

Town of New Fairfield
Board of Selectmen
4 Brush Hill Road
New Fairfield, CT 06812

MINUTES
Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting
Thursday, August 12, 2021
7:30 PM
Virtual meeting via Zoom

Members present:

Pat Del Monaco, First Selectman
Khris Hall, Selectman
Kim Hanson, Selectman

Other Town Officials Present:

Ed Sbordone, Finance Director and Town Treasurer
Kathy Hull, Director of Senior Services
Maureen Salerno, Commission on the Aging Chairman
Anita Brown, Commission on the Aging Chairman member

Quinton Flowers gave a brief overview of the rules and procedures for having a virtual meeting.

Call To Order First Selectman Pat Del Monaco called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment- None

Correspondence and Announcements

Pat Del Monaco noted that there is a heat advisory in place for New Fairfield on Friday, August 13th from 8am to 8pm. She noted that the Senior Center will be open from 9am to 3pm and the library will be open from 10am to 5pm as cooling centers. Masks are required at both locations.

Pat Del Monaco spoke of a protest and a counter protest held last week in the center of town where intimidating behavior exhibited from one group to another. She noted that all protests must be peaceful and respectful and that police will be in attendance at protests going forward.

Selectman Khris Hall noted that the vaccine van will be at New Fairfield High School on Wednesday, August 18th and Monday, August 23rd. The August 23rd clinic will focus primarily on school students. It is hopeful that as many students as possible will be vaccinated. The clinic on August 4th vaccinated 93 people and the clinic on August 7th vaccinated 65 people. Anyone not yet vaccinated is encouraged to attend.

Selectman Kim Hanson noted that Candlewood Pharmacy will be administering vaccines during their business hours. It is suggested that anyone interested call ahead but walk-ins are also welcome.

Approval of Minutes

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the minutes of the special meeting of July 28, 2021 as presented. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Budget Transfers-None

Personnel Report

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the Personnel Report dated August 12, 2021 as presented. Kim Hanson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Appointments

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to reappoint Monica Santos to the Ball Pond Advisory Committee, reappoint Shane Cosentino as the Tree Warden and to appoint Ken Bennett to the Parks and Rec Commission. Kim Hanson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

NEW BUSINESS

Purchase of Police Body Cams and Dash Cams

Pat Del Monaco noted that she was asked to table the approval of this item since the equipment has been updated which will affect the estimate cost of this equipment. It was also noted that a new Resident Trooper Sergeant is starting soon and the BOS would like to get his input.

There was a brief discussion of setting policies and getting more information about the rules and regulations of these body cams and the experience of surrounding towns.

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to table the approval of the purchase of Police Body Cams and Dash Cams. Kim Hanson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

COVID Update

Pat Del Monaco noted that New Fairfield has reported 15 COVID cases this past week which is up from 1 to 2 per week since the beginning of July. Cases are also increasing in neighboring towns. Masks are required in indoor public places regardless of vaccination status.

The vaccination rate for New Fairfield is still lower than the average. The vaccine van will be in New Fairfield on August 18th and 23rd and anyone not vaccinated is strongly encouraged to get vaccinated as soon as possible.

Vote to adopt WestCOG Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan update 2021-2026

There was a brief discussion of the Hazard Mitigation Plan and the Selectmen requested that they have an opportunity to read and review this plan before voting.

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to continue the approval of the WestCog Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan update 2021-2026 until next month. Kim Hanson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Vote to establish a Housing Opportunity Ad Hoc Committee

Anita Brown from the Commission on the Aging spoke of a proposal to form a Housing Opportunity Committee to investigate the housing needs of the town. There was a brief discussion of the roles and responsibilities of this committee. It was noted that there are some potential grants available for planning and exploring options related to affordable housing.

Director of Senior Services Kathy Hull spoke of many missed opportunities that may have been available in recent years. She noted that community involvement and support is greatly needed in order to get this done. She noted that this housing does not need to be a large expansive building but instead smaller units may be optimal.

Selectman Kim Hanson spoke of this committee and whether or not this should be the purview of the Planning Commission. There was a discussion of what other town commissions should be involved in this plan. It was suggested that it should be included in the Plan of Conservation and Development.

Pat Del Monaco made a motion that the BOS establish an Affordable Housing Ad Hoc committee. Khris Hall seconded the motion.

Vote: 2-1-0 (Motion approved- Kim Hanson opposed)

Khris Hall noted that volunteers will be needed for this committee.

OLD BUSINESS

American Rescue Plan update

Pat Del Monaco noted that the meeting regarding the American Rescue Plan scheduled for August 11th was cancelled. It is hopeful that it will be rescheduled in the near future. At the first meeting of this working group, it was decided to come up with three to five projects that will have a lasting impact in New Fairfield. This will be discussed further at the next ARP meeting.

Vote to set date for Town Meeting to consider Noise Ordinance

Khris Hall noted that the proposed Noise Ordinance was submitted to DEEP for approval. She noted that State statutes require the use of decibel limits for enforcement so therefore must be included in the proposed ordinance. Amendments will be made to this proposal in order to reinsert the decibel limits and definitions regarding these decibel limits. It was noted that airplane noises will not be regulated. Pat Del Monaco noted that if DEEP approves this proposal, they will be involved in enforcement of the noise ordinance.

There was a discussion of the best day and venue for the holding a Town Meeting for the approval of the noise ordinance.

Pat Del Monaco made a motion set the date for a Town Meeting to consider the New Fairfield Noise Ordinance for Sunday, August 29, 2021 at 2:00pm.

Vote: 2-1-0 (Motion approved- Kim Hanson opposed)

Vote to approve and recommend purchase of 13 and 15 Route 37 to Board of Finance

Pat Del Monaco that the offer of \$425,000 to purchase 13 and 15 Route 37 has been accepted. The BOS needs to recommend this to the BOF for their approval and there also must be an 8-24 referral from the Planning Commission. This parcel is behind Town Hall and adjacent to the Senior Center. It was noted that there are no immediate plans to build anything on this property. Finance Director Ed Sbordone noted that there is currently approximately \$60,000 in Open Space fund for this property.

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve and recommend the purchase of 13 and 15 Route 37 to the Board of Finance for \$425,000. Kim Hanson seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Public Comment- None

State Police contract

Executive session

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:50 pm to discuss the State Police contract and to invite Finance Director Ed Sbordone into the Executive Session. Kim Hanson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 9:06 pm. Kim Hanson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Adjournment

Kim Hanson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 pm. Pat Del Monaco seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos

**Received by email on 8/18/2021 @ 10:47 a.m.
By: Holly Z Smith, Asst. Town Clerk, New Fairfield**