

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

MINUTES

Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting
Thursday, April 11, 2024
7:30 PM
via Zoom

Members present:

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

Other Town Officials Present:

Linda Fox, Library Director
Elisa Beckett-Flores, Registrar of Voters
Dan McDermott, Registrar of Voters
Matthew Schwartz, Director of Public Relations and Outreach

Broadcast Coordinator Quintin Flower explained the rules for a virtual meeting.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

Planning Commission Chairman Cynthia Ross-Zweig spoke of concerns about funding for the Plan of Conservation of Development that is due in September of this year. She asked the BOS to allocate the necessary funds for the POCD. She further spoke of the requirements of the Planning Commission to make a report of the public buildings in town.

Rick Regan asked for details regarding the role of the new Director of Public Relations and Outreach including methods of communications and the metrics to evaluate if the goals were reached. He specifically spoke of one of the goals of this position that was to increase voter turn out at referendums. He asked if this would apply to the upcoming budget referendum and urged that the backstory of the budget be provided.

Correspondence and Announcements

Director of Public Relations and Outreach Matthew Schwartz thanked everyone for making him feel welcome during his first week in New Fairfield. He explained goals and methods for the job and noted that that he plans to try to reach as many residents as possible.

First Selectman Melissa Lindsey noted that there was a Communications meeting to finalize the list of radios needed for first responders. There was also a special meeting with the Planning Commission, Zoning Commission and Housing Opportunities Committee regarding the Affordable Housing Opportunities plan.

Selectman Pat Del Monaco asked for a discussion of the Squantz Fire House renovation and HERRA by-law changes to be added to the next regular meeting agenda.

Approval of Minutes

Tom Perkins made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 28, 2024 and special meetings of April 4, 2024 and April 8, 2024. Melissa Lindsey 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 \$4,600.00. Pat Del Monaco seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

\$	<i>Transfer From</i>		\$	<i>Transfer To</i>	
\$300.00	001-4420-0000-000/110.00	Inland/Wetlands-Salaries	\$300.00	001-4420-0000-000/610.00	Inland/Wetlands-M&S
\$3,000.00	001-4550-0000-000/110.00	Library-Salaries	\$3,000.00	001-4550-0000-000/640.00	Library Books & Materials
\$1,300.00			\$820.00	001-4161-0000-009/332.01	Legal Inlands/Wetlands
			\$330.00	001-4161-0000-008/332.01	Legal ZBA
			\$150.00	001-4161-0000-001/332.01	Legal-Land
\$4,600.00			\$4,600.00		

Approve Tax Refunds recommended by the Tax Collector

Tom Perkins made a motion to approve the Tax Collector’s refund requests for April 10, 2024 totaling \$4,813.40 as presented. Pat Del Monaco seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Personnel Report

Tom Perkins made a motion to approve the Personnel Report dated April 11, 2024 as presented. Pat Del Monaco seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

The entire BOS thanked Kim Kraska for her years of service as the Animal Control Officer and wished her will in her future endeavors.

Proclamation

First Selectman Melissa Lindsey read a Proclamation for Kathy Waters upon her retirement from the Finance Department. The entire BOS thanked Kathy for all her expertise and hard work during her 26 year tenure with the Town.

Appointments

Economic Development Commission

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to appoint Gary Reetz to the Economic Development Commission. Tom Perkins seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Old Business- None

New Business

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to adopt the following Fair Housing Resolution as presented. Tom Perkins seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

It was noted that the town is required to adopt this resolution on an annual basis.

Whereas, All persons are afforded a right to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice; and Whereas, Federal fair housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, be given equal access to all housing-related opportunities, including rental and homeownership opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and Whereas, Connecticut fair housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, marital status, age, lawful source of income, familial status, learning disability, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression be given equal access to all housing-related opportunities, including rental and home ownership opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and Whereas, The Town of New Fairfield is committed to upholding these laws, and realizes that these laws must be supplemented by an Affirmative Statement publicly endorsing the right of all people to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice. NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town of New Fairfield hereby endorses a Fair Housing Policy to ensure equal opportunity for all persons to rent, purchase, obtain financing and enjoy all other housing-related services of their choice on a non-discriminatory basis as provided by state and federal law; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the chief executive officer of the Town of New Fairfield or her designated representative is responsible for responding to and assisting any person who alleges to be the victim of an illegal discriminatory housing practice in the Town of New Fairfield and for advising such person of the right to file a complaint with the State of Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) or to seek assistance from the CT Fair Housing Center, legal services, or other fair housing organizations to protect his or her right to equal housing opportunities. Adopted by the Town of New Fairfield on April 11, 2024.

Vote on Accepting Grant from Connecticut Fair Plan-Anti-Arson Committee

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to approve a grant in the amount of \$500.00 from Connecticut Fair Plan-Anti-Arson Committee. Pat Del Monaco seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Pat Del Monaco thanked Fire Marshal Derrek Guertin for securing this grant.

Vote on authorizing Plan of Conservation and Development Funding request

Melissa Lindsey read a letter from the Planning Commission asking for \$35,000 for funding for the Plan of Conservation and Development. Pat Del Monaco noted that the budget for this was split into two years with the theory that the project is split into two phases so that the invoices would also be phased. She noted that the funding is including in this year's capital plan and will be available on July 1st. It was suggested that Purchasing Agent Patty Mota be consulted on this. No vote was taken on this item.

Vote to change approved amount of Additional Appropriation from January 11, 2024 from \$330,000 to \$245,000

Melissa Lindsey spoke of a vote made at the January 11, 2024 BOS that requested surplus money from the 2023-2024 budget. It was noted that some of the is money will be reallocated to the BOE and thus an additional vote needs to be taken.

Melissa Lindsey made a motion for an Additional Appropriation for \$245,000 from the General Fund Unreserved to the Cap and Non-Public Works Trucks and Equipment. Pat Del Monaco seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

\$	Transfer From		\$	Transfer To	
\$245,000.00	001-E25321	General Fund- Unreserved	\$245,000.00	301-4330-0000-000/742.03	Cap and Non-Public Works Trucks and Equipment
\$245,000.00			\$245,000.00		

Public Comment

Rick Regan welcomed Matthew Schwartz to New Fairfield and suggested that the BOS put a discussion of the Outreach position as a standing item on the agenda.

Adjournment

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to accept meeting at 8:10 pm. Tom Perkins seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos

Received by email on 04/17/2024 @ 4:33 p.m.
by Chrystie M. Bontempo, Asst. Town Clerk, New Fairfield