

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY BOARD OF SELECTMEN

The Board of Selectmen held a regular meeting Monday, June 6, 2011 in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Center, Newtown. First Selectman Llodra called the meeting to order at 7:35pm.

**PRESENT:** First Selectman E. Patricia Llodra, Selectman William F.L. Rodgers, Selectman William F. Furrier.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Finance Director Robert Tait, Economic and Community Development Director Elizabeth Stocker, Economic Development members Don Sharpe and Margaret Olinger, Advanced Fusion Systems Chairman and CEO Dr. William Joyce and Treasurer Robert Powell and prior Economic Development Commission Chairman Robert Rau, one members of the public and two members of the press.

**VOTER PARTICIPATION:** **Ruby Johnson, 16 Chestnut Hill Road** presented the board with another version of her map of Fairfield Hills and asked what the next step is after the Review Committee makes their recommendations. She said the Cultural Arts Commission has asked for a cultural arts center in Plymouth Hall and there was mention of outdoor concerts, but these would need to be away from Wasserman Way and traffic. Planning & Zoning has parking space guidelines so they need to be involved. The decisions require specialized knowledge of the buildings and sound. She believes the Fairfield Hills Authority jumped the gun in deciding where the ambulance will be located on the campus prior to the completion of the work of the Review Committee. First Selectman Llodra noted that the Review Committee will recommend what should be at the campus, not where it is located.

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:** Selectman Rodgers moved to accept the minutes of May 16, 2011 for discussion. Selectman Furrier seconded. Selectman Rodgers asked that the word "could" be changed to "should" under #5, New Business so the sentence reads *Selectman Rodgers would like it communicated to Advantage Realty that they should merely present offers.*" All in favor

**COMMUNICATIONS:** none.

**FINANCE DIRECTOR REPORT:** none.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Discussion and possible action:**

- 1. Implementation Plan – Plan of Conservation and Development:** item to be carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Discussion and possible action:**

- 1. Advanced Fusion Systems (AFS) Business Incentive:** (Att. A) **Ms. Stocker** explained that the Economic Development Commission is asking the board to consider a tax incentive for Advanced Fusion Systems, 11 Edmond Road and detailed the history of the company looking into Newtown as a location for their business. AFS is aware that the final abatement decision

lies with the Legislative Council. **Dr. Joyce and Mr. Powell** presented information on the company and the economic benefits to the town (Att. B) explaining that AFS is a high tech manufacturing company that has the potential to bring 200+ highly skilled jobs to Newtown within five years. Selectman Rodgers asked if surge protectors, referred to by the utility companies as current limiting devices, are one time use. Dr. Joyce said they can operate time and time again. Selectman Rodgers asked about defense products and the safety of the public. Dr. Joyce stated that the biggest market is the utilities. He explained there is special copper grid that enables a very good ground to be maintained. The rooms are steel lined and there are many security measures in place. The land is 25 acres, Dr. Joyce does not anticipate further expansion; it is more likely something will be done in another building. Generating facilities may be built on the AFS property, within the building. Selectman Furrier asked where the excess current is diverted to. Dr. Joyce said the device itself generates heat. Selectman Furrier asked if the product line is exclusive to protecting power transmission lines. Dr. Joyce said that down the line there are other applications involving the x-ray laser. There will be many security devices and systems in place at the facility. **Mr. Rau** said it is the objective of the town and the EDC to bring high technology firms into the town. This company has the potential to put Newtown on the map. He encouraged the board to look favorably on the proposal of the EDC and make it possible for AFS to thrive in Newtown. **Margaret Olinger** said that this is truly an opportunity for the town that we want the people of the town to know about and support wholeheartedly. Technology companies love to work together because there is no one in a field that knows everything; they tend to cluster. This is an opportunity to put an anchor in Newtown that will bring other high tech companies to Newtown to work closely with AFS. **Don Sharpe** endorsed Ms. Olinger's comments and added that this is a great opportunity for the town with no downside and no loss of money even if AFS fails to reach its full potential. **Ms. Stocker** explained that the real property is currently assessed at \$5.9 million. After improvements and additions the assessment is estimated to be \$10.5 million. The town will continue to collect the tax due on the original assessment for five years. The full impact of the improvements will be taxed fully after five years. The abatement is estimated to be \$340,000 over the five year period. Selectman Furrier moved to strongly support the proposed abatement of AFS for a period of five years and based on the current assessment of that facility according to Connecticut General Statutes Section 12-650b(a)(1) and that this be forwarded to the Board of Finance with a strong recommendation. Selectman Rodgers seconded. All in favor.

- 2. Appointments/Reappointments:** First Selectman Llodra stated that five people have expressed in interest in the Self Insurance Oversight Committee however, one is moving out of town and another has become unavailable due to work commitments. Selectman Rodgers moved to appoint Dan McAloon to a three year term, Mark Mattioli to a two year term and Jim Loring as an alternate for a two year term. The terms begin January 6, 2011. Selectman Furrier seconded. Selectman Rodgers questioned whether we would be looking at any of the appointees employers as possible providers saying if they take part in a renewal or monitoring function there may be an appearance of impropriety. First Selectman Llodra stated their task is to help us manage the fund; they will not be interacting with the provider; that is the job of the consultant. It is their role to be the bridge between the Board of Selectmen, the Board of Education and the consultant, who then works directly with the provider. Selectman Furrier asked if their role was to monitor the reserve. First Selectman Llodra said there should be a safe separation of responsibilities. Mr. Tait said the most important function of this group is to

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recommend the contribution during budget time. Mr. Tait keeps the books on the fund; we have a reserve policy so there is a set amount there already.

3. **Transfer:** Selectman Rodgers moved Public Works transfers as reflected in Att. C. Selectman Furrier seconded. (Att. D – Contingency Account Activity). Selectman Rodgers asked about the \$12,000 savings. Mr. Tait said that the savings was in overtime but there have been additional savings from closing the Landfill on Monday. All in favor.
4. **Transfer:** Selectman Furrier moved Public Works transfers as reflected in Att. E). Selectman Rodgers seconded. All in favor.
5. **Transfer:** Selectman Rodgers moved the transfer from 01570-2000 Contingency to 01180-1005 Referenda in the amount of \$11,400. Selectman Furrier seconded. All in favor.
6. **Tax Refunds:** Selectman Furrier moved the June Tax Refunds, No. 16 in the amount of \$16,833.11. Selectman Rodgers seconded. All in favor.
7. **Tax Abatements:** Selectman Rodgers moved the Tax Abatements for June 2011 in the amount of \$25,606.06. Selectman Furrier seconded. All in favor.
8. **Road Work Acceptance:** Selectman Furrier moved the road work acceptance, road and drainage work agreement for Bryan Lane/Washbrook Road, “Plaza South, T.P Properties and to reduce the bond from \$20,300 to \$4,060 which represents the 20% maintenance bond that is to be held by the Town for one year. Selectman Rodgers seconded. All in favor.

**VOTER COMMENTS:** none.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** none.

9. **Executive Session: Potential Litigation, Board of Assessment Appeal:** Selectman Rodgers moved to enter executive session to discuss potential litigation relative to a Board of Assessment Appeal. Selectman Furrier seconded. All in favor. Nobody was invited to attend. Executive session was entered into at 9:25pm and returned to regular session at 9:30pm with the following motion: Selectman Furrier moved to authorize the First Selectman to authorize the Town Attorney to defend the town against Saw Mill Holdings, LLC. Selectman Rodgers seconded. All in favor.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Having no further business the Board of Selectmen adjourned their regular meeting at 9:31pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Susan Marcinek, Clerk

Att. A: memo from EDC to First Selectman re: AFS  
Att. B: AFS power point presentation  
Att. C: Transfer  
Att. D: Town of Newtown Contingency Account Activity  
Att. E: Transfer

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