

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

MINUTES

Board of Selectmen Special Meeting
Wednesday, January 12, 2022 7:00 PM
ARPA WORKING GROUP
Virtual meeting via Zoom

Members present:

Pat Del Monaco, First Selectman
Lori Ann Bennison, Selectman
Director
Khris Hall, Selectman

Other Town Officials Present:

Tim Simpkins, Director of Health
Olga Melinkov, Finance
Wes Marsh, BOF Chairman
Cheryl Reedy, BOF member
Claudia Willard, BOF member
Tony Iadarola, Town Engineer
Bruce Taylor, Fire Chief
Chris Gardner, Fire Department
Myke Furchman, Economic Development Chairman
Kathleen DiTullio, Economic Development Commission
Mike Kiviat, Economic Development Commission
James Kloos, Economic Development Commission
Greg Manning, Economic Development Commission

Paul Gouveia 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 7:05pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

American Rescue Plan Act discussion of potential projects

First Selectman Pat Del Monaco noted that she would like to table the discussion regarding Health, Police and Fire due to some recent updates to the final rule with ARPA that will affect the presentation. The discussion regarding Public Safety will also be tabled since the Director of Instructional Technology and Communications Dr. Karen Fildes was unable to attend tonight meeting. It is hopeful that another meeting of the ARPA working group will held within the next few weeks.

Change in agenda

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to flip agenda item #3 (Discussion of potential projects) with agenda item #4 (Economic and Community Development presentation). Khris Hall seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Economic and Community Development and Small Business grants presentation

Economic Development Commission Chairman Myke Furhman spoke of the role of the EDC as improving existing town businesses and making it more attractive for new businesses to come to town. He spoke of small business grants. Pat Del Monaco spoke of the parameters for the ARPA funds that allow for small business grants. There was a discussion of the criteria for businesses in order to receive grants. Parameters for businesses in surrounding towns was discussed. BOF Chairman asked for an approximate number of businesses that would qualify for these grants. This will be discussed further at the next Economic Development Commission meeting.

Myke Furhman spoke of the possibility of capital projects that would draw people into town. One suggestion was an ice skating rink for the center of town. Kathleen DiTullio suggested adding electric charging stations to be put in front of town buildings.

Discussion of Potential Infrastructure Projects

Town Engineer Tony Iadarola spoke of potential projects that will improve infrastructure in town and will help with potential future grants that will fit with “shovel ready” projects.

Sewer Study- Would protect certain areas in the downtown area. He spoke of specific areas that would be served by five separate sewer sheds. Having sewers would improve the infrastructure and give opportunities for businesses that currently have septic tanks.

Ball Pond Watershed Study- Mr. Iadarola spoke of a study at Ball Pond that would improve drainage issues. He spoke of the many drainage projects that have been done in town. He showed a map of the Ball Pond watershed and erosion problems throughout the year. He noted that the goal would be to evaluate the drainage basin and to install multiple retention systems to slow the flow of water before it hits the road. The first stage of this study would go from Ball Pond drainage area to outlet of cross pipe to Orr Hill. The design for the project and the preparation to make this project shovel ready would cost approximately \$150,000. It was noted that this project would have to be approved at a Town Meeting.

Town Park Beach House- Mr. Iadarola spoke of the need to fix up the Beach House at the Town Beach along with the retaining wall. The Town is requesting approximately \$700,000 for this building and it was noted that the Parks and Rec Commission has an additional \$112,000 for this project.

Premium Pay- Health, Police and Fire

Pat Del Monaco will rework this presentation to be in line with the new ARPA updates.

Public Safety

Karen Fildes will give a presentation regarding this to the ARPA Working Group in the near future.

Adjournment

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 pm. Lori Bennison seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Suzanne Kloos