

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

MINUTES
Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting
Thursday, September 8, 2022
7:30 PM
Community Room at 33 Route 37

Members present:

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

Other Town Officials Present:

Wes Marsh, BOF Chairman
Olga Melnikov, Finance Director
Mark Beninson, BOF member
Cynthia Ross-Zweig, Planning Commission Chairman

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment- None

Proclamation

Pat Del Monaco read a Proclamation for Alzheimer's Awareness Week to be held from Sept. 12-17th. She encouraged residents to "Paint the Town Purple" and to attend the many events and support the local businesses that are participating in this week.

Correspondence and Announcements

Pat Del Monaco announced that there will be a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the new Consolidated School Early Learning Academy on Saturday, September 10th at 10:00am. Community tours will follow the ceremony.

The September 11th Remembrance Ceremony will be held on Sunday, September 11th at 5:00 pm.

New Fairfield Day will be held on Saturday, September 17th at Memorial Field. Selectman Khris Hall noted that the new variant booster shot will be available at the vaccination van at New Fairfield Fair Day

Lori-Ann Beninson noted that she will be meeting with the new Superintendent of Schools on Wednesday, September 28th

Lori-Ann Beninson noted that she received an email request from the Veterans asking for assistance with the electric system at Veteran's Field. She will forward this email to the other Selectmen.

Approval of Minutes

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the minutes of the special meeting of August 30, 2022 as presented. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Budget Transfers- None

Personnel Report- None

Appointments- None

New Business

Preliminary 2021-2022 Surplus discussion

Finance Director Olga Melnikov noted that the surplus for the 2021-2022 fiscal year is approximately \$980,000. She spoke of possible uses for this surplus which include:

- Enhancements to cyber security.
- Police Department Technology
- Cost of the Plan of Conservation and Technology
- Fire Department Operating surplus
- E-Finance Plus upgrade
- Medical Reserve Contribution
- Well testing required by the State
- Reduce negative balance at the Drop off Center
- Technology to allow for hybrid town meetings
- Fiber to connect Police Department to Firehouse
- Public Works items that were taken out of current budget

The total cost of these possible uses is approximately \$584,710.13. It was suggested that the remainder of the surplus go to the unassigned fund balance.

Vote to approve Margerie Trail Resolution

Khris Hall spoke of the Margerie Trail Advisory Committee as a joint effort between New Fairfield and Danbury. She spoke of changes that Danbury made to their resolution which made the New Fairfield resolution outdated. As a result, an updated resolution from New Fairfield needed to be adopted. Changes to the resolution include the removal of references to the Candlewood Valley Regional Land Trust and an update to the funding amount. She noted that the charge of the committee remains the same and that over \$2 million of the state money has already been received.

Pat Del Monaco noted that the DEEP contract has been executed and the first meeting is scheduled for September 19th.

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to amend the Margerie Trail Resolution. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Vote to approve the Energy Efficiency Program

Olga Melnikov spoke of energy programs available through Eversource that will result in long-term savings. She spoke of a partnership with the company Greenleaf that identified areas that will result in savings. She noted that the net cost to the town is approximately \$126,000. Eversource offers a

zero percent finance plan and savings are expected to be realized in about 3 ½ years. She noted that the Board of Education participated in a similar plan with great success.

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to accept the proposed scope of work from Greenleaf Energy Solutions and to allow the First Selectman to sign the letter of agreement with Eversource for nine buildings. Lori-Ann Beninson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Vote to approve modifications to Hahlawah Shooting Range

Hahlawah Shooting Club President Anthony Yorio spoke of a request to use part of the parking lot to install a more modern shooting area. The approximate size of this area would be 25 feet by 25 feet. This area would mostly be used for classes and would not increase the existing area and there is no intention to exceed the number of members in the club.

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve modifications to the Hahlawah Shooting Range to include a pit area consisting of three 20 foot berms in the existing parking lot. Lori-Ann Beninson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Old Business

Vote to accept donation for Animal Control Roof

The entire BOS thanked Richie's Roofing from Danbury for his donation of labor for the roof at the Animal Control Center.

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to accept the donation of \$5,250 from Richie's Roofing for labor for the roof replacement at the Animal Control Center. Khris Hall seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Public Comment- None

Adjournment

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 pm. Lori-Ann Beninson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos

Received by email on 09/13/2022 @ 9:22 a.m.
by Chrystie M. Bontempo, Asst. Town Clerk, New Fairfield