

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

MINUTES
Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting
Thursday, February 24, 2022
7:30 PM
Virtual meeting via Zoom

Members present:

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

Other Town Officials Present:

State Representative Patrick Callahan

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

Quintin Flower gave a brief overview of the rules and procedures for having a virtual meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

Discussion of Town Hall grievance- Executive Session

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:34 pm to discuss a Town Hall grievance and to invite Emily Demico, Renee Barca, Evan White, Kara Mehler and Loraine Cortese- Costa into the Executive Session. Khris Hall seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to come out of Executive Session at approximately 8:25 pm. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to table further the decision on the grievance pending further discussion with the union. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Public Comment- None

Correspondence and Announcements

Lori Bennison noted that she is looking forward to working on the Youth Commission.

Khris Hall noted that FISH (Friends in Service Helping) is now established to give rides to residents that need to get to medical appointments and shopping in town. Information is available on the Town's website. Pat Del Monaco thanked everyone involved in putting this very valuable service together.

Approval of Minutes

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the minutes of the special meeting of February 10, 2022 as presented. Lori Bennison 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 February 24, 2022 as presented. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Appointments

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to appoint Michael Handlmaier to the Permanent Building Committee. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to appoint Maureen Clegg to the Permanent Building Committee. Lori Bennison seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Members of the BOS thanked the new volunteers to the PBC.

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to appoint Mark Lamanna to the Zoning Commission. Lori Bennison seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

OLD BUSINESS

COVID update

Pat Del Monaco gave an update on COVID and noted that COVID case rate in New Fairfield has declined rapidly over the last few weeks. More than 80% of New Fairfield residents have been fully vaccinated. The vaccination van will be in town until the end of March as long as there is demand for the vaccine.

PCR testing is available at no cost to the patient or the Town at Company A Firehouse. The hours for the testing are Monday thru Friday from 9am to 4pm. Appointments can be made online thru corative.com. Anyone without a computer can call the Selectmen's office for assistance in making an appointment.

Change in Agenda

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to amend the agenda to move Public Comment to agenda item #12A after the discussion on the Affordable Housing Plan. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Discussion of New Fairfield Affordable Housing Plan and Housing Committee

Khris Hall spoke of the draft of the New Fairfield Affordable Housing Plan. She noted Western Connecticut Council of Governments (WESTCOG) is assisting the Town with this document and it is required to be filed with the State by June 2022. The plan for Affordable Housing for New Fairfield is to set up a committee of New Fairfield residents to review the current Affordable

Housing availability in the Town and how it can be improved. There is currently a state mandate that 10% of every town's housing must be affordable. According to the most recent data, only 1.29% of New Fairfield housing is considered "affordable". Selectman Hall spoke of a proposal for this committee that would comprise of five to seven residents and three ex officio members comprising of a member of the BOS, Zoning Commission and the Planning Commission. She spoke of the role of the committee and noted that having this committee would meet State requirements while allowing for the Town to control how achieving Affordable housing is done.

State Representative Patrick Callahan spoke of the State mandate and offered to help if necessary. The members of the BOS thanked Representative Callahan for his insight.

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the New Fairfield affordable housing plan and the Housing Opportunities Committee. Khris Hall seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Public Comment- None

Library Employees Union Tentative Agreement

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to go into Executive Session at approximately 8:54 pm to discuss the Library Employees Union Tentative Agreement. Khris Hall seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to come out of Executive Session at approximately 8:59 pm.

Lori Bennison seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the Library Employees Union Tentative Agreement.

Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Adjournment

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:02 pm. Lori Bennison seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos