

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

**MINUTES
Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting
Thursday, February 10, 2022
7:45 PM
Virtual meeting via Zoom**

Members present:

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

Other Town Officials Present:

Olga Melnikov, Finance Director
Wes Marsh, BOF Chairman

Call To Order First Selectman Pat Del Monaco called the meeting to order at 7:45pm.

Network Administrator Paul Gouveia gave a brief overview of the rules and procedures for having a virtual meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

Steve Hanrahan asked about the status of the sewer study for the town. First Selectman Pat Del Monaco spoke of infrastructure in town and how businesses are limited by septic systems. She noted that sewers could potentially bring more businesses to town. The study has been funded through the budget for the past three years but could be funded by American Rescue Plan money in the near future. There is also a possibility of some federal infrastructure money if the project is shovel ready. She noted that the design is based on current zoning regulations and is specifically to address businesses in town.

Correspondence and Announcements

Pat Del Monaco announced that the Town's AAA bond rating has been reaffirmed and the financial position went from strong to very strong. This which puts the town in a very good financial position. The entire BOS thanked Finance Director Olga Melnikov, Town Treasurer Terry Friedman and Director of Business and Operations for the BOE Rich Sanzo for all their hard work on obtaining this.

Selectman Khris Hall noted that the vaccination clinics are still ongoing. They are in discussions of the possibility of holding clinics for children under five once the vaccines are available. She asked for feedback from residents as to whether or not there would be a demand for this clinic.

Approval of Minutes

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the minutes of the special meeting of January 27, 2022 as presented. Lori Bennison seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Budget Transfers

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the following Inter-Departmental transfers in the amount of \$3,900. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

\$	Transfer From		\$	Transfer to	
\$3,900.00	001-4164-0007-000/430.00	Business Machines-Systems Admin	\$3,900.00	001-4215-0000-000/130.00	Communications Center-Overtime
\$3,900.00			\$3,900.00		

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the following Intra-Departmental transfers in the amount of \$20,000. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

\$	Transfer From		\$	Transfer to	
\$20,000.00	001-4210-0005-000/130.00	Police-PD SRO Overtime	\$20,000.00	001-4210-0001-000/130.00	Police-PD Overtime
\$20,000.00			\$20,000.00		

Personnel Report- None

Appointments- None

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of 2022-2023 Budget

Pat Del Monaco spoke of the budget for the Fire Department and noted that she has asked the Fire Department to cut \$125,000 from their budget. She thanked the Fire Dept. for their diligence with this budget and looking for cuts.

Cheryl Reedy gave a detailed presentation of the budget for the Fire Department and highlighted the following line items to be cut:

- Legal and Human Resource Services
- Physicals
- Company A Building supplies and repair
- Vehicle Maintenance and repair
- Department materials and supplies
- Fire Companies Supplies and Equipment
- Portable equipment maintenance and repair
- Technology

There was a discussion of funding less in the reserve fund for the Fire Department. Pat Del Monaco spoke of the possibility of taking \$50,000 out of the reserve fund for the Fire Department instead of \$100,000.

Fire Chief Bruce Taylor thanked Cheryl Reedy for her hard work with the budget.

Pat Del Monaco gave an overview of the components that affect the Town budget. They include:

- Operating- Payroll and non-payroll
- Medical Insurance Fund
- Capital and Non-recurring Fund.
- Debt Services
- Taxpayer and non-taxpayer revenue
- Grand List
- Adjustments to property taxes

First Selectman Del Monaco explained the process for the budget and noted that budget priorities for 2022-2023 include the new school projects, economic development, infrastructure and long-term capital planning.

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the 2022-2023 BOS budget for presentation to the BOF in the amount of \$13,265,589 for an increase of \$404,907 or 3.15% over the approved 2021-2022 budget. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

OLD BUSINESS

COVID update

Pat Del Monaco gave an update on COVID:

- The COVID cases in New Fairfield are declining rapidly. Currently there are eight active cases in town that have been reported to the State. This is down from 200 in January. She is hopeful that the pandemic will soon be an endemic.

Public Comment

Cheryl Reedy thanked the BOS doing their due diligence and for working hard to put a responsible budget together. She specifically thanked them for their attention to Capital projects.

Adjournment

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 pm. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos