

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

MINUTES
Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting
Thursday, March 14, 2024
7:30 PM
via Zoom

Members present:

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

Other Town Officials Present:

Doug Jendras, BOF Chairman
Mark Beninson, BOF member
Thora Perkins, BOF member
Cheryl Reedy, BOF member
Claudia Willard, BOF member
Terry Friedman, Town Treasurer
Holly Smith, Town Clerk
Bruce Taylor, Fire Chief
Anita Brown, Housing Opportunities Chairman
Kathleen DiTullio, Housing Opportunities member
Kathy Hull, Housing Opportunities member
Jim Mandella, Housing Opportunities member
Amy Johnson, BOE member
Kim LaTourette, BOE member
Ed Sbordone, BOE member/PBC member

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

Mark Beninson spoke in support of the Board of Selectmen and encouraged everyone to act civil.

Olivia Micca thanked the First Selectman to for the quick response to her FOIA request. She asked for clarification about a position of a grant writer in the budget for \$10,000. Melissa Lindsey responded that she will get back to her with an answer.

Correspondence and Announcements- None

Approval of Minutes

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 22, 2024 and special meetings of February 28, 2024 and March 6, 2024. Tom Perkins seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Budget Transfers

Tom Perkins made a motion to approve the following Intra-Departmental transfer in the amount of \$11,500.00. Pat Del Monaco seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

\$	<i>Transfer From</i>		\$	<i>Transfer To</i>	
\$7,500.00	001-4220-0000-000/423.01	Fire Co. Professional Services	\$7,500.00	001-4220-0001-000/430.09	Fire Companies-Maintenance & Repair
\$4,000.00	001-4161-0000-009/332.01	Professional Services-Legal/Inland Wetlands	\$4,000.00	001-4161-0000-007/332.01	Professional Services-Legal/zoning
\$11,500.00			\$11,500.00		

Approve Tax Refunds recommended by the Tax Collector

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the Tax Collector's refund requests for March 14, 2024 totaling \$10,738.28 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 March 14, 2024 as presented. Pat Del Monaco seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

The entire BOS thanked Kathy Waters for her 25 years of service and wished her well in her retirement.

Old Business

New Fairfield Volunteer Fire Department Length of Service Award Program Enhancements

Town Treasurer Terry Friedman gave an update on the LOSAP program for the firefighters. The changes to the program and approximate costs include:

- An increase in the payout from \$13 to \$25 per month per year of service beginning with the 2024-2025 fiscal year effective July 1, 2024 with a cost of approximately \$22,000.
- An increase of credited service for future service from 20 to 40 years effective July 1, 2025 with a cost of \$16,000 in the first year and \$34,000 by the tenth year.
- Providing for retroactive credit for up to 5 years or service at \$13 per month.

Terry Friedman gave two proposals for financing of these plans. The first option is to put \$60,000 of interest income from the 2023-2024 surplus which would give \$22,000 in fiscal year 2024-2025, \$25,000 for fiscal year 2025-2026 and \$13,000 for fiscal year 2026-2027. This option requires approval from the BOS, BOF and a Town Meeting. The second option is to put \$22,000 in the 2024-2025 budget which would require support from the BOS and BOF and approval through the town budget vote.

New Business

Housing Opportunities Committee Presentation

Housing Opportunities Committee Chairman Anita Brown gave a presentation of the role and responsibilities of the committee. She spoke of the members of the committee and gave a timeline of what the committee has done since its inception in 2022.

Housing Opportunities member Jim Mandella reviewed results of a survey given to New Fairfield residents about Housing needs in New Fairfield.

Housing Opportunities member Kathleen DiTullio spoke of the challenges of finding housing for senior citizens or young adults. She spoke of the desire for the Planning Commission to include affordable housing in their “Plan of Conservation and Development” and for the Zoning Commission to consider options when establishing their regulations.

Consultant Jocelyn Ayer spoke of goals and strategies to address housing needs. She noted that the Housing Opportunities committee established a goal of creating 20 housing units over the next five years that would be dedicated to being affordable. This goal would include supporting the New Fairfield Housing Trust and to allow for the development of smaller size housing. She spoke of the possibility of allowing for accessory apartments.

Housing Opportunities member noted that it is a pleasure to work with this committee and thanked everyone for their hard work.

First Selectman Melissa Lindsey spoke of the challenges with implementing these goals.

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to table the approval of the Housing Opportunities plan until the next regular BOS meeting. Tom Perkins seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Donation to Social Services

Melissa Lindsey read a letter from Social Services Director Cindy White asking for approval for donations made to Social Services. Such letter included a break down of what the donations will be used for.

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to accept the donation in the amount of \$5,230.65 for Social Services. Tom Perkins seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Vote to accept Surety Bond

There was a brief explanation of the reasons for surety bonds and permits.

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to accept the surety bond from Western Surety Company for Power Home Remodeling Group to be a vendor in New Fairfield for an amount of \$1,000. Tom Perkins seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Public Comment- None

Adjournment

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to accept meeting at 8:36 pm. Tom Perkins seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos