

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

MINUTES
Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting
Thursday, July 13, 2023
7:30 PM
Via Zoom

Members present:

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

Other Town Officials Present:

Linda Fox, Library Director
Wes Marsh, BOF Chairman
Ed Sbordone, BOE member/PBC member

Broadcast Coordinator Erik Muhlenberg 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

Pat Del Monaco announced that the third Budget referendum will be held Saturday, July 22nd from 10am to 8pm at the Senior Center. Absentee ballots will be available at the Town Clerk's office from 8:30am to 5pm Monday through Thursday and on Fridays from 8:30 am to noon. The Town Clerk will also be open on Thursday, July 20th until 8pm for absentee ballots.

Pat Del Monaco noted that the Boat Parade scheduled for July 14th has been rescheduled for Friday, August 4th with a rain date of Saturday, August 5th due to potential thundershowers.

Lori Beninson encouraged everyone to come to the Lions Club Carnival from July 17th to July 22nd.

Approval of Minutes

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 22, 2023 and special meetings of June 26, 2023, June 27, 2023 and June 29,2023 as presented. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Budget Transfers- None

Approve Tax Refunds recommended by the Tax Collector

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the Tax Collector's refund requests as presented: Moreira Electric- \$660.24. Lori Beninson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Personnel Report

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the Personnel Report dated July 13, 2023 as presented. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Appointments

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to reappoint Marl Lamanna to the Parks and Rec Commission. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to reappoint Tomas Kavaliauskas as an alternate member to the Zoning Commission. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Khris Hall made a motion to reappoint Mike Del Monaco to the Permanent Building Committee. Lori Beninson seconded the motion. **Vote: 2-0-1 (Motion approved- Pat Del Monaco abstained)**

New Business

HRRRA Resolution “One Town, One Vote”

Pat Del Monaco noted that in July 2022, New Fairfield voted to support the HRRRA ‘s effort to move to “One Town, One Vote”. Since then, it was discovered by HRRRA that each town would need a resolution to amend their respective ordinances to move to “One Town, One Vote.” A Town Meeting is required to amend this ordinance.

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority (hereinafter referred to as the “Authority”) was established and created in July, 1986 for the purpose of being the regional resource recovery authority for such member municipalities which, by concurrent ordinance, adopt the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes Chapter 103b; and

WHEREAS, the Town of New Fairfield (the “Town”) adopted the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes Chapter 103b by ordinance dated May 9, 1989 (as amended, the “Concurrent Ordinance”), as more particularly set forth in the Code of the Town of New Fairfield, Connecticut as Chapter 14, Article II, and thereby designated the Authority as the regional resource recovery authority for the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Concurrent Ordinance provides that the Authority shall operate with 100 voting units assigned to member municipalities in proportion to each municipality’s share of the total population of all members of the Authority, and, with certain exceptions, all actions by the Authority require the affirmative vote of at least 51% of the total voting units present and voting at a duly called meeting at which a quorum is present; and

WHEREAS, the Authority has determined that the needs of the member municipalities may be better served if each municipality has an equal say in the operation of the Authority, and has recommended that decisions of the Authority be changed to be made on a “one town, one vote” basis; and

WHEREAS, in order to implement a change to the voting structure of the Authority, all of the member municipalities must agree to the same structure.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Selectmen does hereby support a change in the voting structure of the Authority to a “one town, one vote” basis; and

RESOLVED, that the First Selectman is authorized to work collaboratively with the other member municipalities to propose revisions to the Concurrent Ordinance that would (i) provide for a “one town, one vote” basis for decisions of the Authority; (ii) establish that for routine decisions of the Authority, (A) a quorum consists of greater than fifty percent (50%) of the member municipalities and (B) actions by the Authority require the affirmative vote of greater than fifty percent (50%) of members present and voting, and (iii) a vote of greater than two-thirds (2/3) of member municipalities, without regard to a quorum, be established as necessary for material decisions of the Authority, including modification of the bylaws of the Authority, admission/termination of membership to the Authority, and such other decisions as the member municipalities may agree; and

RESOLVED, that the Concurrent Ordinance shall not be modified until such time as (i) the Board of Selectmen has affirmatively voted on an amendment thereto and (ii) all of the other member municipalities have also adopted a revised concurrent ordinance substantially similar to and consistent with the within resolution. Khris Hall seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Consider Draft Sex Offender Ordinance

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:47 pm to discuss a draft Sex Offender Ordinance. Lori Beninson seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 7:51 pm. Lori Beninson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Pat Del Monaco spoke of a draft Sex Offender Ordinance that was based on ordinances from other towns and noted that it prohibits Sex Offender from entering certain “child safety zones”. These zones include parks, schools, playgrounds, pools, recreation centers, beaches, sports facilities and fields and the land on which they are situated. Khris Hall spoke of the possibility of adding libraries to this list.

The process for adding this ordinance would be to have a Public Hearing and then a vote to adopt at a Town Meeting. It was decided to have a Public Hearing via Zoom on Thursday, July 27th.

Old Business

Red Schoolhouse Property Lease

Pat Del Monaco spoke of the process by the State for the lease of the Red Schoolhouse. There is no rent for this lease but there is a \$500 fee to enter into the lease with the State.

Lori Beninson made a motion to authorize the First Selectman to renew the land lease for the Red Schoolhouse property with the Connecticut DOT after legal review. Khris Hall seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Economic Development Commission Recommendation ARPA Small Business Grant

Pat Del Monaco noted that some non-profit establishments have asked to be eligible for ARPA Small Business grants. Pat Del Monaco will check with the Town attorney to see if non-profits are eligible for these grants.

Pat Del Monaco noted that the Economic Development Commission will be reaching out to local businesses to see if there is any interest from businesses that have not yet received these grants.

Public Comment- None

Discussion and vote for appointment of Ethics Committee

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:05 pm to discuss the appointment of an Ethics Committee. Khris Hall seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:09 pm. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to appoint Mark Lamanna, Joan Archer and Keith Landa to the Ethics Committee. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Adjournment

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 pm. Lori Beninson seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos

Received by email on 07/19/2023 @ 8:30 a.m.
by Chrystie M. Bontempo, Asst. Town Clerk, New Fairfield