



TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

CARL P. FORTUNA JR., FIRST SELECTMAN

SCOTT M. GIEGERICH, SELECTMAN

MATTHEW PUGLIESE, SELECTMAN

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SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Friday, April 5, 2024

11:00 a.m.

Old Saybrook Town Hall – First Floor Conference Room

To access a recording of Board of Selectmen Meetings: _

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLKX0JMf1Kpp9SQAHO0GUQCR3yLtNYxKOWK>

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** - Mr. Pugliese and Mr. Fortuna present. Mr. Giegerich absent.
- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** - Recited
- III. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC** – Mr. McGrath spoke in support of the LISFF grant as well as mentioning the well water issues on certain roads in Chalker Beach. He will be putting in an ARPA application once he has a handle on cost from CT Water. A resident also spoke in support of the Housing Task Force ARPA appropriation to promote alternative housing. Susan Esty spoke in full support of acquiring 155 Ingham Hill Road.
- IV. **COMMENTS FROM THE SELECTMEN** – None.
- V. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Board of Selectmen Meeting March 26, 2024 – A *MOTION was made to approve March 26, 2024 meeting minutes.*
FORTUNA/PUGLIESE
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
- VI. **BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD**
 - A. Discussion and possible action on request for grant application match funding – 2024 Long Island Futures Fund (\$87,500) and recommendation to the Board of Finance to appropriate from the town’s capital non-recurring fund.

This matter is 25% of a 50% match. The other 25% will be ARPA funds. Chris Costa explained the town’s recent history of climate action going back 10 years. We are in the middle of working on a 4 shore grant with other towns but this grant, which is a re-application, would involve mitigation and coastal resource remediation. We need hydrologic data. Mr. Pugliese asked how to implement/next steps: Ms. Costa stated that it depends on what it is, i.e., roads, the tide gate or marsh restoration. In any event, we need designs based on data for us to get permits. Mr. Pugliese also asked if we can also look at other areas or is this grant somehow precluding us from doing so...It is not. Ms. Costa also stated that she feels she has sufficient staff to handle this. *A MOTION was made to move and approve.*
FORTUNA/PUGLIESE
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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B. Harbor Management Commission (HMC) ordinance changes – Discussion and possible action.

Mr. Fortuna reviewed the changes that were discussed at the last Board of Selectmen meeting. The one important change was notice to all those who may find themselves in violation of an HMC ordinance. As long as fees/penalties are set prior to the season, notice is sufficient. This also allows HMC to change the penalties as they see fit prior to the season.

A MOTION was made to move and approve.

FORTUNA/PUGLIESE

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. Call of Special Town Meeting - This matter was discussed after letter D.

A MOTION was made to approve the Call of Special Town Meeting.

FORTUNA/PUGLIESE

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D. Discussion and possible action on the recommendations of the ARPA ad hoc committee:

1. Housing Task Force (HTF) - \$500,000 – Mr. Fortuna discussed how these funds would be used to assist with developing alternative housing, whether affordable, attainable, workforce or other, and not in any one area of town. The Planning Commission did discuss at its meeting that it would be willing to take on this task with a combination of other commission members. Mr. Pugliese stressed that the HTF would make a recommendation on spending which would ultimately have to be approved by our legislative body. *A MOTION was made to move and approve.*

FORTUNA/PUGLIESE

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Mariner's Way Redevelopment Agency - \$250,000 – Mr. Fortuna explained that these funds are a follow-up to the hard work of a select group of staff and volunteers who have been working with Camoin to come up with our Mariners Way plan. These funds are meant to kickstart a project or assist with the Redevelopment Agency that may be formed. *A MOTION was made to move and approve.*

FORTUNA/PUGLIESE

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Outdoor Recreation - \$150,000 – Ray Allen and Susan Esty spoke to a number of projects that would be considered with these funds, including public bathroom upgrades and better fields. Susan Esty pointed out the age of our parks and how investment is needed. Mr. Pugliese and Mr. Fortuna noted their support. *A MOTION was made to move and approve.*

FORTUNA/PUGLIESE

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Saybrook Point Seawall - \$100,000 – Mr. Fortuna explained the Trails Grant that the town has applied for and how repairing the seawall, with a permanent easement across the Dock N Dine property, would allow the town to grant stunning public access to the water for those who may not have that opportunity. Mr. Pugliese commented on how this is truly a great opportunity. *A MOTION was made to move and approve.*

FORTUNA/PUGLIESE

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Acton Library Renovation - \$100,000 – The library already has over \$3m of \$5m secured for their project and need other sources of income, including fundraisers. This ARPA funding is an effort to assist with getting APL to its goal. *A MOTION was made to move and approve.*

FORTUNA/PUGLIESE

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. 2024 Long Island Futures Fund - \$87,500 (previously discussed above). *A MOTION was made to move and approve.*

FORTUNA/PUGLIESE

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

E. Discussion and possible action to recommend to the Board of Finance the purchase of 155 Ingham Hill Road for the sum of \$93,555 pursuant to the town's right of first refusal (see attached). The funds should be accessed from the Land Acquisition Fund.

Mr. Fortuna explained that this property is surrounded by town property and that it is an important piece for the town. It will be acquired as open space, under the auspices of Parks & Recreation. Mr. Pugliese represented the town at the Planning 8-24 application and the Planning Commission unanimously approved the acquisition. Mr. Fortuna has sent a letter to the attorney representing the seller, and to the Probate Court indicating the town's interest. He has also had a title search completed which he has sent to the seller's attorney. Next steps are for the Board of Finance to approve funding from the Land Acquisition fund, which currently has a sufficient balance and then it would have to go to town meeting. There are some Probate Court issues that will need to be resolved before the town can acquire the property. *A MOTION was made to move and approve.*

FORTUNA/PUGLIESE

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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F. Appointments

1. Public Health Nursing Board. Regular member vacancy. This appointment is for the unexpired portion of a three-year term due to end 11/2025. *A MOTION was made to appoint Camille Brodeur.*

FORTUNA/PUGLIESE

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VII. ADJOURNMENT - *A MOTION was made to adjourn at 12:20 p.m.*

FORTUNA/PUGLIESE

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,



Carl P. Fortuna Jr., First Selectman