



Town of New Fairfield

*Selectmen's Office
4 Brush Hill Road
New Fairfield, Connecticut*

BOARD OF SELECTMEN SPECIAL MEETING ZOOM MEETING

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96748558313>

Meeting ID: 967 4855 8313

Dial In: (929) 205-6099

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

7:30 P.M.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Public Comment & Participation
4. Correspondence & Announcements
5. Approve Minutes of Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting October 26, 2023
6. Budget Transfers
7. Approve Tax Refunds Recommended by Tax Collector
8. Personnel Report
9. Appointments

Old Business

10. Discuss and Possibly Vote on Economic Development Commission Recommendations for ARPA Small Business Grants
11. Discuss and Possibly Vote on Resolution for \$475,272 STEAP Grant for Town Green Project

New Business

12. Discuss Letter from NFVFD
13. Discuss and Possibly Vote to Modify Bank Account Fee Structure
14. Public Comment
15. Discuss and Possibly Vote on Property Located at 96 Route 37

Executive Session

16. Adjournment

Received by email on 11/13/2024 @ 3:51 p.m.

By: Holly Z. Smith, Town Clerk, New Fairfield

TOWN PROPERTIES CAPITAL BUDGET

301-4340-0000-000 / 700.14

	Building Repair Reserve	Well Testing	Replace Air Handler and AC Unit Annex Building	Replace HVAC Co. A	PD Cameras	Interior Painting Annex	DOC Light Poles Installation	DOC Office Repair / Replacement	Squantz Engine Co Boiler Replacement	Total
Carryover	80,132.98	9,000.00	30,000.00	40,000.00	4,900.00	11,000.00	14,000.00			119,032.98
Current Year	20,000.00									90,000.00
Transfers/Donations										
Approved at BOS 9/14/23	(23,000.00)		(10,000.00)					23,000.00		-
Approved at BOS 10/12/23			(805.00)						10,000.00	-
Submitted at BOS 11/09/23									805.00	-
Expenditures										
10/26/23 PO #24000524 - Eagle Leasing										
								(23,000.00)		(23,000.00)
										-
										-
										-
Encumbered										
PO #20000004 - Bob Conley & Son						(6,600.00)				(6,600.00)
PO #23000806 Shock Electric							(13,744.00)			(13,744.00)
PO #24000429 SLR International		(6,000.00)								(6,000.00)
PO #24000493 - Tucker Mechanical			(12,448.00)							(12,448.00)
Balance	77,132.98	3,000.00	6,747.00	40,000.00	4,900.00	4,400.00	256.00	-	10,805.00	147,240.98

**TOWN OF NEW FAIRFIELD
PERSONNEL REPORT
November 14, 2023**

	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	POSITION	LOCATION	PAY RATE	REASON	EFFECTIVE
NEW HIRES:							
1	ROSA	JOHN	FULL TIME DISPATCHER	COMMUNICATIONS	\$26.50/HR.	REPLACING V. COLELLA	11/15/2023
CHANGE IN STATUS							
2	DIBIASE	MICHAEL	DRIVER/OPERATOR/MAINTAINER	PUBLIC WORKS	\$28.55/HR.	REPLACING S. KOSISKO	11/15/2023
3	MCCARTHY	KEVIN	PT DROP OFF CENTER ATTENDANT	DROP OFF	\$16.00/HR.	INCREASE TO MINIMUM WAGE	11/1/2023

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CERTIFIED RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

I, Patricia Del Monaco, First Selectman, certify that below is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Town of New Fairfield at a meeting of its Board of Selectmen duly convened on November 14, 2023 and which has not been rescinded or modified in any way whatsoever and is at present in full force and effect.

(Date)

(Signature and Title of Official)

SEAL

WHEREAS, pursuant to State Statute, SGS Sec. 4-66G, the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development is authorized to extend financial assistance for economic development projects; and, **WHEREAS**, it is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of New Fairfield make an application to the State for \$475,272 in order to undertake the Town Green Project and to execute an Assistance Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE:

New Fairfield Board of Selectmen

1. That it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for the state financial assistance imposed by State Statute, SGS Sec. 4-66G
2. That the filing of an application for State financial assistance by the New Fairfield Board of Selectmen in an amount not to exceed \$475,272 is hereby approved and that First Selectman Patricia Del Monaco is directed to execute and file such an application with the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, to provide such additional information, to execute such other documents as may be required, to execute an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut for State financial assistance if such an agreement is offered, to execute any amendments, decisions, and revisions thereto, and to act as the authorized representative of the Town of New Fairfield.



Volunteer Fire Department of New Fairfield, Inc.
302 Ball Pond Road
P.O. Box 8307
New Fairfield, Connecticut 06812

November 12, 2023

VIA EMAIL

Board of Selectmen
Town of New Fairfield
New Fairfield, CT 06812

Dear Pat, Khris and Lori-Ann,

On behalf of the Department I would like to thank the members of the current Board of Selectmen for your support of the Fire Department, our members and our programs over the last few years. We have very much appreciated your support.

There are four items that we have all verbally agreed to over the past 2-3 years that we request that you memorialize in your minutes at this last meeting so the new Board of Selectmen is made aware of them.

1. During the 2022-23 budget season you asked for cuts to the Fire Department budget that were not possible to achieve from our operating line and so we agreed that the Town, on a one-time basis only, could cut its annual contribution to the Apparatus Reserve Fund by \$50,000, as long as the \$50,000 was replaced in the fund sometime over the next 2-3 years. It was not possible to replace those funds during in the FY 23-24 budget so the amount of \$50,000 is still owed to the Fire Department Apparatus Reserve Fund in addition to the regular annual appropriation.
2. To take account of the inflationary costs of new fire and EMS apparatus, we reached a verbal agreement with the First Selectman that henceforth new ambulances needed by the Town would be purchased 100% using EMS user fees collected by the Department. The funding for ambulance purchases would no longer come from the Apparatus Reserve Fund and the Department but from the EMS checking account, understanding that such an agreement would cut revenue to the town in subsequent years when an ambulance purchase is necessary.
3. While the Department's ARPA renovation project located at Company A has been completed, we are all still waiting to make sure that the fix for the shower humidity issue will work as planned when winter is over and the weather warms again or whether additional air conditioning may be necessary. While all the funds allotted by the ARPA vote to the Fire Department project have been spent, the First Selectman noted at a Board

of Finance meeting that additional unspent ARPA funds are available if a bit more is needed to address the humidity issue in the showers next spring.

4. We have worked together with the Board of Selectmen over the last few years to improve the incentives available to those who volunteer for the NFVFD so that we can attract and maintain the members necessary to serve the town. Last year the Selectmen and a subsequent Town Meeting approved increasing the tax abatement available for members to the maximum \$2,000 per year allowed by a change in state law. We also agreed that a change in the Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) the town provides for members was in order since the benefit had not been updated for more than twenty years. The Department Board of Directors decided to hold up on our request for a LOSAP improvement last year because of the other demands on the town budget, but we have been working with the Finance Director to have accurate numbers ready for the coming budget season for a number of different options that the Selectmen had already agreed to consider. We plan to request this improvement in LOSAP at budget time.

We think that if the current Board of Selectmen acknowledges in its minutes and by attaching this letter to the minutes or by some other means of your choice that these four unwritten agreements were made between the Selectmen and the Fire Department and that the Department has relied on them for its future financial planning, that it will make the transition easier for the new Board of Selectmen.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your service to our town. We wish Khris and Lori-Ann all the best in the future and look forward to continue working with you, Pat, on the new Board of Selectmen.

Sincerely,

Bruce Taylor, Chief
New Fairfield Volunteer Fire Department

cc: Olga Melnikov, Finance Director

PROPOSAL TO MODIFY BANK ACCOUNT FEE PAYMENT STRUCTURE

Background

- Bank holds compensating balance to offset bank service fees
 1. Annual bank service fees \$30K/year
 2. Compensating balance required to avoid directly paying bank service fees \$3,500K
 - Compensating balance interest credit of 0.85% is significantly below the current sweep account interest rate of 5.14% (as of October 27th)
 3. At current interest rate, lost interest income is \$180K/year
 4. Potential overall financial benefit is **\$150K/year** (\$180K interest less \$30K expense)

Recommendation

- Convert bank account structure
 - Earn interest at the sweep account rate
 - Pay bank fees directly
- Need to establish a bank fee expense budget line item to implement change
 - Full year: \$30K
 - December – June: \$20K
- Increase interest income revenue to offset expense budget
- Budget accordingly for FY24-25
- Monitor interest rates on an on-going basis – revert to existing structure if rates change and the proposed structure is no longer the best financial arrangement for the town