

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

MINUTES

**Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting
Thursday, February 8, 2024
7:30 PM
Via Zoom**

Members present:

Melissa Lindsey, First Selectman
Pat Del Monaco, Selectman
Tom Perkins, Selectman

Other Town Officials Present:

Olga Melnikov, Finance Director
Tony Iadarola, Town Engineer

Quintin Flower gave a brief description of the rules and regulations for a virtual meeting.

Call To Order First Selectman Melissa Lindsey called the meeting to order at 7:32pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

Elaine Hicks spoke of concerns regarding possible additional costs for the proposed Beach House at the Town Beach. She specifically spoke of concerns with the proposed size and uses for the Beach House.

Correspondence and Announcements

First Selectman Melissa Lindsey congratulated fourth grader Gabrielle for becoming a county winner for the Fire Prevention poster contest.

Melissa Lindsey spoke of some recent meetings that she attended specifically:

- A legislative reception hosted with WESTCOG.
- A meeting with Regional Coordinator and Planner from the Department of Emergency Management and Security.
- A meeting with Directors of WESTCOG that included a large variety of topics.
- Visited with the New Fairfield Veterans' Association.
- Attended a New Fairfield High School Wrestling match.
- Attended the fifth anniversary and Court of Honor for Troop 179.

Selectman Pat Del Monaco spoke of an email that she received from Kathy Hanley from New Fairfield Together and Wellness (previously known as the Prevention Council). New Fairfield is part of the national opioid settlement agreement. There is a restrictive fund that can be used for opioid abatement strategies. The Prevention Council has put together an advisory group to research the best uses for this settlement money. Pat Del Monaco suggested inviting members of New Fairfield Together and Wellness to a future BOS meeting.

Pat Del Monaco noted that she recently attended a meeting of HRRA (Housatonic Resource Recovery Authority) and noted that there is a fund to mitigate litter in town based on the number of small alcohol bottles sold in town. This will be discussed further at a future meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Tom Perkins made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 25, 2024.

Pat Del Monaco seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Budget Transfers

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to approve the following Intra-Departmental transfer of \$7,127.00

Tom Perkins seconded the motion. **Vote: 2-1-0 (Motion approved- Pat Del Monaco opposed)**

\$	Transfer From		\$	Transfer To	
\$627.00	001-4430-0000-000/110.00	WPCA Salaries	\$7,127.00	001-4110-0000-000/110.00	
\$500.00	001-4199-0000-000/610.00	Comm for the Youth M&S			
\$2,000.00	001-4470-0000-000/110.00	COA-Salaries			
\$4,000.00	001-4161-000-002/332.01	Professional Services- Legal Tax			
\$7,127.00					

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to transfer \$5,000 from the Building Repair Reserve Fund to replace point to point link and to approve the expenditure of \$46,128.23 to Norcon for such replacement.

Pat Del Monaco seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

There was a brief discussion of the reason to that this transfer was taken from the Building Repair Reserve Fund.

Approve Tax Refunds recommended by the Tax Collector

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to approve the Tax Collector’s refund requests for February 8, 2024 totaling \$123.02 as presented. Tom Perkins seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Personnel Report-None

Appointments

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to appoint Ellen McCue to the Ball Pond Advisory Committee. Tom Perkins seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to appoint Debbie Kilcourse to the Ball Pond Advisory Committee. Pat Del Monaco seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to reappoint Cindy White as Social Services Municipal Agent. Tom Perkins seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Pat Del Monaco thanked Cindy White for the amazing work she does for Social Services for New Fairfield.

Old Business

Update on ARPA projects

Town Engineer Tony Iadarola gave an overview of the ARPA projects including:

- Beach House Replacement at the Town Beach- Approximately 30% of the design development drawings are completed and the demolition drawings are approximately 90% complete. Almost all of the permits have been received. A preliminary estimate has been received for this project and it has come in over budget. It was noted that this project has \$700,000 in ARPA fund and \$98,276 in town capital money. Tony Iadarola spoke of the estimates and ways to mitigate the original estimate.
- Community Center Study- There will be studies to determine the size and purpose for this Community Center. Once the needs of the public is determined, there will be a study of three sites in town. Tony Iadarola noted that he is working with the PBC regarding this to get opinions.
- Drainage projects- This drainage issue is on Arden Avenue and Merlin Avenue in the Ball Pond area. He spoke of the need to fix this drainage issue in order to stop erosion. \$30,000 of capital funds have been secured to start the design process and \$150,000 of ARPA funds have been secured to secure the properties needed to and to purchase easements in order to make the improvements. A Town Meeting must be held to purchase the properties and easements. He spoke of possible grants that may be available.
- Sanitary Sewer Design project- Approximately \$1.6 million of ARPA funds have been allocated for this project. The sewers would only be in certain areas of town. This project will be done in phases with the first phase to provide sewers to the business center in town. There may be some state and federal funding available for this project.
- Communications Radios- Melissa Lindsey noted that subcommittee meetings have been held on a regular basis to move this forward.
- Safety and Security- Cameras and security devices in Town Hall and the Annex will be installed soon.

New Business

Vote to authorize resolution for 2023 EMPG Grant

Melissa Lindsey noted that this grant is received every year and it is used to partly fund the salary for the OEM Director. She read the following resolution from the Town Clerk.

I, Holly Z. Smith, the Town Clerk of Town of New Fairfield, do hereby certify that the following is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by Board of Selectmen at its duly called and held meeting on February 8, 2024 at which a quorum was present and acting throughout, and that the resolution has not been modified, rescinded, or revoked and is at present in full force and effect:

RESOLVED, that the Town of New Fairfield may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Melissa Lindsey, as First Selectman of the Town of New Fairfield, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Town of New Fairfield and to do and perform all acts and things which she deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents.

The undersigned further certifies that Melissa Lindsey now holds the office of First Selectman and that she has held that office since November 21, 2023.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF: The undersigned has executed this certificate this 8th day of February 2024.

Tom Perkins made a motion to accept the resolution for the EMPG Grant. Pat Del Monaco seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Public Comment

Elaine Hicks asked about specifics for the Beach House specifically who will be using the building and who would be responsible for the maintenance.

Millie Kellogg questions where the funding for the new outreach position will come from.

Terra Volpe spoke of concerns regarding the hiring process for an outreach position for the Town and specifically that it was not clearly stated on the agenda.

Olivia Micca spoke of concerns regarding funding for an outreach position. She noted that the previous administration did a lot for outreach.

Eileen Hacaj spoke of concerns about hiring an outreach position and how the funding of this position will take money from other positions.

Keith Landa spoke of the funding of the proposed outreach position and his disappointment with money being taken from other budget lines.

Kathy Hull asked for specifics as to what the role of the outreach position will be in exchange for the \$2,000 that will be taken from the Commission on the Aging budget.

Khris Hall asked about the scope and responsibilities of the proposed outreach position. She spoke of many avenues that are already in place that should be used in lieu of hiring an additional person. She asked if there is a scope of work in place and if so, can it be made available to the public.

Adjournment

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:40 pm. Tom Perkins seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos