

*Town of New Fairfield*  
School Safety and Security Committee

**MINUTES**

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

7:30 P.M.

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Erik Muhlenberg gave a brief overview of the rules and procedures for having a virtual meeting.

**Members present:**

Melissa Lindsey, First Selectman  
Samantha Mannion, BOE  
Nick Ieraci, Sgt. Resident Trooper  
Phil Ross, Director of Facilities  
Mark Beninson, BOF  
Glenn Magyar-Lead Dispatcher  
Dr. Kenneth Craw-Superintendent  
Derrek Guertin, Fire Marshal

**Other Town Officials Present:**

**Call to Order**

Melissa Lindsey, First Selectman, called the meeting to order on Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at approximately 7:34 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Public Comment**

-Jena Alviti spoke about the issue of locked gates at the Bus Lot, which is on the agenda. Ambulance access to the JJP field is vital, as well as having keys to all gates to let the ambulance in. When the bus lot was first placed there, it was thought it was temporary but it is vital for the ambulance to have access to the turf fields. The youngest kids play at the field. There needs to be keys to the padlock for all gates for ambulance access. A youngster broke his leg 1 ½ weeks ago and it felt like every minute mattered and no one had a gate key and people started to panic. The kids safety is the number one priority. It takes the ambulance at least 10 minutes to get there. The fence needs to be moved in the right front corner to have a clear path.

-Amy Johnson spoke on behalf of herself. She seconds what Jena said. She said the parking situation needs to be addressed. When the Lions had their Easter Egg Hunt, there were cars parked everywhere, it was so dangerous. She is surprised there were no car accidents or someone getting hurt. Spring is here and there will be more events-it is dangerous and a safety hazard with cars parked everywhere, double, triple and quadruple parked.

-Jena Alviti spoke again to add to what Amy said. She just came from her kids lacrosse practice and the parking is out of hand. She took some pictures if someone wants to look at them.

**Approve Minutes of School Safety and Security Committee Regular Meeting January 9, 2024**

Mark Beninson made a motion to approve the minutes and Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. All approved and the motion was approved.

**Discuss Temporary Bus Lot and Safety Concerns**

-First Selectman Lindsey read an email that was sent in by Jena Alviti regarding Bus Lot Safety and Concerns, along with pictures. She commented on ambulance response time in her email.

-Glenn Magyar, Lead Dispatcher, commented that on the day of the call, it was a 7 minute response time from the time of the phone call. He recommends that a key be put on each ambulance but if the New Fairfield ambulance is busy, the response could be from another town and there would not be a key on their ambulance.

There is an average 4-5 minute response time to the schools. It was 12 minutes the day the girl cut her hand because the ambulance was coming from the hospital. There is only 1 paid crew ambulance in Town, the second one is volunteer or from Danbury, depending upon the call and that is how it has been since the Town put the paid crew on. The response time for the child with the broken leg was 7 minutes.

-Phil Ross said that when the bus lot was first set up they needed a gate in and out and for the lot to be secure. He said there was a special padlock on the gate and EMS had a key to it, that was the original process which he assumed was still being followed to get to JJP Field.

-He met with Mark Ottusch, Athletic Director, and they agreed that for Marty Morgan Field, they would leave the gate unlocked in season, it makes no sense to give out 14 keys.

-Mark Beninson stated that the SROs should have keys.

-Melissa Lindsey said that the SROs are not there for youth sports.

-Mark asked if there is a spare key for the patrol officers.

-Sgt. Nick Ieraci said that the officers do not have a key.

-Mark said that there should be a spare key for the officers to have access.

-Melissa agreed that all first responders should have a key.

-Mark Beninson asked Derrek Guertin, Fire Marshal, what size vehicle can get back there on the field.

-Derrek said that was a good question. The Fire Dept. is only required to have access for structures but he will look at it on Thursday. He said that the double and triple parking is a problem. Citations can be issued according to ordinance but the citation books are outdated.

-Mark said that citations are not what he would do first and there needs to be access if a rescue is needed.

-Derrek said he will review the situation on Thursday.

-Sgt. Ieraci said he would meet Derrek on Thursday.

-Derrek said that in the meantime, the gates should be unlocked until there is a solution.

-Melissa said that temporarily everything would remain unlocked.

-Phil Ross wanted to confirm that everything would remain unlocked temporarily.

-Derrek said that the Fire Department could be called, if necessary.

-Phil said that Marty Morgan Field would remain unlocked but the Bus Lot would continue to be locked.

-Melissa said she would find out who had keys and access.

## **EMS**

-Melissa stated that at the BOF meeting someone mentioned the delayed response time to the schools.

-Glenn stated that the average response time is 4 ½ minutes from time of call to being on the scene. This time will differ if there is a second call-if it is non-life threatening, volunteers will be called first and it will be about 6 minutes before a paid crew is called. If immediate help is needed, it will take 10-12 minutes for the ambulance to come from Danbury Hospital.

-Melissa said that the times were not as bad as led to believe and in an emergency the time can feel longer. She asked Dr. Craw to let her know if there is an issue before it needs to be addressed at a public meeting.

-Dr. Craw asked Glenn how many times the ambulance has been called to the school this school year and Glenn said there were 11 calls.

-Glenn said there was some concern about another call and he is going over protocol with Terry Eagan and he can sit down with the school if they need an explanation of how the system works.

-Dr. Craw said he appreciated the EMS and thanked Glenn for the data.

### **Review Location of SOC**

-Melissa said that there was no need for an Executive Session. The SOC has been moved and it is going well.

-Dr. Craw said that Paul Gouveia coordinated the move with the police and Glenn. Now Phil and his department can start configuring the space into the new STEAM classroom. He thanks everyone for working together on this.

### **Adjournment**

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mark Beninson seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by Jean Green

Received by email on 04/11/2024 @ 10:42 a.m.  
by Chrystie M. Bontempo, Asst. Town Clerk, New Fairfield