

REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING

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ARTISTIC AND CULTURAL EXPRESSION AND REPRESENT PLACES WHERE COMMUNITY MEMBERS CONGREGATE, AND WHEREAS, THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD IS FORTUNATE TO HAVE MANY ARTS AND CULTURAL VENUES, CREATIVE BUSINESSES, HISTORIC SITES AND CULTURAL ASSETS WITHIN ITS LIMITS AND FURTHER HOLDS MANY ARTS AND CULTURAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES EACH YEAR WHICH DRAW MANY VISITORS; AND WHEREAS, A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF THESE ARTS AND CULTURAL VENUES, CREATIVE BUSINESSES, HISTORIC SITES AND CULTURAL ASSETS AND ACTIVITIES ARE LOCATED OR HELD WITHIN FAIRFIELD'S DOWNTOWN, WHICH REPRESENTS A COMPACT AND WALKABLE AREA THAT IS EASY FOR VISITORS TO RECOGNIZE AND IS A PLACE WHERE COMMUNITY MEMBERS CONGREGATE; AND WHEREAS, THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD ESTABLISHED A FAIRFIELD ARTS COMMISSION TO STIMULATE, FOSTER, AND ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT AND APPRECIATION OF ARTISTIC AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD AND TASKED THIS COMMISSION WITH EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITY OF CREATING A "CULTURAL DISTRICT" WITHIN ITS BORDERS; AND WHEREAS, THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD AND THE FAIRFIELD ARTS COMMISSION ARE DESIROUS OF ESTABLISHING A ARTS & CULTURAL DISTRICT TO PROMOTE AND ENCOURAGE ARTISTS, ENTREPRENEURS AND CREATIVE BUSINESSES; TO MARKET AND SUPPORT ARTS AND CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS AND ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE; NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING HEREBY ESTABLISHES A FAIRFIELD ARTS & CULTURAL DISTRICT, WHICH SHALL HAVE THE FOLLOWING BOUNDARIES AS DEPICTED ON THE ATTACHED MAP, AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT THE FAIRFIELD ARTS COMMISSION IS HEREBY DESIGNATED AS THE CULTURAL DISTRICT COMMISSION FOR THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD, AND THE FAIRFIELD ARTS COMMISSION IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO EXERCISE ANY POWER AND PERFORM ANY DUTY NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE FOR THE PURPOSE OF CARRYING OUT THE PROVISIONS OF PUBLIC ACT 19-143, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, 1) CONSULTING AND COLLABORATING WITH THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT COMMISSIONER OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS FOR ASSISTANCE WITH MARKETING, ADVOCACY, AND OTHER EFFORTS, AND 2) APPLYING FOR OR SOLICITING AND ACCEPTING ANY GRANT, CONTRIBUTION, GIFT, BEQUEST, OR OTHER DONATION FROM ANY SOURCE."

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: "WHEREAS, THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD HAS EXPERIENCED SEVERE DAMAGE FROM NATURAL HAZARDS AND IT CONTINUES TO BE VULNERABLE TO THE EFFECTS OF THOSE NATURAL HAZARDS PROFILED IN THE PLAN (E.G. FLOODS, WINTER STORMS, TORNADOES, HURRICANES AND TROPICAL STORMS, SEA LEVEL RISE, EARTHQUAKES, DAM FAILURE, WILDFIRES, EXTREME TEMPERATURES, AND DROUGHT), RESULTING IN LOSS OF PROPERTY AND LIFE, ECONOMIC HARDSHIP, AND THREATS TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY; AND WHEREAS, THE FAIRFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN APPROVED THE PREVIOUS VERSION OF THE PLAN IN 2019; AND WHEREAS, THE TOWN OF

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FAIRFIELD AND CONNECTICUT METROPOLITAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS DEVELOPED AND RECEIVED CONDITIONAL APPROVAL FROM THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) FOR THE NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE, 2024 UNDER THE REQUIREMENTS OF 44 CFR 201.6; AND WHEREAS, PUBLIC AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS WERE HELD AND PUBLIC INPUT WAS SOUGHT IN 2023 AND 2024 REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW OF THE NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE, 2024; AND WHEREAS, THE PLAN SPECIFICALLY ADDRESSES HAZARD MITIGATION STRATEGIES AND PLAN MAINTENANCE PROCEDURE FOR THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD; AND WHEREAS, THE PLAN RECOMMENDS SEVERAL HAZARD MITIGATION ACTIONS/PROJECTS THAT WILL PROVIDE MITIGATION FOR SPECIFIC NATURAL HAZARDS THAT IMPACT THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD, WITH THE EFFECT OF PROTECTING PEOPLE AND PROPERTY FROM LOSS ASSOCIATED WITH THOSE HAZARDS; AND WHEREAS, ADOPTION OF THIS PLAN WILL MAKE THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING TO ALLEVIATE THE IMPACTS OF FUTURE HAZARDS; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, 1. THE PLAN IS HEREBY ADOPTED AS AN OFFICIAL PLAN OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD; 2. THE RESPECTIVE OFFICIALS IDENTIFIED IN THE MITIGATION STRATEGY OF THE PLAN ARE HEREBY DIRECTED TO PURSUE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTIONS ASSIGNED TO THEM; 3. FUTURE REVISIONS AND PLAN MAINTENANCE REQUIRED BY 44 CFR 201.6 AND FEMA ARE HEREBY ADOPTED AS A PART OF THIS RESOLUTION FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE (5) YEARS FROM THE DATE OF THIS RESOLUTION. 4. AN ANNUAL REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION ELEMENTS OF THE PLAN SHALL BE PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN AS PART OF THE COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM REVIEW.”

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 THE BOND RESOLUTION ENTITLED, ‘A RESOLUTION AMENDING AND RESTATING THE EAST TRUNK WETLANDS CROSSING PROJECT RESOLUTION AND THE EAST TRUNK REPLACEMENT PROJECT RESOLUTION TO INCREASE THE TOTAL APPROPRIATION BY \$13,500,000 TO \$30,750,000, THE BOND AUTHORIZATION BY \$13,500,000 TO \$27,000,000 AND TO AMEND AND RESTATE THE PROJECT DESCRIPTION,’ BE, AND HEREBY IS, APPROVED.”

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

Interim CFO David Becker provided an explanation from bond counsel stating that the bond resolution is necessary for the appropriation and issuance of bonds; the WPCA cannot issue bonds. The supplemental resolution (Item 8) sets forth the financial obligation related to debt service between the Town and WPCA for the debt service. That determination is project specific and is based on discussions between the Town and the WPCA. A Memorandum of Understanding is executed by the Town and the WPCA after both resolutions are approved by the boards which documents and evidences the financial obligation related to debt service on the bonds between the Town and WPCA.

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Dave Rock, District 2 asked if future expansion will be hindered. Bill Huley & Michelle Gore provided information that the extra 3" in diameter increases the cross-sectional area thus increasing flow capacity 20%. It will reduce Inflow and Infiltration. The East Trunk Main serves communities from SHU, Stratfield and along Rooster River. If the Town were to expand in non-sewered areas, these neighborhoods would most likely tie into West Trunk Line.

A section of the existing 33" pipe conveying through Ash Creek is undermined by significant blockage, resulting in only a fraction of the fully-realized flow that is expected through a pipe of that diameter. The pipe's replacement will exponentially increase flow capacity. The replacement pipe will also be in an area accessible for regular future maintenance and repair, compared to the placement of the existing pipe.

VOTE: The bond resolution regarding the east trunk wetlands crossing project 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 THE SUPPLEMENTAL RESOLUTION CONCERNING, 'A RESOLUTION AMENDING AND RESTATING THE EAST TRUNK WETLANDS CROSSING PROJECT RESOLUTION AND THE EAST TRUNK REPLACEMENT PROJECT RESOLUTION TO INCREASE THE TOTAL APPROPRIATION BY \$13,500,000 TO \$30,750,000, THE BOND AUTHORIZATION BY \$13,500,000 TO \$27,000,000 AND TO AMEND AND RESTATE THE PROJECT DESCRIPTION,' BE, AND HEREBY IS, APPROVED."

Jay Wolk, District 5 moved the item, duly seconded.

VOTE: The supplemental resolution regarding the east trunk wetlands crossing project was approved by unanimous voice vote.

ITEM NO. 9 ON ALL: TO HEAR, CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE: "RESOLVED, THAT THE BOND RESOLUTION ENTITLED, 'A RESOLUTION AMENDING AND RESTATING A RESOLUTION ENTITLED, 'A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$2,250,000 FOR THE TIDE GATE SYSTEM PROJECT AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION,'" TO INCREASE THE APPROPRIATION AND BOND AUTHORIZATION BY \$2,000,000 TO \$4,250,000,' BE, AND HEREBY IS, APPROVED."

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: "WHEREAS, THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD ("TOWN") HAS BEEN AWARDED A GRANT IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$1,073,778 BY THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT AS PART OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (DECD); AND WHEREAS, THE GRANT REQUIRES FUNDS FROM THE TOWN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$162,122 FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE LOWER WHARF INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO STONE RETAINING WALLS AND REPLACEMENT OF PUBLIC FISHING PIER; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE FIRST SELECTMAN BE, AND HEREBY IS, AUTHORIZED TO ACCEPT

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SAID GRANT AND EXECUTE ANY AND ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS TO EFFECTUATE SAID GRANT.”

This item was on the consent calendar.

ITEM NO. 11 ON CALL: TO HEAR, CONSIDER AND ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE: “RESOLVED, THAT THE REALLOCATION OF THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUNDS AS SET FORTH BY THE INTERIM CFO BE, AND HEREBY IS, APPROVED.”

This item was on the consent calendar.

ITEM NO. 12 ON CALL: TO CONSIDER FOR THE FIRST TIME AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A FLOOD PREVENTION, CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND EROSION CONTROL BOARD.

This item will be voted on next month.

ITEM NO. 13 ON CALL: TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING SENSE OF THE BODY RESOLUTION SPONSORED BY PETER BRITTON, DISTRICT 1; TARA COOK-LITTMAN, DISTRICT 2; CINDY WALDRON, DISTRICT 3; LAURA KARSON, DISTRICT 4; MICHELLE MCCABE, DISTRICT 4; LIZ ZEZIMA, DISTRICT 4; SHARON PISTILLI, DISTRICT 5; JENNIFER BARAHONA, DISTRICT 6; ROB BLANCHARD, DISTRICT 6; NANCY DONNE, DISTRICT 6; STEVE BERECH, DISTRICT 7; JOHN KUHN, DISTRICT 7; CHRISTOPHER CARROLL, DISTRICT 8; DRU GEORGIADIS, DISTRICT 9; AND KAREN WACKERMAN, DISTRICT 9: “WHEREAS, A LOCAL ENERGY MODEL CALLED COMMUNITY POWER (AKA COMMUNITY ENERGY AGGREGATION, COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION, MUNICIPAL ENERGY AGGREGATION AMONG OTHER TERMS) IS A PROVEN STRATEGY TO EXPAND CONSUMER CHOICE, LOWER ELECTRIC RATES, AND MEET STATE AND LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS; AND WHEREAS, COMMUNITY POWER CURRENTLY EXISTS IN TEN STATES (CA, IL, OH, VA, MD, RI, NJ, NY, NH, AND MA) AND IS A MECHANISM BY WHICH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS USE AGGREGATE BUYING POWER TO PROCURE ELECTRICAL POWER FOR MUNICIPAL, RESIDENTIAL, AND COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS IN THEIR JURISDICTIONS; AND WHEREAS, CONNECTICUT IS ONE OF 17 STATES AND WASHINGTON, D.C. THAT OPERATE A PARTIALLY OR FULLY DEREGULATED UTILITY MARKET SUPPLYING VIRTUALLY EVERY PERSON WITH UTILITY SERVICES; AND WHEREAS, COMMUNITY POWER WORKS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ELECTRIC UTILITIES, WHICH CONTINUE TO PROVIDE POWER DELIVERY, GRID MAINTENANCE, AND CONSOLIDATED CUSTOMER BILLING; AND WHEREAS, COMMUNITY POWER CURRENTLY SERVES MILLIONS OF CUSTOMERS AROUND THE COUNTRY, AND CONSISTENTLY EXCEEDS UTILITY PERFORMANCE IN THE AREAS OF LOCAL CHOICE, ELECTRIC RATES, RENEWABLE CONTENT, AND GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTIONS; AND WHEREAS, THE CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF CONSUMER COUNSEL HAS CONDEMNED SOME PAST BEHAVIOR OF SOME INDIVIDUAL RETAIL SUPPLIERS MARKETING TO INDIVIDUALS, AND SUPPORTED COMMUNITY POWER AS AN ALTERNATIVE THAT CAN PROTECT CONSUMER INTERESTS; AND WHEREAS, COMMUNITY POWER WOULD PROVIDE BENEFITS TO THE RESIDENTS OF THE

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STATE OF CONNECTICUT IN THE FORM OF LOWER ELECTRIC RATES, ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND THESE BENEFITS ARE OF PARTICULAR VALUE TO LOW AND MODERATE-INCOME RATEPAYERS; AND WHEREAS, RECENTLY UTILITY RATES HAVE BEEN RISING AT RATES ABOVE INFLATION ERODING THE ABILITY OF TAXPAYERS TO MEET THEIR OTHER NEEDS; AND WHEREAS, MANY MUNICIPALITIES EFFECTIVELY PURCHASE UTILITY SERVICES FOR MUNICIPAL NEEDS IN A MANNER SIMILAR TO WHAT COMMUNITY POWER ENABLING LEGISLATION WOULD ALLOW INDIVIDUAL TAXPAYERS TO ENJOY; AND WHEREAS, COMMUNITY POWER ENABLING LEGISLATION WOULD HAVE NO SIGNIFICANT NEGATIVE FISCAL IMPACTS ON CONNECTICUT OR MUNICIPALITIES AND WOULD PROVIDE SIGNIFICANT LOCAL AND REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BENEFITS; AND WHEREAS, COMMUNITY POWER ALSO PROVIDES THE OPPORTUNITY TO FUND AND IMPLEMENT A WIDE VARIETY OF LOCAL ENERGY PROGRAMS TAILORED TO THE NEEDS OF A COMMUNITY; AND WHEREAS, COMMUNITY POWER, IF DETERMINED TO BE TECHNICALLY AND FINANCIALLY FEASIBLE FOR CONNECTICUT MUNICIPALITIES, COULD PROVIDE SUBSTANTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO THE RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES IN THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD THAT THE REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING HEREBY INDICATES ITS INTEREST IN THE POTENTIAL FOR COMMUNITY POWER IN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT AND WOULD SUPPORT THE STATE'S EFFORTS IN THAT REGARD. THE REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING FURTHER INDICATES THAT STATE ENABLING LEGISLATION SHOULD, AT A MINIMUM, ALLOW A COMMUNITY POWER MUNICIPALITY OR GROUP OF MUNICIPALITIES TO DO THE FOLLOWING: PROCURE ELECTRICITY ON BEHALF OF RESIDENTS, BUSINESSES, AND MUNICIPAL ACCOUNTS; 1. AUTOMATICALLY ENROLL RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES THAT HAVE NOT ALREADY CHOSEN A THIRD-PARTY SUPPLIER, BUT ALSO PROVIDE THEM WITH AMPLE OPPORTUNITIES TO OPT OUT; 2. OBTAIN ALL CUSTOMER USAGE INFORMATION FROM THE UTILITY THAT COMMUNITY POWER REQUIRES TO FULFILL ITS PURPOSES; 3. ADMINISTER ALL ENERGY EFFICIENCY FUNDS PAID BY CUSTOMERS LOCATED WITHIN THEIR JURISDICTIONAL BOUNDARIES FOR PURPOSES OF PROMOTING AND FUNDING LOCAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS; AND 4. OBTAIN FUNDING AND DEVELOP LOCAL RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS; AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE ADOPTION OF THIS RESOLUTION IN NO WAY OBLIGATES THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD TO PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY POWER UNLESS IT SO CHOOSES BY THE ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE IF AUTHORIZED BY THE STATE."

John Kuhn, District 7 said enabling legislation is needed from the state legislature, but this this will carry some momentum if other municipalities follow suit.

VOTE: The Sense of the Body Resolution regarding community power was approved by unanimous voice vote.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Elizabeth P. Browne, MMC, MCTC

Town Clerk