

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

MINUTES

Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting
Thursday, February 22, 2024
7:30 PM
Community Room at 33 Route 37

Members present:

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

Other Town Officials Present:

Thora Perkins, BOF member
Cheryl Reedy, BOF member
Claudia Willard, BOF member
Greg Williams, BOF alternate member
Amy Johnson, BOE member
Sue Huwer, BOE member
Ed Sbordone, BOE member/PBC member
Elisa Beckett-Flores, Registrar of Voters
Linda Fox, Library Director
Various members of the NFVFD

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment- None

Correspondence and Announcements

First Selectman Melissa Lindsey noted that she received emails from several residents since the last meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Tom Perkins made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 8, 2024. Pat Del Monaco seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Budget Transfers- None

Approve Tax Refunds recommended by the Tax Collector

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to approve the Tax Collector's refund requests for February 22, 2024 totaling \$4,879.46 as presented. Tom Perkins seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Personnel Report

Tom Perkins made a motion to approve the Personnel Report dated February 22, 2024 as presented. Melissa Lindsey seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Appointments- None

Old Business- None

New Business

Discussion of enhancements to NFVFD Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP)

Melissa Lindsey read a letter from resident Mark Werner in support of the enhancements to the New Fairfield Volunteer Fire Department Length of Service Award Program.

Nate Palkewick from the NFVFD spoke of the current benefits received for members of the fire department. The benefits include a tax abatement and a length of service award. This award is given for up to 20 years of service. The enhancement proposal would raise the amount given per year of service to make it more comparable to today's dollars and would increase the cap of service to 40 years instead of 20.

There was a brief discussion among the members of the Board of Selectmen and it was decided to table the vote until feedback can be received from the Finance Director and Town Treasurer.

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to table the vote for the enhancements to the NFVFD Length of Service Award Program until the next meeting. Tom Perkins seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Vote on Community Garden Agreement

Linda Fox spoke of small changes to the Community Garden agreement. She noted that the Community Garden consists of 20 plots next to the Senior Center. It was noted that many of the gardeners contribute their vegetables to the food pantry.

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to approve the agreement for temporary use for the organic Community Garden for 2024. Pat Del Monaco seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Fiscal Year 2024/2025 BOS Budget

Melissa Lindsey noted that the 2024-2025 budget is not ready for presentation. There will be a special meeting next week to present the budget.

There was a brief discussion among the members of the BOS regarding the budget and specifically Capital and Nonrecurring expenses that may be funded with surplus money.

Public Comment

Christine Garabo thanked the BOS for reviewing the contract for the solar project proposal. She spoke of concerns regarding traffic at Meeting House Hill School and the lawsuit regarding the bus lot at the former Consolidated School. She also asked for updates on the proposed Beach House at the Town Beach.

Selectman Pat Del Monaco explained that since the Zoning Commission denied the application of the PBC, it is required by State Statute to be decided by Superior Court instead of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Bucky Riehl spoke of his concerns regarding the cost of the Beach House and if it would be used enough to justify the cost.

Adjournment

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:55 pm. Tom Perkins seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos

Received by email on 02/29/2024 @ 8:30 a.m.
by Chrystie M. Bontempo, Asst. Town Clerk, New Fairfield