

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

MINUTES

Board of Selectmen Special Meeting
Monday, May 23, 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
Dr. Karen Fildes, BOE Director of Technology
Tony Iadarola, Town Engineer
Bruce Taylor, Fire Chief
State Representative Patrick Callahan
Mark Beninson, BOF member
Thora Perkins, BOF member
Cheryl Reedy, BOF member
Claudia Willard, BOF member
Myke Furchman, EDC Chairman
Mike Kiviat, EDC Chairman
Kathleen DiTullio, EDC Chairman
Jane Landers, Zoning Commission member
Jeff Morrell, Planning Commission member

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

Rearrangement of agenda items

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to change the order of the discussion of the proposed ARPA projects to move the Communications Center Feasibility Study and the discussion of Small Business Grants ahead of the other discussion points. Lori Beninson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Discussion of proposed ARPA projects

First Selectman Pat Del Monaco gave a brief overview of the town's eligibility for ARPA funds. New Fairfield will receive funds totaling \$4,107,202 in two tranches in June 2021 and June

2022. These funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024 and expended by December 31, 2026. She noted that the intent of the ARPA funds and eligible uses and restrictions.

- Small Business Grants- Economic Development Commission Chairman Myke Furhman spoke of ARPA funds that will help small businesses come into town and stay in business. Pat Del Monaco spoke of the proposal of \$150,000 of ARPA funds to be used for this purpose. There was a brief discussion of how to identify businesses.
- Community Center Feasibility Study- Town Engineer Tony Iadarola noted that the first step for building a Community Center is to do a study to find out specifically what the residents want. He spoke of the potential costs for a center and the proposal of using \$25,000 of ARPA funds for the study.
- Sewer Study- Town Engineer Tony Iadarola spoke of the feasibility and the advantages of adding sewers to town and the areas of where they would be located. The report would put sewers in five different areas with a cost of approximately \$18,000,000. There was a discussion of not being able to sustain the downtown with septic systems. He spoke of the parameters for getting the sewer system “shovel ready”. Health Director Tim Simpkins spoke of his support for sewers and noted that many septic systems in town are starting to fail. Economic Development Commission member Kathleen DiTullio spoke of the advantages of sewers and the challenges of businesses in town to operate without a sewer system.
- Ball Pond Drainage- Tony Iadarola spoke of studying drainage and erosion issues in the Ball Pond area. This study is estimated to cost approximately \$150,000.
- Fire Department- Fire Chief Bruce Taylor spoke of the need to upgrade Company A Firehouse and that this was especially evident during COVID. He spoke of keeping the firefighters safe and healthy. Part one of the renovation would be reconfigure the second floor and part two would be to add showers and a facilities to clean gear.
- Communications Center Equipment- Maria Evans noted that the dispatch equipment is at the end of life and will no longer be supported. She spoke of recent failures with the consoles. Dr. Karen Fildes spoke of the challenges of upgrading and noted that the entire system would need to be replaced. A Communications Advisory Committee has been set up to look into to best options for this system. The entire BOS agreed that this needs to be done as soon as possible.
- Police building and Town building security- Pat Del Monaco and Maria Evans spoke of security upgrades to the buildings that need to be addressed.
- Beach House at Town Beach- Pat Del Monaco noted that \$700,000 has been put aside for the renovation of the Beach House. She spoke of preliminary design work that was done for this project in 2017. It was noted that the Parks and Rec Commission has between \$100,000 and \$200,000 to match funding for this project. Town Engineer Tony Iadarola spoke of the challenges and problems with this building
- Emergency Housing Fund- Pat Del Monaco noted that Social Services Director Cindy White expressed a need for an Emergency Housing Fund to help residents that are on the verge of homelessness that may need emergency financial help on a short term basis. It was suggested to put \$25,000 aside for this purpose.

- Hazard pay for First Responders- Pat Del Monaco spoke of the hard work done and risks taken by the First Responders especially at the beginning of COVID. She spoke of the possibility of giving them a financial bonus to show appreciation from the Town. The total amount of this would be approximately \$300,000. The entire BOS expressed their support for this.

Public Comment and questions

Cheryl Reedy asked about the compatibility of the radios and the systems.

Tom Quigley spoke in support of sewer systems in town.

Adjournment

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:19 pm. Khris Hall seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Suzanne Kloos

Received by email on 05/27/2022 @ 11:49 a.m.
by Chrystie M. Bontempo, Asst. Town Clerk, New Fairfield