

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

REVISED MINUTES
Board of Selectmen Special Meeting
Wednesday, February 28, 2024
7:00 PM
Community Room at 33 Route 37

Members present:

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

Other Town Officials Present:

Olga Melnikov, Finance Director
Carrie DePuy, BOE Director of Business and Operations
Holly Smith, Town Clerk
Shareen Langdon, Tax Collector
Kim Kraska, Animal Control Officer
Elisa Beckett-Flores, Registrar of Voters
Dan McDermott, Registrar of Voters
Bruce Taylor, Fire Chief
Greg Flanagan, BOE member
Amy Johnson, BOE member
Sue Huwer, BOE member
Kim LaTourette, BOE member
Samantha Mannion, BOE member
Ed Sbordone, BOE member
Doug Jendras, BOF member
Wes Marsh, BOF member
Thora Perkins, BOF member
Cheryl Reedy, BOF member
Claudia Willard, BOF member

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Fiscal Year 2024/2025 BOS Budget

First Selectman Melissa Lindsey spoke of the proposed budget for 2024-2025. Driving factors that affect the budget include Registrar of Voters, Bank Fees, Business Machines and Payroll. Topics of discussion included the Town Clerk salaries, Materials and supplies for the Registrar of Voters, help for the Animal Control officer and Public Works.

There was a discussion of the need for extra hours for the part-time Assistant Town Clerk and additional money in the Materials and Supplies budget for the Registrar of Voters due to early voting requirements. Pat Del Monaco read a letter from Animal Control Officer Kim Kraska expressing the

need for an assistant. It was noted that the Animal Control officer is a new position that was established in New Fairfield approximately four years ago.

Registrar of Voters Elisa Beckett-Flores spoke of additional material and supplies needed for early voting especially due to the Presidential election. She spoke in support of additional hours for the assistant part-time town clerk that could be used for help with early voting. It was decided to restore the hours in the town clerk's salary line and add money back to the materials and supplies for the Registrar of Voters.

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to approve the proposed Town Budget for fiscal year 2024-2025 in the amount of \$14,206,407 which represents a 3.88% increase over the 2023-2024 budget. Tom Perkins seconded the motion. **Vote: 2-1-0 (Motion approved- Pat Del Monaco opposed)**

Public Comment

Keith Landa spoke in support of finding a balance between needs of the town and low budget increases.

Karin Bauer suggested reaching out to Nonnewaug Agricultural students who may be interested in volunteering some hours to help the Animal Control Officer.

Olivia Micca spoke in support of hiring a part-time Animal Control Officer to give assistance to the current Animal Control Officer.

Lore White thanked Melissa Lindsey and Tom Perkins for their work in keeping the budget increases low. She spoke against hiring a part-time animal control officer.

Cheryl Reedy asked that budget information be made available earlier to give the public more time to review. She suggested having a second budget Public Hearing later in the process once more details become available.

Fire Chief Bruce Taylor thanked the BOS for the \$50,000 restoration to the equipment fund but cautioned that it is not enough to restore this line. He spoke of the necessary equipment for the Fire Department. Melissa Lindsey noted that \$50,000 is coming out of taxes for the Fire Department capital but the actual Fire Department Capital is \$290,000 between two requests.

Elaine Hicks thanked First Selectman Melissa Lindsey for her hard work.

Tom Vitale thanked Melissa Lindsey and Tom Perkins for keeping New Fairfield affordable.

Adjournment

Tom Perkins made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 pm. Melissa Lindsey seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos