

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

**MINUTES**

**Board of Selectmen Special Meeting  
Tuesday, June 28, 2022  
7:30 PM  
ARPA WORKING GROUP  
Virtual meeting via Zoom**

**Members present:**

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

**Other Town Officials Present:**

Tony Iadarola, Town Engineer  
Tim Simpkins, Health Director  
Olga Melnikov, Finance Director  
Dr. Karen Fildes, Director of Technology  
Wes Marsh, BOF Chairman  
Bruce Taylor, Fire Chief

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

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Discussion of proposed ARPA projects**

Pat Del Monaco gave a brief overview of the working group and introduced the members and the group and parameters for this group. New Fairfield received an amount of \$4,107,202 in two tranches in June 2021 and June 2022. The amount must be obligated by December 31, 2024 and expended by December 31, 2026. Members of the working group explained many of the projects.

**Business/Commercial Sewer**

Town Engineer Tony Iadarola spoke of the sewer study and what areas would benefit from sewers in town. He spoke of the current septic systems and how many in town are failing and how adding sewers would help with both businesses and town buildings. The approximate cost of the sewer study is \$1.6 million which includes the engineering study and legal work to make sure that the project is in compliance. The design for this system can be done in phases and does not need to be done all at once. Health Director Tim Simpkins spoke in support of the sewer systems and the benefits of bring them to town.

Myles Ostroff from Charter Realty spoke of the challenges of running businesses with the on-site septic system. Zoning Commission Chairman John Moran spoke of how putting in sewers would affect zoning in town.

### **Ball Pond Drainage**

Tony Iadarola spoke of the drainage issues for around Ball Pond and the study on how to correct this.

### **Fire House Renovation**

Tony Iadarola spoke of upgrades to the Fire Department and how they will enhance safety measures and add critical facilities that will help firefighters and EMT personnel with their job. The approximate cost of this project is \$455,000 which consists mostly of equipment. Fire Chief Bruce Taylor spoke of the specifics of this upgrade and thanked Tony Iadarola and the ARPA working group for their research regarding this project.

### **Communications Center Equipment**

Pat Del Monaco noted that the dispatch console at the Communications Center is starting to fail. The cost to replace this console is between \$400,000 and \$500,000.

### **Police Building Renovations**

Pat Del Monaco noted that this would include safety measures in the town buildings. Dr. Karen Fildes reiterated that the console dispatch is way past its end of life and should be addressed as soon as possible. She noted that this equipment would need upgrades on a regular basis which should be taken into account.

### **Beach House Renovations**

Pat Del Monaco spoke of the failing condition of this building especially the bathrooms and changing rooms. She spoke of setting aside approximately \$700,000 of APRA fund to rebuild this Beach House on the same footprint. Parks and Rec Chairman Sean Loughran spoke of the advantages of rebuilding the Beach House including running Parks and Rec programs there.

### **Emergency Housing Fund**

Pat Del Monaco noted that Social Services Director Cindy White has identified an Emergency Housing Fund as one of the biggest needs for residents. This would provide residents with temporary funds in the event of need.

### **Community Center Feasibility Study**

Tony Iadarola spoke of the possibility of a Community Center and a study to find an area in town for this building. He spoke of the varied uses for a Community Center. This study would allow residents to give input as to what they would want in a Community Center.

### **Small Business Grants**

Pat Del Monaco noted that the Economic Development Commission has suggested giving grants to local businesses for specific uses. The suggested amount of this grant would be \$5,000 per business with a total of \$150,000 from ARPA funds.

### **Hazard Pay for Public Safety/Public Health Employees**

Pat Del Monaco noted that ARPA funds allow for hazard pay for various employees and volunteers that put themselves at risk in the beginning of the pandemic. She noted that giving this hazard pay

would be way of thanking the firefighters, EMTs, Public Safety employees and Public Health employees.

### **Town Clerk Vault**

Pat Del Monaco spoke of the need to upgrade the vault for vital records for the Town Clerk. She noted the requirement for the size of the vault is based on population and the current vault is not in compliance with State Statute. Town Clerk Holly Smith has researched this the cost and came up with an estimate of approximately \$200,000.

### **Fire Marshal Vehicle**

Pat Del Monaco noted that the Fire Marshal currently uses his own vehicle which poses a liability for the Town. It was suggested that ARPA funds be used to provide him with a Town vehicle. The approximate cost of this is \$65,000.

### **Review by the BOS**

Since the total cost of these suggested projects is over the \$4.1 million, the Board of Selectmen will meet in the near future to review all these suggestions and come up with the best way to move forward. It was noted that there may be some additional grants that may be pursued.

### **Public Comment**

Members of the public asked questions about these specific questions and how they affect the Town. There was a brief discussion of the timeline for these projects and how they will be affected by the Plan of Conservation and Development.

### **Adjournment**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 pm. Khris Hall seconded the motion.

**Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Suzanne Kloos