

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

**MINUTES**  
**Board of Selectmen Special Meeting**  
**Monday, June 26, 2023**  
**9:00 AM**  
**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  
Wes Marsh, BOF Chairman  
Shareen Langdon, Tax Collector  
Kimberly LaTourette, BOE member  
Ed Sbordone, BOE/PBC member

**Call To Order** First Selectman Pat Del Monaco called the meeting to order at 9:05 am.

**Discussion and vote to set Mil Rate for fiscal year 2023/2024**

Pat Del Monaco spoke of the role of the Board of Selectmen in setting a Mil Rate due to the failure of a successful budget referendum for the 2023/2024 fiscal year. She spoke of her frustration with being put in this position. It was noted that according to State Statute in the event that a budget doesn't pass, the Selectmen shall set a Mil Rate. If the Mil Rate set by the Selectmen is higher than the eventually accepted Mil Rate, the excess will be put towards the 2024/2025 budget. If the Mil Rate set by the Selectmen is lower than the accepted Mil Rate, a supplemental tax bill will need to be sent to the taxpayers.

Pat Del Monaco noted that the increases to the BOS budget were primarily due to the increase in the cost for paramedic services. It was noted the BOS made adjustments to the capital budget and some operating costs in order to accommodate for this. The BOE budget increases were due mostly to debt service for the building projects and an increase in Medical claims.

Both budgets failed at the June 24<sup>th</sup> but the BOS budget did pass at the first budget referendum on May 20<sup>th</sup>. The difference between the first BOS budget and the second BOS budget was a reduction of \$100,000 from the Police Overtime line. As a result, Pat Del Monaco proposed adding this \$100,000 back to the BOS budget.

The BOE budget failed at both referendums and there has been very vocal plea from the community that this budget is too low. Pat Del Monaco spoke of the possibility of adding \$200,000 back to the BOE budget. She suggested using some of the bond premium and noted that there is approximately \$240,000 more in ECS funding than anticipated and there is LOCIP money that can be used for certain capital projects. She encouraged the BOF to look closely at the Medical Fund and the

possibility of adjusting the fund balance. It was noted that there will be a loss of approximately \$80,000 of interest income from delay of sending tax bills.

If the aforementioned changes are made to the budget, the proposed Mil Rate would be 34.90 compared to 34.71 which failed at the June 24<sup>th</sup> referendum. This would amount to 19 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. The Mil Rate for motor vehicle is capped by the State at 32.46.

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to set the Mil Rate for 2023/2024 fiscal year at 34.90 for Personal Property and Real Estate and 32.46 for Motor Vehicles. Lori Beninson seconded the motion.

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

**Vote to set billing dates for fiscal year 2023/2024 tax collection**

Tax Collector Shareen Langdon recommended tax collection dates of August 1<sup>st</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>. She noted that bills will go out 3<sup>rd</sup> week of July with a due date of August 1<sup>st</sup> with the last day to pay without penalty of September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to set the tax collection dates for the 2023/2024 fiscal year at August 1, 2023 and January 1, 2024. Khris Hall seconded the motion.

**Adjournment**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 am. Khris Hall seconded the motion.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Kloos

Received by email on 06/28/2023 @ 8:30 a.m.  
by Chrystie M. Bontempo, Asst. Town Clerk, New Fairfield