

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 3 PRIMROSE STREET, NEWTOWN, CT
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2021**

MINUTES

PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE: Jordana Bloom, Alison Plante, Chris Smith, Phil Carroll, Ryan Knapp, Judit DeStefano, Paul Lundquist, Chris Eide, Dan Wiedemann, Cathy Reiss, Andy Clure, Dan Honan

ALSO PRESENT: First Selectman Dan Rosenthal, Finance Director Bob Tait, 3 public, 1 press.

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Lundquist called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:33 pm.

VOTER COMMENT: None

MINUTES: Mr. Honan moved to accept the minutes of the January 20, 2021 Legislative Council Regular Meeting. Seconded by Ms. Reiss. All in favor. Motion passes (12-0).

COMMUNICATIONS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Charter Revision Interview Committee – Mr. Wiedemann reported that they have met four times so far and have interviewed 17 people. They are unsure at this point on whether it will consist of 7 or 9 total members. They will meet again next Monday to deliberate and make a decision on which candidates will be chosen.

Charter Revision Charge Committee – Ms. DeStefano reported that they've had a few meetings. So far, they have gotten feedback from the BOS, BOF, Fairfield Hills Authority, Police Commission, Sustainable Energy Commission and the BOE. Most of the feedback consisted of codifying things already in practice or in ordinance, defining fiscal authority, and clarifying language. They will hopefully come up with a charge within the next month. Mr. Lundquist added that once this all comes back to the council, the next steps will be to get a final legal review of the charge itself. That will then come back to the full council at the March 3rd meeting, during which the recommendations will be accepted and the Town Clerk will swear the members of the newly formed committee in.

FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT: First Selectman Dan Rosenthal reported that the BOS completed the budget review and has now been moved onto the BOF who have their public hearing on February 11th. A sum total of about \$13,000 was trimmed making the total budget stand at 2.2%. The vaccination process is moving along. The first clinic was held last Friday and Saturday with 170 doses. They prioritized those doses to those registered from oldest to youngest. The next clinic is being held tomorrow with 70 doses, and another 60 doses to be given on both Saturday and Sunday. The last statistic says we were relative with our neighboring communities at 7.5% of our total population vaccinated. He is hopeful that the state will expand those that are eligible. Our allocation from the state was 100 last week, and this week we were allocated another 200. They vaccinated 18 people per hour over the course of 6 hours. Ms. Reiss asked who administered the vaccines. First Selectman replied that they are all local, with a mix of hired people and volunteers. Head of Student Health Services Anne Dalton was present, as well as, members of the Ridgefield VNA. Mr. Wiedemann inquired about our current covid case status. The First Selectman said it's currently not spiking as badly as we expected. He is hopeful that we can deploy enough vaccines to moderate the spreading of the variant, but only time will tell. He reiterated the spreading is coming mostly from social gatherings.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion and Possible Action

- Designate 2021-2022 CIP Items for Referendum

Mr. Lundquist referenced the Town Charter Section 6-35(g) and Section 6-35(e). These points lead us to three projects which meet those criteria and are ready to be presented at the April referendum. They are the Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial, the Reed School Gas Boiler and LED Lighting Project, and the Emergency Radio System Upgrade.

Ms. DeStefano moved to send the Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial Project for \$3,700,000 to referendum. Seconded by Mr. Honan. All in favor. Motion passes (12-0).

Mr. Lundquist added that this project was referenced in the CIP with \$2 million in year one and \$2 million in year two. It will be spread out over the next two years and we are seeking approval for the full amount. First Selectman Rosenthal announced that this week the design firm, construction manager and our local landscape designer will be presenting to the Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial Commission. The design had changed since it was last presented as \$3.7 million, and we had to get it back down to where we started. Mr. Honan asked if taxpayers are paying for this entire project, and the First Selectman confirmed yes.

Ms. DeStefano moved to send the Reed School -Install Gas Boiler/LED Lighting Project for \$1,539,894 to referendum. Seconded by Mr. Honan. All in favor. Motion passes (12-0).

Ms. DeStefano moved to send the Emergency Radio System Upgrade for \$5,041,933 to referendum. Seconded by Mr. Honan. Motion passes (12-0).

VOTER COMMENT: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Mr. Wiedemann moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 pm. Seconded by Ms. DeStefano. All in favor.

*Respectfully submitted,
Rina Quijano, Clerk*

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
AT THE NEXT MEETING.**