



**TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK  
SELECTMEN'S OFFICE**

CARL P. FORTUNA JR., FIRST SELECTMAN

SCOTT M. GIEGERICH, SELECTMAN

MATTHEW PUGLIESE, SELECTMAN

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**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, August 23, 2022**

**4:00 p.m.**

Old Saybrook Town Hall – First Floor Conference Room

Public Zoom Link: Direct link to the recording: <https://youtu.be/-BylPsSfxgl>

It is also included in the following playlists:

Board of Selectmen Meetings: \_

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLKX0JMf1KPp9SQAHOQUQCR3yLtNYxKOWK>

- I. CALL TO ORDER** - Mr. Fortuna, Mr. Giegerich and Mr. Pugliese present.
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Recited
- III. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC** - Claudia Way spoke about 115 Bokum Rd, she is following up from a blight complaint that she originally shared in April. She has spoken to Lynette Wacker in the Land Use office. There is a 2018 letter from the town to the property owner to address in-land wetlands violations, and they are occurring again. Mr. Fortuna will follow up with staff tomorrow and encouraged Ms. Way to come in and meet with him in person.  
Mark Caldarella was attending the meeting and is a member of the In-Land Wetlands Commission. This item is on their meeting agenda for September 15, 2022.

**IV. COMMENTS FROM THE SELECTMEN**

Mr. Giegerich updated the board on the progress for the high school field lights to be up and running for the fall sports season. The Rays for Rams Committee will be inviting supporters and community members to a game to acknowledge and celebrate the completion of the project.

Mr. Pugliese update the board that new signage that was authorized for the bottom of the Elm Street exit off I-95 was completed. Mr. Fortuna stated that Public Works will pick up the sign and will install. Mr. Pugliese received a complaint from a resident about a town employee possibly doing private work on town time. Mr. Pugliese asked about following up on this issue. Mr. Fortuna stated that often employees have personal, comp or vacation time - but that he is obligated to follow up and investigate.

Mr. Fortuna discussed the town end of year surplus, which will be the subject of the next several agenda items. Mr. Fortuna mentioned that there was not a call of a town meeting on today's agenda, as there were some additional items which he will be sending to the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance - including some work on Whisper Cove Road to repair the split rail fence and public access point to the River. A town meeting will be held in late September or early October on this and the following items.

- V. APPROVAL OF MINUTE:** Board of Selectmen Meeting July 26, 2022.  
A *MOTION* was made to approve the July 26, 2022 minutes as submitted.  
**FORTUNA/GIEGERICH**  
**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**VI. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD**

- A.** Discussion and possible action to appropriate the \$125 thousand from the Town's surplus for FY2022 and transfer said funds to an off-budget Fund called "Main Street Paving" for the purpose of repaving parking areas on Main Street.

*Mr. Fortuna stated that this would not be for all Main Street, but specific areas that are very bad, dealing with low spots and flooding. Mr. Pugliese stated that paving and any crosswalk safety improvements that have been discussed with ARPA ad hoc committee should be coordinated. Mr. Pugliese asked about the possibility of looking at engineering and lane striping to allow for a bike/pedestrian lane to improve safety and traffic flow. Mr. Fortuna will inquire with the town engineer.*

A *MOTION* was made to approve the appropriation and transfer of funds.

**GIEGERICH/FORTUNA**  
**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- B.** Discussion and possible action to appropriate \$100 thousand from the Town's surplus for FY2022 for the Town's share of grant related expenses for FY23 and transfer the funds to a newly created off-budget account called "Grant Related Projects".

*Mr. Fortuna stated this is for mostly engineering and other professional services needed because of grants the town has received for various capital projects - sidewalks, etc. Some may be used for engineering for future projects to get them "shovel ready" such as extending sidewalk across from Henny Penny to Staples. Mr. Pugliese asked about the procedure for using these funds - if it would come back to BOS/BOF. Mr. Fortuna stated that once these have gone to town meeting, the funds can be used, and the town does not need to come back for approval but will keep the boards up to date on how they are being used.*

A *MOTION* was made to approve the appropriation and transfer of funds.

**GIEGERICH/FORTUNA**  
**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- C.** Discussion and possible action to appropriate the \$250 thousand from the Town's surplus for FY2022 and transfer said funds to an off-budget Fund called "sidewalk construction".

*Mr. Fortuna stated that this is the same transfer that the board has done for the last several years. This will help with the match on the recent earmark award of approximately \$770K and the possible award of STEAP funds that the town recently applied for (if awarded).*

A *MOTION* was made to approve the appropriation and transfer of funds.

**GIEGERICH/FORTUNA**  
**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- D.** Discussion and possible action to appropriate the \$50 thousand from the Town's surplus for FY2022 and transfer said funds to an off-budget Fund called "Vegetation Management" for the purpose of combating invasive plants in Old Saybrook.

*Mr. Pugliese summarized the presentation that Kathy Connolly made at the Board of Finance meeting the prior week. What invasive plants were, their impacts and where they were located - all over town. Mr. Pugliese explained the funds could be used to conduct programs for residents on how to appropriately get rid of invasive species on their property, to hire a consultant to develop a plan for the town to remove invasive species, or to fund mechanical or other work to remove and treat the plants. Mr. Fortuna acknowledged Ms. Connolly, and her work, passion and volunteerism on this issue for the town.*

A MOTION was made to approve the appropriation and transfer of funds.

**GIEGERICH/FORTUNA**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- E.** Discussion and possible action to appropriate \$139,265 from the Town's surplus for FY2022 for the purpose of providing capital to update various town parks and beaches and to transfer said funds to the "Park and Rec Sinking Fund".

*Mr. Fortuna stated that there were several projects that came forward that make our community parks better. This is a modest investment making facilities more attractive and safer. Mr. Pugliese agreed and was happy these projects came forward after they were first raised in the ARPA process. Mr. Pugliese read off the list of projects: Public Wi-Fi access for parks and beaches, Technology upgrades to Vicky Duffy pavilion, resurfacing of the splash pad, upgrades to Harvey's Beach bathhouse, upgrades to Town beach bathrooms and fencing upgrade to mini golf.*

A MOTION was made to approve the appropriation and transfer of funds.

**GIEGERICH/PUGLIESE**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- F.** Discussion and possible action to appropriate \$200,000 from the Town's surplus for FY2022 for a Department of Public Works ("DPW") sweeper and transfer the funds to the DPW Equipment Capital fund 3353.

*Mr. Fortuna stated that the town has had the current sweeper for many years, and Director Bonin thinks they will be able to sell the town's sweeper for approximately \$30K that will go towards this expense. This will make keeping storm drains clean easier and more efficient.*

A MOTION was made to approve the appropriation and transfer of funds.

**FORTUNA/PUGLIESE**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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- G.** Discussion and possible action to appropriate \$245,560 from the Town's surplus for FY2022 to the Board of Education and transfer the funds to a newly created account entitled "Air Quality/HVAC Improvements".

*Mr. Fortuna stated that the BOE is starting the work at Goodwin Elementary school. They will be applying for state funds towards the project, and are using a significant amount, approximately \$900K, of ESSR funds that were made possible through the American Rescue Plan Act to run appropriate power to the building.*

A MOTION was made to approve the appropriation and transfer of funds.

**GIEGERICH/FORTUNA**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- H.** Discussion and possible action to appropriate \$366,824 from the Town's surplus for FY2022 to the capital non-recurring fund 3350.

*Mr. Fortuna stated that this prevents the remainder of the surplus from dropping to the bottom line. There is already \$185K that will drop to the bottom line and go to the town's rainy-day fund, keeping that at 17%. The capital non-recurring can be used for multiple projects that can be identified at any time - such as park and rec or paving.*

*Mr. Pugliese offered an amendment to the motion, recommending \$7,500 be used for a "Gun Buyback" program that had been discussed with Chief Spera. Discussion ensued.*

AMENDED MOTION was made by Mr. Fortuna and seconded by Mr. Giegerich to appropriate \$359,324 from the town's surplus to the capital non-recurring fund 3350.

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Pugliese made a MOTION to appropriate \$7,500 from the town's FY2022 surplus to a fund titled "Gun Buy Back Program". Seconded by Mr. Fortuna. Mr. Pugliese stated that the intent was for any un-spent funds to return to the town. Mr. Fortuna stated that the Chief of Police was in favor of this program.

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- I.** Release of Encroachment Permit bond as recommended by the Director of Public Works - 14 Whitney Avenue.

A MOTION was made to release the encroachment permit bond.

**FORTUNA/GIEGERICH**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- J.** Appointments

- 1.** Architectural Review Board. Term Expiration. Re-appointment regular member Donna Leake. This is a three-year term due to expire 09/2025.

A MOTION was made to re-appoint regular member Donna Leake.

**FORTUNA/GIEGERICH**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- 2.** Architectural Review Board. Term Expiration. Re-appointment alternate member Tina Rupp. This is a three-year term due to expire 09/2025.

A MOTION was made to re-appoint alternate member Tina Rupp.

**GIEGERICH/PUGLIESE**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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3. Board of Education. Vacancy (resignation). This appointment is until the next municipal election November 2023 at which time it will be placed on the ballot for a term until 11/18/2025.

*Mr. Fortuna introduced Lee-Ann Flynn. Ms. Flynn was in attendance and introduced herself. She is a recently retired teacher and has been in touch with the Superintendent and outgoing Chairman to get up to speed. Mr. Pugliese thanked outgoing BOE Chair Tara Barros for her work and service.*

A MOTION was made to appoint Lee-Ann Flynn as a member on the Board of Education.

**FORTUNA/GIEGERICH**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

4. Ethics Commission. Term Expiration. Re-appointment member Paula Ladd. This is a four-year term due to expire 09/2026.

A MOTION was made to re-appoint Paula Ladd.

**GIEGERICH/PUGLIESE**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

5. Ethics Commission. Term Expiration. Re-appointment member Edward Cassella. This is a four-year term due to expire 09/2026.

A MOTION was made to re-appoint Edward Cassella.

**GIEGERICH/PUGLIESE**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**VII. BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING WITH ARPA ADHOC COMMITTEE**

*Review of submitted applications. Deadline remains September 1, 2022 for submissions.*

*Discussion ensued. ARPA Meeting ended at 6:02PM*

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT** – A MOTION was made to adjourn at 6:03 p.m.

**FORTUNA/PUGLIESE**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Respectfully submitted,  
Matthew Pugliese