

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT

JAMES B. COSGROVE
First Selectman

JOSEPH E. HIGGINS, JR.
JOHN J. AHERN



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MINUTES OF SPECIAL SELECTMEN'S MEETING

January 11, 2018 – as corrected by the Clerk

Fire Department Headquarters – 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 6:09 p.m. Present were First Selectman James B. Cosgrove; Second Selectman Joseph E. Higgins, Jr. and Third Selectman John J. Ahern. Also present were: Hamlet Hernandez, Superintendent of Schools; Peter Banca, Chairman, Public Building Commission; Lynn Fusco, Fusco Corporation; Greg Plasil, Fusco Corporation; Christopher Toussaint, Fusco Corporation; Attorney John Fussell, Robert M. Cheverie & Associates, P.C.; Christopher Cozzi, President, New Haven Building Trades; Chris Fryxell, President, Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc.; Bryan Addy, Vice President, Kronenberger & Sons Restoration, Inc.; Robert Massey, Jr., Massey's Plate Glass and Aluminum; Thomas Brockett, RTM Member; Vincent Arpino and approximately 10 others.

First Selectman Cosgrove offered condolences to Selectman Jack Ahern and requested a moment of silence in remembrance of his father George Ahern.

Lynn Fusco, President, Fusco Corporation; Attorney John Fussell, representing the New Haven Building and Construction Trades Council and Chris Cozzi, President, New Haven Building Trades addressed the board to discuss the proposed PLA for the Walsh Intermediate School Renovation and Expansion project. Ms. Fusco stated that the most important advantage to the PLA is the no strike provision, availability of uninterrupted man power. In addition, she state that the PLA allows Branford businesses the opportunity to work on this project; it provides opportunities for women as well as veterans. Attorney Fussell stated that the PLA provides for better coordination. He also stated that the use of PLA's are good public policy. Chris Cozzi stated that members of the NH Building Trades provides on the job training as well as advancing training, their apprenticeship programs are between 6,000 and 8,000 of on the job training. They have a program called Helmets to Hardhats to assist Veterans with on the job training. He sees an opportunity to hold a Career Fair at the Branford High School to assist residents that are unemployed or underemployed or those that are recent college graduates having a hard time finding work.

First Selectman stated that this is a very expensive, difficult project, it is a phased project of a fully occupied school and the work will ramped up over the summer to take advantage of the summer break. It is important that there is the availability of uninterrupted manpower and a skilled workforce. The town always looks to mitigate risk. Missing any key dates will be problematic for the school and the students.

Chris F Fryxell, President, Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc.; Bryan Addy, Vice President, Kronenberger & Sons Restoration addressed the board.

Chris Fryxell urged the board to reject the PLA. He stated that the Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc. represents over 2000 open shop and non-union businesses. He stated that those businesses don't bid and won't bid on PLA projects. ABC has a large skilled workforce. He stated that the construction field is 80% non-union businesses. He stated he believes using the PLA will limit the number of contractors bidding on the project and it doesn't necessarily keep the project on schedule. Bryan Addy addressed the board and stated he is against the use of the PLA. He stated that the ABC Contractors are trained, highly skilled, licensed and professional. He also serves as the Chairman of the Building committee for the Rocky Hill High School project. He stated that that project was a \$50 million, multi-phase project that was completed on time and under budget. He reiterated that the PLA does not provide a guarantee that the project will be completed on time and on or under budget. He stated that the on the DAS website there are 2,500 certified businesses of those only 217 are union businesses of those only 3 are located in Branford.

First Selectman Cosgrove stated that he reached out to another CEO in another town, comparable to Branford that just completed a school construction project using a PLA. That CEO stated he would definitely use a PLA in the future.

Tom Brockett, RTM Member, addressed the board to state he is in full support of the use of the PLA.

Selectman Ahern mentioned that the Fire House was done without using a PLA and some of the contractors were thrown out.

Motion made by Selectman Ahern to approve the Project Labor Agreement (PLA) for the Walsh Intermediate School renovation and expansion project. Seconded by Selectman Higgins. Vote unanimous.

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Motion made by Selectman Ahern to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m. Seconded by Selectman Higgins. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Trista Milici".

Trista Milici
Clerk