

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

MINUTES

Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting
Thursday, November 10, 2022
7:30 PM
Senior Center Community Room

Members present:

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

Other Town Officials Present:

Mark Beninson, BOF member
Anita Brown, Housing Opportunities Committee Chairman
Jane Landers, Zoning Commission 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

Correspondence and Announcements

Pat Del Monaco noted that the Veterans' Day Ceremony will be held on Friday, November 11th at 11:00am at Veterans' Memorial Park.

Pat Del Monaco read a letter from Housing Opportunities Committee Chairman Anita Brown requesting financial support to hire a consultant for a survey for the Housing Opportunities Committee.

Selectman Lori Beninson noted that she attended the Zoning Commission meeting on November 9th regarding municipal affordable housing plans. She received some questions via text from some residents regarding the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Khris Hall made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 27, 2022 as presented. Lori Beninson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Budget Transfers

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the transfer of \$476.00 from the Building Repair Reserve fund to repair the door at Company A Firehouse. Khris Hall seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Personnel Report

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the Personnel Report dated November 10, 2022 as presented. Lori Beninson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Appointments

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to appoint Jim Keller to the Parks and Rec Commission. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

New Business

Discuss and vote to approve the Authorizing Resolution for 2022 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the following resolution for 2022 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG):

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of New Fairfield may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and FURTHER RESOLVED, that Patricia Del Monaco, as First Selectman of the Town of New Fairfield, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Board of Selectmen and to do and perform all acts and things which she deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents.

The undersigned further certifies that Patricia Del Monaco now holds the office of First Selectman and that she has held that office since November 21, 2017.

Lori Beninson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Discuss and vote to set date for Town Meeting

Pat Del Monaco noted that the following two amendments to the town ordinances need to be approved at a Town Meeting.

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the following Warning for a Town Meeting.

Notice is hereby given to the electors of the Town of New Fairfield and those entitled to vote at Town Meetings that a Town Meeting will be held on Thursday, December 8, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. at the Senior Center at 33 Route 37 for the following purpose to wit:

To consider and act upon the amendment of an ordinance authorizing the Board of Selectmen to revise the tax abatement for volunteers, said ordinance to be codified by amending Chapter 16, Article II, Section 16-91 of the Code of Ordinances, New Fairfield, Connecticut, entitled "Sec. 16-91. Tax Abatement for Volunteers."

To consider and take action upon the amendment of the Ordinance, Chapter 2.5 Animals, Article II Dogs, defining Animal Control responsibilities within the Town of New Fairfield.

Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Old Business

Discuss and vote to update Drop-Off Center Fees- Tires

It was noted that the Town pays \$50 per month for the Tire recycling bin at the Drop Off Center but this bin rarely fills up. As a result, the BOS discussed eliminating this service at the Drop Off Center. It was noted that there are several other options for tire disposal for residents.

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to no longer accept tires for disposal at the drop off center. Lori Beninson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Discussion of 2021-2022 Surplus update

Pat Del Monaco spoke of changes to the list of possible uses for the 2021-2022 surplus. Possible changes include multi factor authentication for technology and the development of the procedures manual for the Police Dept. Using some of the surplus for the deficit from the Drop Off Center was removed since the fees were raised. The survey for the Housing Opportunities Committee was added to the list. It is possible that shelving for the Town Clerk will be added to this list if a grant does not become available for this purpose.

Housing Opportunities Committee Chair Anita Brown gave a brief description of the survey for the perception and needs of residents for housing in New Fairfield. She spoke of the possibility of hiring a consultant for this purpose. Selectman Khris Hall spoke of the statutory mandate from the State to provide an Affordable Housing Plan.

Public Comment

Mark Beninson asked about what income formula is used to consider affordable housing in New Fairfield. Khris Hall noted that the formula comes from State regulations but promised to get more information regarding this.

Cynthia Ross-Zweig asked about the decision by the Zoning Commission to “opt out” of Affordable Housing. First Selectman Pat Del Monaco noted that it is not possible for the Town to “opt out” of the Affordable Housing Plan but they can “opt out” of certain provisions. This will be discussed further at a December BOS meeting.

John McCartney reminded everyone to thank a Veteran on Veterans’ Day. He further thanked the BOS for approving the abatement for the Volunteer Firefighters. He spoke of the Affordable Housing provisions and of the financial challenges of some people being able to remain in Town.

Kathy Hull thanked the fellow members of the Housing Opportunities Committee and noted that it is an honor to serve on this committee. She encouraged everyone to participate in the upcoming survey.

Adjournment

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 pm. Lori Beninson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos

Received by email 11/17/2022 @ 8:30 a.m.
by Chrystie M. Bontempo, Asst. Town Clerk, New Fairfield