

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

**MINUTES**  
**Board of Selectmen Special Meeting**  
**Tuesday, February 28, 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  
Terry Friedman, Town Treasurer  
Cheryl Reedy, BOF 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 7:30 pm.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Public Comment**

Planning Commission Chairman Cynthia Ross-Zweig spoke of an agenda item that includes the sale of property. She reminded the BOS that all sales, purchases and site plans require a review by the Planning Commission.

**Correspondence and Announcements-**

Pat Del Monaco announced the Tax Collector Kerrie Greening will be retiring after 37 years of service to the Town of New Fairfield. The Town is looking to appoint someone to this position to serve from the date of retirement of April 14<sup>th</sup> until the next municipal election this November. Anyone interested should contact the Board of Selectmen.

The entire BOS thanked Kerrie Greening for her many years of service as the Tax Collector and wished her well in her retirement.

**Approval of Minutes**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 9, 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 \$83.23. Lori Beninson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

\$	Transfer From		\$	Transfer To	
\$83.23	001-4220-0000-000/610.02	Fire Companies-M&S	\$83.23	001-4220-0002-000/740.00	Fire Companies-Hydrants
<b>\$83.23</b>			<b>\$83.23</b>		

## **Personnel Report**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the Personnel Report dated February 28, 2023 as presented. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

The BOS thanked Chris Chaber, Shane Cosentino and Nancy Poellot for their years of service to New Fairfield in their respective positions and wished them all well in the future.

**Appointments**- None

## **Old Business**

### **Discuss of Fiscal 2023/2024 BOS Budget**

Pat Del Monaco spoke of the proposed budget for the fiscal year 2023-2024 and noted that capital projects have been removed. She spoke of the pressures for this budget and noted that an additional appropriation of approximately \$83,000 was approved for a School Resource Officer in the Elementary School and another additional appropriation of approximately \$84,000 was approved for additional staffing for the Communications Center.

First Selectman Del Monaco spoke of total adjustments to the budget and noted that \$207,625 was removed from the operating budget and \$1,238,930 was removed from the capital budget. This amounts to an increase of \$510,435 over last year's budget which equates to 3.85%.

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the 2023-2024 budget for presentation to the Board of Finance in the amount of \$13,776,024 which represents an increase of \$510,435 (3.85%) over last year's budget. Khris Hall 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" until the next regular meeting. Lori Beninson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

## **New Business**

### **Donation to the Economic Development Commission**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve a donation of \$400 from Dr. Brandon Chorney for the Holiday Sing Along books for the Economic Development Commission. Khris Hall seconded the motion.

**Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

### **Community Garden Agreement**

Pat Del Monaco noted that this agreement for the Community Garden is signed every year. There are no changes from last year's agreement.

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the agreement for temporary use of land for an organic community garden for 2023. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Economic Development Commission recommendations for ARPA Small Business Grants  
Pat Del Monaco read a letter from the Economic Development Commission regarding applications from several small businesses in town. It is requested that a grant in the amount of \$5,000 be given to the following New Fairfield businesses: Simply Wax, Olde 37 Patio and Grill,

Peerless Power Equipment, Bisciotti's Restaurant, Cage Creations, and Candlewood Digital. A grant in the amount of \$3,000 was requested for Country Doctor.

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the disbursements of these grants. Lori Beninson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

### **Amendment to the Debt Policy**

Pat Del Monaco noted that the BOF met last night and deferred the approval for the amendment to the debt policy. She spoke of the specifics of this amendment and noted that the BOS cannot vote on this since the BOF did not approve it.

Finance Director Olga Melnikov spoke of the debt schedule comparison and why this amendment was brought up for consideration. This amendment would have allowed for the deferment of the payment of principal for the bonding for two years. At this point, the BOS can only control the debt structure. She compared the different options and how they could affect the budget.

### **Movement of Agenda items**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to move Public Comment on the agenda to before agenda items #15 and #16. Lori Beninson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

### **Public Comment**

Cheryl Reedy asked about the reimbursement rate from the State for the building project.. Pat Del Monaco noted that the Finance Director and Town Treasurer are working on this.

Melissa Lindsey gave her opinion that deferring the principal payments for the bonding would not be helpful and cause more payments to the taxpayers in the long run. Finance Director gave a more detailed explanation of this and how it could affect the Mil Rate.

Dave Coleman asked about Executive Session items on the agenda and the reason that these items cannot be discussed in public session. First Selectman Del Monaco explained the reasons for the confidentiality.

### **Executive Session**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to enter into Executive Session at approximately 8:39 pm to discuss the possible sale of property located at 8 Cameron Road and the Small Cities Equity approval request. Lori Beninson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

The Board came out of Executive Session at approximately 8:55 pm.

### **Small Cities Equity Approval Request**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the request that was presented to the BOS for the Small Cities Loan program. Lori Beninson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

### **Adjournment**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:58 pm. Lori Beninson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Kloos

Received by email on 03/06/2023 @ 8:30 a.m.  
by Chrystie M. Bontempo, Asst. Town Clerk, New Fairfield

*BOS- Minutes*  
*2/28/2023*