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER RTU REPLACEMENT PROJECT AT RIVERFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL; AND FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD HEREBY AUTHORIZES AT LEAST THE PREPARATION OF SCHEMATIC DRAWINGS AND OUTLINE SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE RIVERFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER REPLACEMENT PROJECT AT RIVERFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL."

Liz Zezima, District 4 moved the item, duly seconded.

**VOTE:** The Riverfield Elementary School Library Media Center RTU resolution was approved by unanimous voice vote.

**ITEM NO. 15 ON CALL:** TO HEAR, CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE\*: "RESOLVED, THAT A RESOLUTION AMENDING AND RESTATING A RESOLUTION ENTITLED, 'A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$22,701,443 FOR THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH PHASE I OF THE AIR CONDITIONING UPGRADE PROJECT AT VARIOUS SCHOOLS, AUTHORIZING GRANTS TO REIMBURSE \$1,116,320 OF SUCH APPROPRIATION AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE THE REMAINING PORTION OF SUCH APPROPRIATION" TO INCREASE THE APPROPRIATION BY \$16,402,557 TO \$39,104,000 AND THE BOND AUTHORIZATION FROM \$21,585,123 TO \$37,987,680."

David Becker, HVAC IAQ Committee Chair gave a brief overview of the scope of the project and its timetable and deadlines. Representatives from Gilbane explained that the scope of work was redefined from the original DTC report in 2021 as they spent more time in the buildings to familiarize themselves to develop better estimates. Sal Morabito explained the \$6 million grant was a competitive grant unlike the usual school construction grants. There is another round of competitive grants, but they do not know if they would be eligible for same. They will petition for an extension once they have the project timeline in place.

Mr. Becker said the increase in the project costs were brought to the Town bodies in September when it was presented at the Capital Planning meeting. If the project were delayed a month it would slow down the bidding process and ordering equipment. He used the switching equipment as an example which takes 20 months to deliver.

Several representatives expressed frustration at the \$16 million cost increase and likened it to an additional project seeking approval. Strictly looking at air conditioning was one component but indoor air quality increased the expenses significantly.

**MOTION:** Ken Astarita moved to postpone the item to the January meeting, duly seconded.

Amar Shamas from Gilbane explained they are working in occupied schools. The summer months are most critical to accomplish the work. They need to order equipment, get it in place and hit the ground

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running summer 2024. There are also supply chain issues. They are working 2<sup>nd</sup> shift already to get into the ceilings and put in duct work and steel work. They are also competing for manpower which is most critical. These risks are reflected in bid responses.

Steve Berez, District 7 said a one-month delay could result in a 9-month delay later for the project.

Kerry Berchem, District 8 asked if the \$15.5 million increase was discovered in August why wasn't it brought forward then? Mr. Becker said they prepared a draft in August and brought it to the BOE in September and Capital Planning immediately after that.

Chris Shea, District 2 said the potential loss of a \$6 million grant is a red herring.

Selectman Christine Vitale said she understood the concerns about the increase and explained how projects usually have seed money first, but the pandemic brought concerns about air quality. This was a very competitive grant. DTC did the conceptual design before covid 19. Many BOE chairs wanted to apply for the grant but they were not ready. We were ready and applied for the grant. We don't know if we are eligible for another round of grants. Supply chain issues are a concern because districts across the country are addressing IAQ.

**VOTE:** Motion to postpone the item to the January meeting failed with 6 in favor (Astarita, Sparacino, Shea, Steele, Colburn, Ludwiczak) and 32 opposed.

**VOTE:** The resolution regarding costs associated with phase 1 of the air conditioning upgrade at various schools was approved with 34 in favor, 1 opposed (Shea) and 3 abstentions (Sparacino, Steele, Colburn).

**ITEM NO. 16 ON CALL:** TO ESTABLISH A SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON TAX RELIEF FOR ELDERLY & DISABLED HOMEOWNERS.

Laura Karson, district 4 moved the item, duly seconded.

**VOTE:** The motion to establish a special committee on tax relief for elderly and disabled homeowners was unanimously approved.

**New Business:**

There will be a workshop on Robert's Rules, Rules to Regulate and FOIA on January 2 and a special meeting to vote on the FEA CBA on January 8.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth P. Browne, MMC, MCTC  
Town Clerk