

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
November 29, 2023

A special meeting of the Town of Fairfield was held on Wednesday, November 29, 2023 at 8 PM via Webex.

The meeting was called to order at 8 PM by Moderator Marcy Spolyar.

PRESENT: 38 ABSENT: 1 VACANCY: 1

PRESENT: Astarita, Britton, Longo, Cook-Littman, O’Shea, Rock, Shea, Hartigan Steele, Straus, Waldron, Karson, McCabe, Spolyar, Zezima, Garskof, O’Neill, Pistilli, Wolk, Barahona, Blanchard, Graceffa, Berez, Delgado, Kuhn, Nickel, Berchem, Carroll, Ludwiczak, Colburn, Brown, Georgiadis, Havey, Wackerman, Ambrose, Contratto, Horton, Ratzki

ABSENT: Sparacino

VACANCY: For Brown

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

Moderator Spolyar led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM NO. 2 ON CALL: TO HEAR, CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE: “RESOLVED, THAT A BOND RESOLUTION AMENDING AND RESTATING A RESOLUTION ENTITLED, ‘A RESOLUTION AMENDING AND RESTATING A RESOLUTION ENTITLED, “A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$2,377,000 FOR THE PURCHASE OF VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION,” TO ADD EQUIPMENT TO THE EXHIBIT A, BE, AND HEREBY IS, APPROVED.”

Sharon Pistilli, District 5 moved this item as distributed, duly seconded.

VOTE: The resolution amending and restating a resolution appropriating \$2,377,000 was approved by unanimous voice vote.

ITEM NO. 3 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 \$973,090 FOR THE COSTS OF PRE-CONSTRUCTIONS SERVICES FOR PHASES II THROUGH V OF THE AIR CONDITIONING UPGRADE PROJECT AT VARIOUS SCHOOLS AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION,’ BE, AND HEREBY IS, APPROVED.”

Laura Karson, District 4 moved this item as distributed, duly seconded.

BOE Facilities Director Angelus Papageorge explained this is funding for phases 2-5 in order to get a better idea of pricing moving forward. In response to John Kuhn, he indicated that Sustainable Fairfield has had some input with the building committee. Melissa Straus, District 3 asked if the A/C units will be energy efficient to which Mr. Papageorge said the building committee is looking at the most efficient units with the assistance of a consultant.

VOTE: The resolution appropriating \$973,090 for pre-construction services for the air conditioning upgrade at various schools was approved by unanimous voice vote

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ITEM NO. 4 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 \$1,048,706 FOR THE COST OF THE ROGER SHERMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOILER BURNER REPLACEMENT PROJECT AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION,’ BE, AND HEREBY IS, APPROVED.”

Scott Nickel, District 7 moved this item as distributed, duly seconded.

Mr. Papageorge said this project has been moved up to this summer due to the current condition of the boilers at Sherman School. They are looking at the most efficient equipment.

VOTE: The resolution appropriating \$1,048,706 for the replacement of boiler burners at Sherman School was approved by unanimous voice vote

ITEM NO. 5 ON CALL: TO HEAR, CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE: “RESOLVED, THAT A BOND RESOLUTION AMENDING AND RESTATING A RESOLUTION ENTITLED, ‘A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$3,653,150 FOR THE COSTS OF VARIOUS BOARD OF EDUCATION CAPITAL PROJECTS AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION,’ TO INCREASE THE APPROPRIATION AND BOND AUTHORIZATION BY \$1,061,000 TO A TOTAL OF \$4,714,150, BE, AND HEREBY IS, APPROVED.”

Liz Zezima, District 4 moved this item as distributed, duly seconded.

Mr. Papageorge explained this is an adjustment to the project after the bid results. Josh Garskof asked if the increase was due to inflation to which Mr. Papageorge said it was inflation and cost of materials following the investigation of the piping and sewer lines.

VOTE: The resolution appropriating \$3,653,150 for certain BOE capital projects was approved by unanimous voice vote

ITEM NO. 6 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”) IS ENDING THE 2022-2023 FISCAL YEAR WITH AN APPROXIMATE \$9,800,000 OPERATING FUND SURPLUS (“THE SURPLUS”); AND WHEREAS, \$4,000,000 MILLION OF THE SURPLUS AMOUNT IS RELATED TO ACTUAL EXPENDITURES THAT WERE LESS THAN THE AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURES BUDGETED (“SPENDING SURPLUS”); AND WHEREAS, \$5,800,000 OF THE SURPLUS AMOUNT IS RELATED TO ACTUAL REVENUE RECEIPTS THAT EXCEEDED THE AMOUNT OF BUDGETED REVENUE (“REVENUE SURPLUS”); AND WHEREAS, THE TOWN IS ALSO COMMITTED TO MAINTAINING A FUND BALANCE LEVEL APPROXIMATELY EQUAL TO 11.75% OF GENERAL FUND SPENDING; AND WHEREAS, THE TOWN DESIRES TO PRESERVE A PORTION OF THE SPENDING SURPLUS FOR PURPOSES TO BE DETERMINED IN THE FUTURE; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE TOWN HEREBY AUTHORIZES, APPROVES AND DIRECTS THE TRANSFER OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 REVENUE SURPLUS TO THE PAVING CAPITAL ACCOUNT AND THE DEBT SERVICE RESERVE ACCOUNT AS FOLLOWS:

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Increase:	Dividends/Interest	\$3,074,000	01084-44001
Increase:	Municipal Revenue Share-Add'l	\$1,225,000	01006-41151
Increase:	Fire Marshal Fees	\$195,000	01004-42368
Increase:	Burr Mansion Rental	\$190,000	01007-42507
Increase:	Town Dump - Scale Weighing	\$165,000	01006-42338
Increase:	Smith Rich - Golf Fees	\$166,000	01007-42471
Increase:	Federal Revenue	\$118,000	01001-49998
Increase:	Park Dept - Beach Stickers	\$113,000	01005-42351
Increase:	Misc - Finances	\$110,000	01003-42363
Increase:	Rec - Programs	\$76,000	01007-42403
Increase:	Human Services - Member/Class	\$69,000	01006-42386
Increase:	Par 3 - Fees	\$68,000	01007-42466
Increase:	Building - Plumbing	\$62,000	01005-42114
Increase:	Park Dept - Daily Parking	\$58,000	01005-42352
Increase:	Rec - Penfield - J Durrell	\$53,000	01007-42508
Increase:	Police Parking Violations	\$51,000	01004-42201
Increase:	Rec - Penfield Pav	\$7,000	01007-42510
		\$5,800,000	
Increase:	Transfers Out - Debt Service	\$5,800,000	01010030-58950

Karen Wackerman, District 9 moved to waive the reading of the item, duly seconded and carried unanimously.

MOTION: The above resolution was stricken and replaced with the following resolution: “RESOLVED, that the Town hereby authorizes, approves and directs the transfer of the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Revenue surplus as follows: The portion of the FY2022-2023 surplus resulting from actual revenue amounts that were more than budgeted revenue amounts (“Revenue Surplus”) shall be appropriated to the Debt Service Reserve Account”, duly seconded.

VOTE: Motion to strike and replace the resolution was approved by unanimous voice vote.

CFO Jared Schmitt explained this effectively takes \$5.8 million in revenue surplus and parks it in the debt service fund for future use to be determined. Ken Astarita, District 1 asked if the funds must go toward debt service. Mr. Schmitt said it does not. Jeff Steele, District 3 asked if it is for paving. Mr. Schmitt explained the original resolution \$2 million was going toward paving but the BOF did not want to make that commitment. Mr. Steele asked if there was any consideration about a tax refund. Mr. Schmitt said no.

Chris Shea, District 2 asked why it wouldn't be used toward bonding some expenses such as the vehicles that were approved tonight. Mr. Schmitt said the administration and BOF could decide to use it toward vehicles, paving or other debt. There are other items in the capital improvement plan that will be reviewed and funding will be determined.

Dave Rock, District 2 asked how past surpluses were used. Mr. Schmitt said over the past 3 years the revenue surpluses were earmarked for the fill pile contamination expenses. \$8.4 million of the \$10 million surplus in FY22 was set aside for Penfield and \$1.3 million was put into the debt service fund.

VOTE: The resolution to transfer the FY23 revenue surplus to the Debt Service Reserve Acct was approved by unanimous voice vote.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth P. Browne, MMC, MCTC, Town Clerk