

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

MINUTES
Board of Selectmen Special Meeting
Tuesday, November 14, 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
Shareen Langdon, Tax Collector
Wes Marsh, BOF Chairman
Thora Perkins, BOF Member
Cheryl Reedy, BOF Member
Claudia Willard, BOF Member
Peggy Katkocin, BOF Alternate Member
Ed Sbordone, BOE Member
Bruce Taylor, Fire Chief
Rich Kalinka, Fire Department Member

Rebecca Bitner explained the rules and procedures for a virtual meeting.

Call To Order First Selectman Pat Del Monaco called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

Thora Perkins spoke of her concerns about the proposal regarding the Town Green and hoped that it would be explained further at tonight's meeting.

Tom Perkins spoke of concerns regarding budget transfers for the apparatus reserve fund for the Fire Department. He spoke of the possible vote regarding the property at 96 Route 37 and suggested that no decisions be made by the outgoing BOS without consultation with the new BOS.

Millie Kellogg thanked First Selectman Pat Del Monaco and Selectmen Lori Beninson and Khris Hall for their service and commitment to the town and noted that they will be missed

Kim Hanson spoke in support for the grant application for the Town Green but suggested that Pat Del Monaco's name be removed as First Selectman in order to avoid confusion. He further spoke of his support to fund the Fire Department but noted that it is the role of the BOF to fund the Fire Department thus promises made by the BOS are not binding

Eileen Hacaj thanked First Selectman Pat Del Monaco and Selectmen Lori Beninson and Khris Hall for their service to the town and commended them for working in a bipartisan manner.

Cynthia Ross-Zweig spoke of the her concerns regarding the possible purchase of land in town and the role of the Planning Commission in this process.

John McCartney thanked First Selectman Pat Del Monaco and Selectmen Lori Beninson and Khris Hall and for being a remarkable team.

Jenna Alviti thanked the outgoing BOS for all their hard work and reminded everyone of all their accomplishments.

Correspondence and Announcements

Selectmen Khris Hall thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve New Fairfield as a Selectman for the past six years. She wished the new BOS well. She thanked the following people: New Fairfield Town employees, Selectman Lori Beninson, and First Selectmen Pat Del Monaco. She congratulated Melissa Lindsey and Tom Perkins on their new roles and wished them well.

Lori Beninson thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve New Fairfield as Selectman and noted that she is especially grateful to work with Pat Del Monaco and Khris Hall.

Approval of Minutes

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 26, 2023.

Lori Beninson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Budget Transfers

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve a transfer of \$805.00 from Replace Air Handler and AC Unit Annex Building to Squantz Engine Co. Boiler Replacement. Khris Hall seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Approve Tax Refunds recommended by the Tax Collector

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the Tax Collector's refund requests for November 14, 2023 totaling \$16,932.79 as presented. 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 October 12, 2023 as presented.

Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Appointments

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to reappoint Don Kellogg to the Permanent Building Committee. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Khris Hall thanked the entire Permanent Building Committee and noted that they are an integral part of the success of the school building projects. Pat Del Monaco noted that Paul Boniello has resigned from the PBC and thanked him for all his work with this position.

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to appoint David Zeh to the Permanent Building Committee. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to appoint Rick Regan as an alternate member to the Board of Finance. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Old Business

Economic Development Commission Recommendation ARPA Small Business Grants

None

Vote on Resolution for \$475,272 STEAP Grant for Town Green Project

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to adopt the Certified Resolution for the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development. Khris Hall seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Pat Del Monaco noted that the amount of this grant is \$475,272.00

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to make an Additional Appropriation of \$60,000 from Unappropriated Capital and Nonrecurring for the Engineering Design which is not included in the STEAP project for the Town Green project. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

New Business

Discuss letter from New Fairfield Volunteer Fire Department

Pat Del Monaco spoke of a letter sent from Fire Chief Bruce Taylor and noted that the amount of the Apparatus reserve fund request should be amended because the BOF did put some money in the 2023-2024 budget for this. She further suggested that there be a discussion with the incoming BOS and BOF regarding the EMS User fees. There was a discussion of the Equipment Fund vs. the Apparatus fund.

Pat Del Monaco further spoke of a recommendation from the Town Engineer to dehumidify the shower area at Company A Firehouse.

Rich Kalinka spoke of the LOSAP Program for the Fire Department. Fire Chief Bruce Taylor thanked the outgoing BOS for their support of the Fire Department.

Vote to modify Bank Account Fee Structure

Town Treasurer Terry Friedman explained how the Town can earn more interest income by paying the bank fees directly to the bank instead of using a reserve as is the current practice. This would allow money currently in the reserve fund to earn a higher interest rate. She noted that a separate line item would need to be created. It was noted that this would also need BOF approval.

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to modify the Bank Account Fee payment structure as presented by the Town Treasurer. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Public Comment

Pat Bower thanked the entire outgoing BOS for all their hard work. He cited examples of their accomplishments.

Christine Garabo spoke of her concern that the new BOS was not consulted regarding agenda items for tonight's meeting. She specifically spoke of the appointment of new members to the BOF and the PBC.

Olivia Micca thanked the outgoing BOS for all their hard work and mentorship.

Cheryl Reedy thanked the outgoing BOS and congratulated Melissa Lindsey and Tom Perkins on their new positions.

Don Kellogg thanked the outgoing BOS for their exceptional leadership and for working in a bipartisan way.

Kim Hanson spoke of his concern regarding the motion for an Additional Appropriation for Engineering Design for the Town Green project.

Discussion of property located at 96 Route 37

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:29pm and to invite Finance Director Olga Melnikov and Melissa Lindsey, and Tom Perkins into the Executive Session. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:40pm. Lori Beninson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Adjournment

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 pm. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos

Received by email on 11/20/2023 @ 10:15 a.m.
by Chrystie M. Bontempo, Asst. Town Clerk, New Fairfield