

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

**MINUTES**

**Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting**  
**Thursday, March 23, 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  
Holly Smith, Town Clerk  
Anita Brown, Housing Opportunities Committee Chairman  
Kathy Hull, Housing Opportunities Committee member  
Marianne Gaffey, Candlewood Lake Authority Chairman  
Joan Archer, Candlewood Lake Authority Vice Chairman  
Amy Johnson, BOE member  
Ed Sbordone, BOE/PBC member  
Cynthia Ross-Zweig, Planning Commission Chairman  
Claudia Willard, 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 7:30pm.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Public Comment-** None

**Correspondence and Announcements**

Lori-Ann Beninson asked if the BOS could address an email sent to the BOF from the Volunteer Fire Department regarding budget cuts. Pat Del Monaco noted that the best time bring this up would be at a future budget discussion.

**Proclamation**

Pat Del Monaco presented a Proclamation in Memorandum of James Edward Ogden II who passed away on March 9, 2023. The proclamation noted many of Mr. Ogden's volunteer service to New Fairfield especially in Girls' Softball and Track.

**Approval of Minutes**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the minutes of the special meeting of March 9, 2023 as presented. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

**Budget Transfers**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to make the following Inter-Departmental transfer in the amount of \$9,000. Lori Beninson seconded the motion.

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

\$	Transfer From		\$	Transfer To	
\$9,000.00	001-4163-0000-000/520.01	General Insurance (Additional costs due to turnover)	\$9,000.00	001-4154-0000/000/110.00	Tax Collector Supplies
<b>\$9,000.00</b>			<b>\$9,000.00</b>		

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to make a transfer from Town Properties Capital Building Repair fund to Company A Oil Leak repair to in the amount of \$20,250.34. 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 March 23, 2023 as presented. Lori Beninson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

**Appointments**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to appoint Shareen Langdon as the Interim Tax Collector effective April 15, 2023 to November 7, 2023. Khris Hall seconded the motion.

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

The entire BOS welcomed Shareen Langdon.

**New Business**

**Vote on possible repairs to Beaver Bog Cemetery**

Pat Del Monaco spoke of repairs needed at the Beaver Bog Cemetery. There is currently approximately \$8,000 in this fund. She spoke of using \$5,250 of these funds for repairs and gave a detailed list of what needs to be done.

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the expenditures of \$5,250 for repairs to the Beaver Bog Cemetery. Lori Beninson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

**Vote on Candlewood Lake Authority Grass Carp stocking fund balance transfer**

Candlewood Lake Authority Vice Chairman Joan Archer spoke of money donated to the CLA from New Fairfield in 2017 for Grass Carp for Candlewood Lake. She noted that DEEP no longer allows Grass Carp to be added to Candlewood Lake. As a result, CLA would like to transfer the remaining balance of \$329.00 from the Grass Carp project to Lake Stewards Project.

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve a transfer of the Grass Carp Stocking Fund balance to the Lake Steward Program. Lori Beninson seconded the motion.

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

Joan Archer noted that the five municipalities around Candlewood Lake pay for Marine Patrol. She noted that they were recently informed that certified patrol officers were no longer allowed to carry side arms and are required to do mandatory training. As a result, all five of the patrol officers resigned. This accounts for more than 10% of the staffing for the summer. CLA is concerned that the changes made by DEEP will cause shortages in staffing for this summer. CLA has reached out to the CEOs of the five towns to see if a meeting can be called to try to rectify the situation. Khris Hall suggested reaching out to State Legislatures for guidance on this.

Joan Archer noted that New Fairfield Fire Department donated a Fire Boat to the CLA a few years ago. They are donating it back to New Fairfield.

### **Lock CIRMA Lap rates**

Pat Del Monaco spoke of the need to confirm membership with CIRMA (Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency) for Property, Liability and Automobile Insurance. This confirmation will lock in rates.

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to lock in membership for three years with CIRMA. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

### **Housing Opportunities Committee Survey Presentation**

Housing Opportunities Committee Chairman Anita Brown spoke of this committee and its progress since inception in May 2022. She spoke of the members of the committee and their respective backgrounds and the reason for a Housing Opportunities Committee.

Anita Brown gave a brief description of the background of the consultant Jocelyn Ayer and the scope of her work. A resident survey for housing needs is now available and a Community Forum will be done in the future once the survey results are in. The survey is available online through surveymonkey and paper copies can be acquired at the library and Senior Center. A link to the survey is available on the Town's website.

### **Vote on Annual Fair Housing Resolution**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to adopt the following Fair Housing Resolution for 2023 as presented. Lori Beninson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

It was noted that the town is required to adopt this resolution on an annual basis.

Whereas, All persons are afforded a right to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice; and Whereas, Federal fair housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, be given equal access to all housing-related opportunities, including rental and homeownership opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and Whereas, Connecticut fair housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, marital status, age, lawful source of income, familial status, learning disability, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression be given equal access to all housing-related opportunities, including rental and home ownership opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and Whereas, The Town of New Fairfield is committed to upholding these laws, and realizes that these laws must be

supplemented by an Affirmative Statement publicly endorsing the right of all people to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice. NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town of New Fairfield hereby endorses a Fair Housing Policy to ensure equal opportunity for all persons to rent, purchase, obtain financing and enjoy all other housing-related services of their choice on a non-discriminatory basis as provided by state and federal law; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the chief executive officer of the Town of New Fairfield or her designated representative is responsible for responding to and assisting any person who alleges to be the victim of an illegal discriminatory housing practice in the Town of New Fairfield and for advising such person of the right to file a complaint with the State of Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) or to seek assistance from the CT Fair Housing Center, legal services, or other fair housing organizations to protect his or her right to equal housing opportunities. Adopted by the Town of New Fairfield on March 23, 2023.

### **Old Business**

**Vote on Economic Development Commission recommendation for ARPA Small Business Grants- None**

### **Public Comment**

Kathy Hull spoke of the importance of the Housing Survey and encouraged everyone to take the survey.

### **Discussion of possible sale of property located at 8 Cameron Road**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:20 pm to discuss the possible sale of property located at 8 Cameron Road. Khris Hall seconded the motion.

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

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:26 pm. Lori Beninson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

### **Adjournment**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 pm. Lori Beninson seconded the motion.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Kloos