



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

CARL P. FORTUNA JR., FIRST SELECTMAN

SCOTT M. GIEGERICH, SELECTMAN

MATTHEW PUGLIESE, SELECTMAN

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SPECIAL MEETING

HYBRID MEETING

MINUTES

Wednesday, September 15, 2021

3:30 p.m.

Old Saybrook Town Hall – First Floor Conference Room

Direct link to the recording: <https://youtu.be/qNxYtAAjQ5E>

It is also included in the following playlists:

Board of Selectmen Meetings: _

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLKX0JMf1Kpp9SQAHOQUQCR3yLtNYxKOWK>

Covid-19 Playlist: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLKX0JMf1Kpp9udiWTL-WmjmxSYBnCU8N>

I. CALL TO ORDER – All members present

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Recited

III. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – Mike Looney commented that he believes the police commissioners are not doing their “job”. He believes there is statutory authority for greater oversight. He also asked about dialogue at a meeting and whether questions were allowed or just comments. The First Selectman responded that technically it is just comment but some boards have a little more leeway than others, frequently based on time constraints.

Susan Esty commented on the magnificent placement of all the flags on the town green to commemorate the 20th anniversary of September 11.

IV. COMMENTS FROM THE SELECTMEN - Mr. Pugliese also commended the citizen volunteers who put the flags on the town green. Mr. Giegerich commented about his excitement for the high school lights.

Mr. Fortuna commented on the following:

1. Evans Lane water main construction begins September 16.
2. The support union and dispatcher negotiations are both headed to mediation as we have had difficulty settling these contracts.
3. There is an Estuary Council of Seniors open house on Saturday the 18th starting at noon.
4. The Coast Guard band will play at the Historical Society on Sunday the 19th at 2pm.
5. Mr. Fortuna gave an update on MIRA. The trash to energy plant is closing and the Board of Directors is now reviewing options on where trash will be disposed of and at what price. Most trash from 49 towns will now be shipped out of state and buried. Mr. Fortuna expressed disappointment that the State has not put money towards a solution for trash disposal.
6. There will be a Board of Selectmen meeting on the 28th at 7pm at which the Board of Education will be invited. This conversation will be in Executive Session to discuss the Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) project.
7. Mr. Fortuna also discussed the town financials through August. Revenues and expenses are tracking favorably.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Special Board of Selectmen Meeting August 18, 2021.

FORTUNA /PUGLIESE

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VI. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

A. Reconstitution of the Triple T Committee.

This committee was formed originally when the turf, track and tennis courts were re-built at the high school. Now the committee will be re-constituted to consist of Scott Giegerich and Alan Hyla as co-chairs; Nancy Gatta, Rich Hanratty, Peter Rothman and Meghan Brady. This committee will name a 7th member. Athletic Director Brendan Saunders will be a non-voting member. Motion to approve.

FORTUNA /PUGLIESE

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. Discussion and action on release of a driveway encroachment bond – 17 Nehantic Trail. Motion to approve.

FORTUNA /GIEGERICH

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. Discussion and action on release of a driveway encroachment bond – 98 Chalker Beach Road. Motion to approve.

FORTUNA /GIEGERICH

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D. Discussion and action on release of a driveway encroachment bond – 19 Fenwood Road. Motion to approve.

FORTUNA /PUGLIESE

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

E. Appointments

1. Architectural Review Board (ARB) – Term expiration. Re-appointment of Emily Grochowski. This is a three year term due to expire 09/2024. Motion to approve.

FORTUNA /GIEGERICH

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Architectural Review Board (ARB) – Term expiration. Re-appointment of Kathleen Caldarella. This is a three year term due to expire 09/2024. Motion to approve.

FORTUNA /PUGLIESE

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Architectural Review Board (ARB) – Term expiration. Re-appointment of Edward Armstrong. This is a three year term due to expire 09/2024. Motion to approve.

FORTUNA /GIEGERICH

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Ethics Commission – Term expiration. Re-appointment of Donald Hunt. This is a four year term due to expire 09/2025. Motion to approve.

FORTUNA /PUGLIESE

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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- F.** Discussion and possible action for an appropriation of \$150 thousand from the Town's FY21 surplus to the capital non-recurring fund. Further to move the transfer of the surplus funds to Town meeting.

The First Selectman noted that this fund has been successful since starting 10 years ago. The town has used it for projects all over and it is his opinion that we should keep building it as projects will also be needed. Motion to approve.

FORTUNA /GIEGERICH

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- G.** Discussion and possible action for an appropriation of \$200,000 thousand from the Town's FY21 surplus to an off-budget fund entitled, "High School Lights", and to further move the transfer of these surplus funds to Town meeting.

Mr. Fortuna thanked Mr. Pugliese for his suggestion at the last Board of Selectmen meeting to put this before the Board of Finance. The Board of Selectmen enthusiastically supports this use of funds. Motion to approve.

FORTUNA / PUGLIESE

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- H.** Discussion and possible action for an appropriation of \$150,000 thousand from the Town's FY21 surplus to the P & R capital account and to further move the transfer of these surplus funds to Town meeting.

This is another account that the Board is very supportive of as P & R impacts all ages in our town. Motion to approve.

FORTUNA /PUGLIESE

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- I.** Discussion and possible action to approve the transfer of funds received from the sale of the Town's Fire Trucks to the Roof Repair Fund 3020 for the purpose of repairing the Fire Department's Roof. Further, to move this transfer of funds to Town meeting.

Two fire trucks will be sold for approximately \$80,000 and it is estimated that the low slope portion of the roof is a \$100,000 job. The pitched roof is next and that could be in three years or so. Placing these funds in the roofing off budget account will keep this account in the black. Motion to approve.

FORTUNA /GIEGERICH

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- J.** Call of Town Meeting. Action required.

Item 1, transfer of town owned property at 116 and 118 N. Cove road was discussed as it was recommended by the Board of Selectmen some time ago. The board remembered the prior discussion and is supportive of this transfer. An email by town counsel was read into the record. The call was approved.

FORTUNA /PUGLIESE

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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K. American Rescue Plan discussion.

Mr. Fortuna discussed a proposal to name representatives from 5 commissions in town and also have 5 other citizens as an advisory board to make recommendations. The names discussed were met with general approval. Discussion centered on the possible hiring of a consultant to lead this group with action items surrounding economic development, planning and housing. Is there enough staff expertise to handle these matters? The Board of Selectmen was not certain but Mr. Fortuna suggested at the very least that consultants be interviewed pursuant to an RFP/RFQ/RFI process. Mr. Pugliese expressed concerns about spending a significant amount of funds on a consultant on work that perhaps can be proposed by the Board of Selectmen and staff. If it is determined that a consultant is not necessary or can be used on a limited basis, the majority of the committee can so decide. The First Selectman proposed getting a draft proposal out to the board soon. He will notify proposed members of the advisory board.

L. Distribution of American Rescue Plan funds

- i. SSK - \$10,000
- ii. Chamber of Commerce - \$23,900
- iii. The Katherine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center - \$100,000
- iv. Old Saybrook Historical Society - \$23,000
- v. Old Saybrook Garden Club - \$7,000

The Board was supportive of all this funding and approved these requests unanimously.

FORTUNA /GIEGERICH

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VII. ADJOURNMENT – Motion to adjourn at 4:30pm.

FORTUNA /PUGLIESE

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Carl P. Fortuna Jr., First Selectman