

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

The Board of Selectmen held a regular meeting Monday, August 17, 2020. The meeting was held remotely due to COVID-19 mandates and precautions. First Selectman Rosenthal called the meeting to order at 7:30p.m.

PRESENT: First Selectman Daniel C. Rosenthal, Selectman Maureen Crick Owen and Selectman Jeff Capeci.

ALSO PRESENT: Finance Director Robert Tait and one members of the press.

VOTER COMMENTS: none.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: Selectman Crick Owen moved to accept the regular meeting minutes 8/3/20. Selectman Capeci seconded. All in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS: The Police project continues to make progress. The lobby is tiled and the carpet is in. There will be a walk through on Aug. 20 at 3:30pm.

FINANCE DIRECTORS REPORT: none.

ADD TO THE AGENDA: Selectman Capeci moved to add, for discussion, the storm response, especially to the 55 and older living communities and requirements for safety and security lights during extended electrical power outages. Selectman Crick Owen seconded. All in favor. The Board of Selectmen and the Office of the First Selectman received emails and calls from various constituents. First Selectman Rosenthal spoke with Newtown Woods residents and the HOA president. The emergency lights, by code, are designed more for emergency evacuation, as in case of a fire, and not designed to last for extended power outages. Back-up generators are not mandated by state statute. Regency and Newtown Woods were the two communities without power for an extended period of time. The town liaisons through Eversource could not get information; it was very difficult. First Selectman Rosenthal noted that 55 year and older communities are not considered priorities as far as Eversource is concerned. Eversource works off the state list. The critical care facilities include the police station, fire houses, schools, Newtown Rehab and the schools used as shelters. Eversource will review their list beyond those critical facilities. First Selectman Rosenthal suggested to the HOA they prepare a safety plan to share with the residents. He also spoke to the attorney through Toll Brothers asking them to consider making safety improvements which would involve generators. People posted concern on social media about neighbors. Social media does not replace 911. Police can be called for a welfare check.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion and possible action:

1. 2019-2020 Year End Transfers and Re-appropriations: Mr. Tait presented the year end transfers and re-appropriations. The report begins with interdepartmental transfers. Page four includes other accounts with balances that go into the Capital & Non-recurring Transfer Out account. The fund balance is now over 12%. Using capital & non-recurring helps reduce need for bonding. The transfer includes \$60,000 for Council Chamber video/network and furniture upgrade, \$13,000 for the Sandy Hook streetscape sidewalk maintenance and \$530,000 to offset bonding in the CIP as well as offset 8/4/20 storm costs. There was further discussion on the need for updated technology in the Council Chamber. The streetscape brick pavers need to be sealed. Relative to the storm there was overtime expense and debris pick up will begin soon. Rob Sibley is tracking from a FEMA stand point. The re-appropriation requests include money for the delayed primary and any extra costs related to COVID relating to that primary. Police de-escalation training was postponed due to COVID; the money will be brought forward into next year. The Legislative Council approved a code update, which will be done next month. There was money left in dues, education and travel because of COVID restrictions. Auditors said most towns had monies left in budgets because of COVID. First Selectman Rosenthal said having the fund balance grow organically is good. This has immediate benefit to the taxpayer. Using capital & non-recurring can reduce reliance on debt and can be used to try to lessen the impact on the operating budget year over year. Selectman

Rec'd. for Record 8.19.2020
Town Clerk of Newtown 10:17am
Debbie Annalisa Holstead

Board of Selectmen
August 17, 2020

Crick Owen moved to approve the 2019-2020 year end transfers and re-appropriations as presented to include language to offset bonding in the CIP to include language to address costs related to the August 4, 2020 storm (att.). Selectman Capeci seconded. All in favor.

2. Authorization for First Selectman to pursue Town's interests in PURA investigation of Eversource related to August 4, 2020 tropical storm: Selectman Crick Owen moved to authorize the First Selectman to pursue the Town's interest in the PURA investigation of Eversource related to the August 4, 2020 tropical storm. Selectman Capeci seconded. First Selectman Rosenthal reviewed the lack of communication and the lack of crews in response to the storm. Newtown and Ridgefield had the highest number of outages in the state, just behind Danbury. First Selectman Rosenthal believes that, based on the consensus of forecast, Eversource should be mandated to bring in reinforcements under their mutual aid agreements, so there are crews on the ground immediately following the storm. There were 60 blocked roads a whole day after the storm. DPW cannot touch trees on wires. If there had been crews in town roads could've been opened sooner. There was restoration with roads still blocked because there was not an immediate storm response. Their present model of waiting puts us three days in without reinforcements and week-long outages. This effects the states competitiveness from a business standpoint and the ability to live here. The PURA investigation will go forward. The Legislative Council will also discuss this topic. Cohen and Wolf will file a brief for Newtown and Ridgefield and possibly more towns. The legal fees will be split between the towns. First Selectman Rosenthal hopes for fines and a mandate on how Eversource is to operate going forward relative to having a presence before a storm, not after. He expects to testify in front of PURA. Selectmen Crick Owen and Capeci expressed agreement with First Selectman Rosenthal and all voiced appreciation for the front line workers. All in favor.

3. Appointments/Reappointments/Vacancies/Opening: Selectman Crick Owen moved the re-appointment of Renata Adler to the Fairfield Hills Authority for a term to expire 7/31/23 and the appointment of George Daniels, III as an alternate to the Design Advisory Board for a term to expire 11/01/20. Selectman Capeci seconded. All in favor.

4. Driveway Bond Release/Extension: First Selectman Rosenthal moved the release of the driveway bond for Lakeview Development Corp., Lakeview Terrace, M51, B6, L254 in the amount of \$1,000. Selectman Crick Owen seconded. All in favor.

5. Tax Refunds: Selectman Crick Owen moved the Aug. 3, 2020, Refund #1, 2020/21 in the amount of \$2,496.93. Selectman Capeci seconded. All in favor.

VOTER COMMENTS: none.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Legislative Council member Andy Clure thinks it is worthwhile to send a letter to PURA objecting, on behalf of the Town residents, the significant rate increase on electric bills. Chairman Paul Lundquist and First Selectman Rosenthal will co-sign a letter to PURA expressing concern with the rate increase and the impact it has on the residents. Selectman Capeci asked that he and Selectman Crick Owen be able to review the draft language in case they have useful ideas to include. Selectman Crick Owen asked about the last diversity discussion that was rescheduled due to the storm. First Selectman Rosenthal reported the next discussion will take place on August 18 at 4:30pm, and will include George Benson, Kim Chiappetta, Don Mitchell, Chairman of P&Z and the First Selectman.

ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business the regular Board of Selectmen meeting adjourned at 8:35p.m.

Att.: 2019-2020 Year End Budget Transfer Request & Various Dept. Transfers

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Marcinek, Clerk

OFFICE OF THE CLERK
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www.fairfield-ct.org

VARIOUS DEPARTMENT TRANSFERS (TRANSFERS FROM)								
DEPARTMENT	ACCOUNT #					ACCOUNT NAME	TRANSFER	
							FROM	
Selectmen	101	11	100	0000	5110	SALARIES - REGULAR	1,000	
Selectmen	101	11	100	0000	5350	PROF SVS - LEGAL	38,000	
Selectmen - Other	101	11	105	0000	5531	POSTAGE	2,000	
Selectmen - Other	101	11	105	0000	5540	ADVERTISING	2,000	
Selectmen - Other	101	11	105	0000	5590	MEETING CLERKS	9,000	
Social Services	101	11	110	0000	5110	SALARIES - REGULAR	13,000	
Social Services	101	11	110	0000	5220	SOCIAL SEC CONTRI	1,000	
Social Services	101	11	110	0000	5301	FEES & PROF SERVICE	4,000	
Social Services	101	11	110	0000	5580	DUES, TRAVEL & EDUC	1,000	
Tax Collector	101	11	140	0000	5220	SOCIAL SEC CONTRI	1,000	
Registrars	101	11	180	0000	5580	DUES, TRAVEL & EDUC	1,000	
Registrars	101	11	180	0000	5611	OFFICE SUPPLIES	1,000	
Tax Assessor	101	11	190	0000	5110	SALARIES - REGULAR	30,000	
Tax Assessor	101	11	190	0000	5220	SOCIAL SEC CONTRI	3,000	
Tax Assessor	101	11	190	0000	5370	PROF SVS - AUDIT	1,000	
Tax Assessor	101	11	190	0000	5580	DUES, TRAVEL & EDUC	2,000	
Finance	101	11	200	0000	5220	SOCIAL SEC CONTRI	2,000	
Finance	101	11	200	0000	5800	OTHER EXPENDITURES	1,000	
Technology	101	11	205	0000	5110	SALARIES - REGULAR	10,000	
Technology	101	11	205	0000	5220	SOCIAL SEC CONTRI	1,000	
Technology	101	11	205	0000	5445	SOFTWARE/HARDWARE M	25,000	
Technology	101	11	205	0000	5580	DUES, TRAVEL & EDUC	9,000	
Technology	101	11	205	0000	5611	OFFICE SUPPLIES	2,000	
Technology	101	11	205	0000	5744	MACH & EQUIP - TECH	4,000	
Probate Court	101	11	255	0000	5310	PROF SVS - OFFICIAL	2,000	
Insurance	101	11	350	0000	5520	INSURANCE, OTHER TH	3,000	
Insurance	101	11	350	0000	5800	OTHER EXPENDITURES	8,000	
Economic Dev	101	11	740	0000	5301	FEES & PROF SERVICE	4,000	
Communications	101	12	300	0000	5430	REPAIR & MAINTENANC	4,000	
Communications	101	12	300	0000	5442	RENTAL OF EQUIPMENT	30,000	
Communications	101	12	300	0000	5501	OTHER PURCHASED SER	3,000	
Communications	101	12	300	0000	5580	DUES, TRAVEL & EDUC	5,000	
Police	101	12	310	0000	5110	SALARIES - REGULAR	8,000	
Police	101	12	310	0000	5117	SALARIES - SEASONAL	7,000	
Police	101	12	310	0000	5130	SALARIES - OVERTIME	17,000	
Police	101	12	310	0000	5220	SOCIAL SEC CONTRI	16,000	
Police	101	12	310	0000	5290	OTHER EMPL BENEFITS	14,000	
Police	101	12	310	0000	5505	CONTRACTUAL SERVICE	4,000	
Police	101	12	310	0000	5746	EQUIPMENT	15,000	
Fire	101	12	320	0000	5435	RADIO & PAGER SERVI	8,000	
Emergency Mgt	101	12	330	0000	5310	PROF SVS - OFFICIAL	2,000	
Emergency Mgt	101	12	330	0000	5505	CONTRACTUAL SERVICE	1,000	
Emergency Mgt	101	12	330	0000	5580	DUES, TRAVEL & EDUC	3,000	
Animal Control	101	12	340	0000	5290	OTHER EMPL BENEFITS	1,000	
Building Official	101	12	460	0000	5110	SALARIES - REGULAR	16,000	
Building Official	101	12	460	0000	5220	SOCIAL SEC CONTRI	1,000	
Building Official	101	12	460	0000	5611	OFFICE SUPPLIES	1,000	
Highway	101	13	500	0000	5626	STREET LIGHTS	2,000	
Winter Maint.	101	13	510	0000	5130	SALARIES - OVERTIME	40,000	

DEPARTMENT	ACCOUNT #						ACCOUNT NAME	TRANSFER	
								FROM	
Winter Maint.	101	13	510	0000	5220		SOCIAL SEC CONTRI	11,000	
Winter Maint.	101	13	510	0000	5661		TREATED SALT	24,000	
Transfer Sta.	101	13	515	0000	5290		OTHER EMPL BENEFITS	2,000	
Transfer Sta.	101	13	515	0000	5505		CONTRACTUAL SERVICE	3,000	
Building Maint.	101	13	650	0000	5110		SALARIES - REGULAR	10,000	
Building Maint.	101	13	650	0000	5130		SALARIES - OVERTIME	5,000	
Building Maint.	101	13	650	0000	5622		ENERGY - ELECTRICIT	15,000	
Building Maint.	101	13	650	0000	5749		CAPITAL OUTLAY	4,000	
Senior Services	101	14	220	0000	5110		SALARIES - REGULAR	7,000	
Senior Services	101	14	220	0000	5220		SOCIAL SEC CONTRI	2,000	
Senior Services	101	14	220	0000	5580		DUES, TRAVEL & EDUC	1,000	
Senior Services	101	14	220	0000	5611		OFFICE SUPPLIES	3,000	
Senior Services	101	14	220	0000	5800		OTHER EXPENDITURES	25,000	
Land Use	101	15	490	0000	5110		SALARIES - REGULAR	14,000	
Land Use	101	15	490	0000	5220		SOCIAL SEC CONTRI	1,000	
Land Use	101	15	490	0000	5350		PROF SVS - LEGAL	15,000	
Land Use	101	15	490	0000	5505		CONTRACTUAL SERVICE	1,000	
Land Use	101	15	490	0000	5550		PRINTING,BINDING &	1,000	
Parks & Recr.	101	16	550	0000	5130		SALARIES - OVERTIME	25,000	
Parks & Recr.	101	16	550	0000	5220		SOCIAL SEC CONTRI	1,000	
Parks & Recr.	101	16	550	0000	5290		OTHER EMPL BENEFITS	1,000	
Parks & Recr.	101	16	550	0000	5505		CONTRACTUAL SERVICE	9,000	
Parks & Recr.	101	16	550	0000	5580		DUES, TRAVEL & EDUC	5,000	
Parks & Recr.	101	16	550	0000	5611		OFFICE SUPPLIES	1,000	
Parks & Recr.	101	16	550	0000	5615		GENERAL MAINTENANCE	1,000	
Parks & Recr.	101	16	550	0000	5749		CAPITAL OUTLAY	20,000	
Debt Service	101	18	580	0000	5861		BOND INTEREST	2,000	
Contingency	101	24	570	0000	5899		CONTINGENCY	15,000	
							TOTAL	603,000	

