

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

MINUTES
Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting
Thursday, February 9, 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
Linda Norris, Library Board Chairman
Ellen Waltimyer, Library Board member

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

Library Board Chairman Linda Norris spoke of the proposed renovations to the Adult Library and asked the BOS to support this project in their budget. She noted that the approximate cost of this project is \$130,000 and they are requesting \$50,000 from the Town with the remainder coming from grants and fundraisers.

Correspondence and Announcements-

Pat Del Monaco noted that the Small Business Grant application is on the Town's website. This grant provides up to \$5,000 for eligible businesses

Khris Hall noted that 270 surveys regarding the Broadband study have been returned. The survey is available for a few more weeks and it is hopeful that a few more will be returned.

Lori-Ann Beninson noted that the Youth Commission is looking to have their first meeting soon. It is hopeful that this can be done on February 22nd.

Approval of Minutes

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 12, 2023 and special meetings of January 12, 2023, January 23, 2023 and February 1, 2023 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 \$16,035.00. Lori Beninson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

\$	Transfer From		\$	Transfer To	
\$4,000.00	001-4161-0000-001/332.01	Professional Services-Legal Land	\$4,000.00	001-4161-0000-007/332.01	Professional Services-Legal Zoning
\$8,000.00	001-4161-0000-008/332.01	Professional Services-Legal ZBA	\$8,000.00	001-4161-0000-007/332.01	Professional Services-Legal Zoning
\$4,000.00	001-4161-0000-009/332.01	Professional Services-Legal Inlands/Wetlands	\$4,000.00	001-4161-0000-007/332.01	Professional Services-Legal Zoning
\$35.00	001-4164-0000-000/610.00	Business Machines-M&S	\$35.00	001-4164-0002-000/431.01	Business Machines-Tax Collector Equip.
\$16,035.00			\$16,035.00		

Pat Del Monaco noted that \$25,000 put aside for electrical lighting was ultimately done through another project. This \$25,000 will be split among Building Repair Reserve fund (\$11,000) and Light Poles Installation at the Drop Off Center (\$14,000).

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the transfer from Outside Lighting in the amount of \$25,000 to Building Repair Reserve fund (\$11,000) and Light Poles Installation at the Drop Off Center (\$14,000). 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 February 9, 2023 as presented. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

The BOS thanked Kathleen Rocco for all her years of service with Social Services.

Appointments

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to appoint Joan Archer to the Zoning Commission to serve until the November 2023 election. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to reappoint Ernst Dech to the Inland/Wetlands Commission. Lori Beninson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to reappoint Mark Werner to the Economic Development Commission. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to reappoint Tom Quigley to the Inland/Wetlands Commission. Lori Beninson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to reappoint Keith Landa to the Inland/Wetlands Commission. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to reappoint Kathleen DiTullio to the Inland/Wetlands Commission. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

New Business

Grant from Connecticut Fair Plan

Pat Del Monaco noted that Fire Marshal Derrick Guertin applied for a grant in the amount of \$500 to be used for a Thermo Imaging camera.

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to accept a grant in the amount of \$500 from the Connecticut Fair Plan. Lori Beninson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Fiscal Year 2023-2024 BOS Budget

Pat Del Monaco spoke of the budget for 2023-2024 and explained the process and the components that make up the Town's budget. She noted that this is a difficult year due to inflation, medical fund shortfall, school bonding and an increase in the paramedic service. She spoke of unappropriated capital and nonrecurring projects that are the most urgent and should be funded in this budget. She further spoke of the operating budget and the many pressures that accompany it this year. There was a brief discussion of department requests.

Khris Hall thanked both Linda Norris and Ellen Waltmyer for their support of the library and noted that it is hopeful that this project can be done in a future year.

The BOS recommended budget for 2023-2024 is \$13,911,420 which is an increase of \$645,831 or 4.87% from last year's budget.

Vote to release Barn Brook Brook Phase III Bond

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the reduction in the Barn Brook Phase III Bond in the amount of \$430,197.90. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Vote to release Warren's Hill Bond

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the final bond release for Warren's Hill subdivision in the amount of \$20,000. Lori Beninson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Adopt a Spot

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to table the vote on "Adopt a Spot". Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Vote on amendment to General Fund policy

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the change to the General Fund policy which states that closed out prior year encumbrances will be treated as annual budget expenditure surplus. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Old Business

Public Comment- None

Adjournment

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 pm. Lori Beninson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos