

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

MINUTES

Board of Selectmen Special Meeting
Monday, February 28, 2022 7:00 PM
ARPA WORKING GROUP
Virtual meeting via Zoom

Members present:

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

Other Town Officials Present:

Wes Marsh, BOF Chairman
Maria Evans, Director of Emergency Management
Tim Simpkins, Health Director
Cheryl Reedy, BOF member
Dr. Karen Fildes, BOE Director of Technology
Tony Iadarola, Town Engineer
Bruce Taylor, Fire Chief

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 7:00 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

American Rescue Plan Act discussion of potential projects

Pat Del Monaco noted that the purpose of this meeting was to discuss possible projects and expenses that can be funded through American Rescue Plan funds. The group discussed the following projects that are allowed to be funded through ARPA.

Premium pay for Public Health and Safety employees

Pat Del Monaco thanked Police officers, Firefighters and EMS Safety employees and recognized the danger and risks that they routinely take on a regular basis. She emphasized that these risks were compounded during COVID.

Pat Del Monaco spoke of possible premium pay for police officers and proposed a premium pay of 20% of their base pay for officers that worked between March 17, 2020 and May 31, 2021. This premium would total approximately \$86,500 for the police officers.

There was a discussion of how to reward firefighters since they are volunteers. Pat Del Monaco gave an explanation of how the point system works for the Fire Dept. She proposed giving each firefighter a reward of \$5 per point in premium pay. The total cost of this reward proposal would be approximately \$108,000. Fire Chief Bruce Taylor thanked the BOS for this proposal on behalf of all the firefighters.

Community Center Feasibility Study

Pat Del Monaco spoke of the possibility of doing a feasibility study for the building of a community center in Town. This study would do research to come up with proposed locations and include stakeholder meetings to see what type of facility is wanted by the community. The estimated cost of this feasibility study would be approximately \$25,000. There was a discussion of the possibility of using the old Consolidated School building for this.

Town Building Security

BOE Director of Technology Dr. Karen Fildes spoke of the cost estimates for external cameras for Town buildings. She spoke of an extensive walk through for the buildings and noted that there are detailed plans for which type of cameras should be used. This detailed plan can be presented at a future time if necessary. She spoke of the possibility of using space on the system used for the schools. Buildings proposed for this plan include Town Hall, Town Hall Annex, Animal Control building, Company A Firehouse and Senior Center. The library main door and driveway will be able to be viewed by the cameras at Town Hall and the Annex. The approximate cost of this project which would include 18 cameras is \$103,317.00.

Company A Firehouse

Town Engineer Tony Iadarola gave a project summary of potential upgrades to Company A Firehouse. These upgrades would include rearranging of offices and the installation of showers at the Firehouse. He spoke of the importance of having additional industrial washing machines and dryers for gear. It was noted that it is currently difficult to get an exact cost of this project due to supply challenges.

Fire Chief Bruce Taylor spoke of the need for industrial washing machines and for a second set of gear. There was a brief discussion of the cost of the second set of gear and the amount of time needed to order this gear.

Addition to the agenda

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to add agenda item #3A "Public Comment". Lori Beninson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Public Comment- None

Adjournment

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 pm. Khris Hall seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Suzanne Kloos