

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

MINUTES
Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting
Thursday, December 8, 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:

Olga Melnikov, Finance Director
Ed Sbordone, BOE/PBC member
Steve Hanrahan, Zoning Commission member

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

Steve Hanrahan spoke of concerns regarding an editorial in the Town Tribune by First Selectman Pat Del Monaco in response a letter that he wrote the previous week concerning the bus lot at the old Consolidated School location.

Pat Del Monaco responded to Dr. Hanrahan's comments and gave a brief background of the bus lot controversy.

Correspondence and Announcements

Pat Del Monaco read a letter from the Ball Pond Volunteer Fire Department thanking the town for new heat pump at the firehouse.

Salt and sand is available for residents at the Drop Off Center. Residents should bring their own containers and shovels.

The Holiday Sing Along sponsored by the New Fairfield Economic Development Commission will be held this Saturday, December 10th at 4:30 at Memorial Field.

Addresses for houses that are participating in the Holiday Light Display can be found on the Parks and Rec page on the website.

The COVID vaccination clinic will be at St. Edward's Church on Monday, December 12th from 12:00 to 6:00 pm. No appointment is necessary.

Selectman Khris Hall thanked Public Works for their hard work in making the town look so nice this Holiday Season. She further thanked Parks and Rec for all their holiday programs.

Selectman Lori-Ann Beninson noted that she received a request from the Fire Department asking that the town reevaluate the route for the Holiday Light parade.

Lori-Ann Beninson noted that she received a letter from Pastor Liz Yoho asking to be a member of the Youth Commission. The BOS welcomed this addition.

Approval of Minutes

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 10, 2022 as presented. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Budget Transfers

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the following Intra-Departmental transfer in the amount of \$17,000. Lori Beninson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

\$	Transfer From		\$	Transfer To	
\$17,000.00	001-4215-0000-000/112.00	Comm. Center-Part-time salaries	\$17,000.00	001-4215-0000-000/130.00	Communications Center Overtime
\$17,000.00			\$17,000.00		

Personnel Report

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the Personnel Report dated December 8, 2022 as presented. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Appointments

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to reappoint Linda Fox as the Town Historian. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

New Business

Addition to the agenda

Khris Hall made a motion to add agenda item “Discuss and vote to reconvene the Traffic Authority. Pat Del Monaco seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Vote to “Opt Out” of Subdivision (9) or Subsection (d) of Section 8-2 and Subsection (a)-(d) of Section 6 of the Connecticut General Statutes Public Act 21-29

Pat Del Monaco noted that this would be to opt out of very specific provisions of the Zoning Enabling Act regarding accessory apartments and associated parking. She clarified that this has nothing to do with Affordable Housing. Khris Hall spoke of her support for opting out and noted that this allows the town to retain control and flexibility for the future.

Pat Del Monaco made a motion that pursuant to Section 5 of Public Act 21-29 (P.A. 21-29), the Town of New Fairfield Board of Selectmen opts out of Subdivision (9) of Subsection (d) of Section 8-2 of the Connecticut General Statutes as amended by P.A. 21-29 for the following reasons:

- The Zoning Commission is in the process of reviewing its regulations and rewriting them and needs additional time to consider the changes required by Public Acct 21-29.

- Modifying parking without proper consideration of its implications in a predominately rural town with narrow roads without proper studies and time for consideration will result in potential safety hazards.

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

Pat Del Monaco made a motion that pursuant to Subsection (f) of Section 6, the New Fairfield Board of Selectmen opts out of Subdivision (a)-(d) of Section 6 of Public Act 21-29 for the following reasons:

- The Zoning Commission is in the process of reviewing its regulations and rewriting them and needs additional time to consider the changes required by Public Acct 21-29.
- More public input will be necessary in making the types of revisions suggested by P.A. 21-29.

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

Discuss and vote on Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Surplus

There was a discussion among the BOS regarding the best uses for the fiscal year 2021-2022 surplus. They discussed possibly using the surplus for police cars and equipment, fire department apparatus, funding of the Plan of Conservation and Development and rolling shelves for the Town Clerk’s vault.

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the following Additional Appropriation (Town Meeting Required) in the amount of \$319,124.13. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

\$	Transfer From		\$	
319,124.13	E25321	General Fund-Unreserved (FY22-surplus)	\$10,000.00	Cap & Non-Police Cars and Equipment
			\$19,500.00	Cap & Non-Police Cars and Equipment
			\$2,100.00	Cap & Non-Police Cars and Equipment
			\$50,000.00	Cap & Non-Planning Commission
			\$8,050.00	Finance Dept- System upgrade
			\$12,000.00	Town Properties-Capital
			\$35,000.00	Town Properties-Capital
			\$16,000.00	Town Properties-Capital
			\$7,000.00	Town Properties-Capital
			\$85,000.00	Public Works-Trucks and Equipment
			\$2,500.00	Public Works-Trucks and Equipment
			\$16,474.13	Fire Department-Equipment Reserve
			\$50,000.00	Fire Department Apparatus Reserve
			\$5,500.00	Town Clerk Vault
			\$319,1274.13	

Approve Regular Meeting Calendar for 2023

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the calendar of regular meetings for 2023 as presented.

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

Convening of the Local Traffic Authority

It was decided to have a meeting of the Local Traffic Authority on Thursday, December 22nd at 7:00pm on Zoom immediately preceding the regular BOS meeting

Old Business

Public Comment

Bob Jano reminded residents to make sure that they have house numbers on both their house and mailboxes. It is important that the numbers are visible from the road in case of an emergency.

Adjournment

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm. Khris Hall seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos

Received by email on 12/14/2022 @ 11:21 a.m.
by Chrystie M. Bontempo, Asst. Town Clerk, New Fairfield