

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

MINUTES

Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting
Thursday, January 12, 2023
7:30 PM
via Zoom

Members present:

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

Other Town Officials Present:

Olga Melnikov, Finance Director
Anita Brown, Housing Opportunities Committee
Amy Johnson, BOE member
Cynthia Ross-Zweig, Planning Commission Chairman
Claudia Willard, BOF member
Kathleen DiTullio, Economic Development Commission

Broadcast Coordinator Quintin Flower gave a brief description of the of the rules and regulations for virtual meetings.

Call To Order First Selectman Pat Del Monaco called the meeting to order at 7:35pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

Cynthia Ross-Zweig asked if there was a possibility of excess ARPA funds due to the grant that the town has received from the New Fairfield Community Foundation for communications equipment. Pat Del Monaco noted that this is a matching grant so ARPA funds will still be used for the communications equipment and any leftover funds will go back to the ARPA fund.

Correspondence and Announcements-

Khris Hall spoke of the broadband study with WESTCOG to provide broadband service to residents. She noted that the purpose of this study is to see if there is a need for this and if it is economically feasible. The committee is seeking as much input from residents as possible. It was noted that this service will be paid for by subscribers and will not have any impact on taxes.

Pat Del Monaco noted that the town has received a \$2.1 million grant from Congresswoman Jahana Hayes' office to upgrade the Emergency Radio/Communication system. A portion of these funds will allow the Town to engage a consultant to determine the best radio system for New Fairfield.

Approval of Minutes

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 8, 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 \$43,800. Lori Beninson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

\$	Transfer From		\$	Transfer To	
\$1,500.00	001-4210-0000-000/322.00	PD-Education and Training	\$1,500.00	001-4210-0000-000/610.00	PD-Materials and Supplies
\$40,000.00	001-4210-0005-000/130.00	PD-SRO Overtime	\$40,000.00	001-4210-0001-000/130.00	PD-Overtime
\$2,300.00	001-4161-0000-003/332.01	Professional Services-Legal Labor	\$2,300.00	001-4161-0000-000/334.01	Professional Services-Consulting
\$43,800.00			\$43,800.00		

Personnel Report

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the Personnel Report dated January 12, 2023 as presented. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Appointments- None

Addition to the Agenda

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to add Agenda Item #13 “Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the paramedic contract”. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

New Business

Discussion and vote on 2023 Boat Slip fees

Pat Del Monaco noted that the Parks and Recreation Commission has recommended that the cost of Boat Slips be increased by \$25 per year. There are currently 153 boat slips and 9 jet ski slips which would net a total increase of \$4,050.00

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to increase the cost of Boat Slips by \$25 per slip for the 2023 Season. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Grant from New Fairfield Community Foundation

Pat Del Monaco read a letter from the Community Foundation announcing a matching grant up to \$250,000 for the purchase of a dispatch console for New Fairfield Communication Center. There was a suggestion of putting a plaque at the Communication Center recognizing the New Fairfield Community Foundation.

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to accept the grant from the New Fairfield Community Foundation. Lori Beninson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Discuss and vote on Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Surplus

Pat Del Monaco noted that the BOF has asked the BOS to reconsider the request for the 2021-2022 surplus funds and to come to the BOF with a lower amount. There was a discussion of current unbudgeted capital needs, medical needs, 2022-2023 revenue projections and challenges with the 2023-2024 budget. There

was a discussion of the expenditure surplus including salary surpluses in the Police Department, Library and Boards and Commission salaries. Finance Director Olga Melnikov spoke of budget pressures for the upcoming year.

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the following Additional Appropriation (Town Meeting Required) in the amount of \$226,124.13. Lori Beninson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

\$	Transfer From		\$	
\$226,124.13	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
			\$16,000.00	Town Properties-Capital
			\$7,000.00	Town Properties-Capital
			\$85,000.00	Public Works-Trucks and Equipment
			\$16,474.13	Fire Department-Equipment Reserve
\$226,124.13			\$226,124.13	

Adopt a Spot

Kathleen DiTullio from the Economic Development Commission presented the Board with an idea for groups to “Adopt a Spot” in town. She spoke of the waiver that each group would sign showing safety rules and general agreements. It is hopeful that this program will be able to start by Earth Day. There was a brief discussion of this idea, and it was noted that it will be discussed further at the next BOS meeting.

Old Business

Public Comment

Cynthia Ross-Zweig spoke of the complexity of the Plan of Conservation and Development and concerns about getting funding for it.

Executive Session

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:48 pm to discuss the Paramedic Contract. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 9:00 pm. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Adjournment

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 pm. Lori Beninson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos