

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

**MINUTES**  
**Board of Selectmen Special Meeting**  
**Thursday, August 25, 2022**  
**7:00 PM**  
**Virtual meeting via Zoom**

**Members present:**

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

**Other Town Officials Present:**

Don Kellogg, PBC Chairman

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

**Call To Order** Selectman Khris Hall called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Public Participation**

Many members of the public expressed their concerns regarding the construction of a bus lot on the former Consolidated School property. They referred to a petition submitted to the First Selectman calling for the Board of Selectmen to call a special town meeting to allow the taxpayers to decide if a portion of the property at 302 Ball Pond Road be used for a school bus parking lot with an accessory structure. It was noted that the Zoning Commission has unanimously voted against this plan that was presented by the Permanent Building Committee. Some members of the public cited alternate suggestions. There was a suggestion of doing a line by line cost comparison for alternate locations

PBC Chairman Don Kellogg clarified that the high school property is not a feasible option. He noted that many sights on the high school campus were investigated but turned out to not be feasible.

**Consider and act upon the petition submitted to the First Selectman regarding the School Bus Parking lot**

First Selectman Pat Del Monaco spoke of a petition that was received by her office on August 15, 2022 asking for the BOS to call a special town meeting to call the following question: "Should the Town of New Fairfield utilize a portion of real property at 302 Ball Pond Road, known at the Consolidated School for a school bus parking lot with an accessory structure (dispatch center)?" She spoke of the process for land use decisions and noted that the PBC appealed the Zoning Commission's decision and under State Statute sending this issue to the Zoning Board of Appeals is not permitted. She further noted that the line-by-line comparisons for each option were made public to give taxpayers many opportunities to voice their concerns.

Pat Del Monaco spoke of the process for petitions and read the opinion that was received by the Town Attorney. She noted that based on this opinion, the BOS is not required to Warn a special Town Meeting for this purpose.

Selectman Lori Beninson spoke in favor of bringing this issue to the taxpayers via a Town Meeting. Selectman Khris Hall spoke against bringing this issue to a Town Meeting and spoke in support of using 302 Ball Pond Road as the location for the bus lot.

Pat Del Monaco spoke of the legal opinion and referred to schematic drawings and noted that using 302 Ball Pond has been part of the project for approximately three years. She noted that the PBC has researched many other possibilities, and this was deemed to be the most viable option. She further noted that changes have been made to make the lot more aesthetic and to hide the buses as much as possible.

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the following Resolution:  
WHEREAS, by way of a School Buildings Referendum dated October 15, 2019 ("Referendum") the Town of New Fairfield approved the Construction of School Buildings and associated infrastructure and amenities.

WHEREAS, comprehensive plans were drawn and revised;

WHEREAS, the Town applied to and received a promise of reimbursement from the State of Connecticut based on the existing proposals;

WHEREAS, the Town secured bonding to fund the School Construction;

WHEREAS, approvals for the School Construction have been in place for years;

WHEREAS, the Construction is underway; and

WHEREAS, a current challenge to the approvals and construction is now untimely.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED- the Town will not warn a Special Town Meeting in response to the Petition for Town Meeting submitted to the Office of the First Selectman on August 15, 2022. The Petition for Town Meeting proposes a question that cannot lawfully be considered or acted upon at a special town meeting pursuant to General Statutes 7-1.

Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 2-1-0 (Motion approved- Lori Beninson opposed)**

#### **Adjournment**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:44pm. Lori Beninson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Kloos