

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

MINUTES

Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting
Thursday, May 9, 2024
7:30 PM
via Zoom

Members present:

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

Other Town Officials Present:

Mark Beninson, BOF member
Amy Johnson, BOE member
Ed Sbordone, BOE member
Dan McDermott, Registrar of Voters

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

Virginia Buffardi thanked Fire Marshal Derrek Guertin for his service during his tenure in New Fairfield. She spoke of her disappointment with him leaving New Fairfield and spoke of concerns with moving this position to part-time.

Amy Johnson spoke of the Fire Marshal position and noted that prior to 2020, this was a part-time position. She noted that additional hours were needed during the school building project but since the projects are completed, part-time hours are sufficient.

Jena Alviti also spoke of concerns with moving the Fire Marshal position to part-time.

Correspondence and Announcements

First Selectman Melissa Lindsey thanked the Parks and Rec Department and Commission and everyone involved in the very successful Sip and Stroll.

Melissa Lindsey thanked the Town Clerk, Registrars of Voters and all the poll workers for all their hard work with the budget referendum. The next referendum will be held on Saturday, May 18th from 10am to 8pm.

There is a Communications Preference survey on the town's website for residents to chose how they want to be contacted regarding information from the town.

Melissa Lindsey noted that she attended a meeting on May 1st regarding policies for Squantz Pond. Walk-in guests will no longer be permitted into Squantz Pond once it reaches capacity. A system is being put into place that will allow visitors to make reservations online ahead of time to ensure entry into the park.

A Foster Care Awareness event will be held on Sunday, May 19th from 9:30 am to 11:00 am at Squantz Pond Firehouse. Information will be available on the Town’s website.

Selectman Pat Del Monaco thanked the State Legislation for putting procedures in place for Squantz Pond.

Approval of Minutes

Tom Perkins made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 25, 2024 and special meetings of April 30, 2024. Pat Del Monaco 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 \$48,560.00. Pat Del Monaco seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

\$	Transfer From		\$	Transfer To	
\$6,000.00	001-4215-0000-000/112.00	Communications Center- Part time salaries	\$6,000.00	001-4215-0000-000/130.00	Communications Center-Overtime
\$40,000.00	001-4210-0000-000/110.00	Police-Salaries	\$40,000.00	001-4210-0001-000/130.00	Police Overtime
\$2,560.00	001-4151-0000-000/801.00	BOF Contingency	\$2,560.00	001-4151-0000-000/610.00	BOF M & S
\$48,560.00			\$48,560.00		

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the following Inter-Departmental transfer in the amount of \$3,900.00. Tom Perkins seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

\$	Transfer From		\$	Transfer To	
\$3,900.00	001-4163-0000-000/520.01	General Insurance-Property and Casualty	\$2,500.00	001-4140-0000-000/110.00	Registrar of Voters-Salaries
			\$1,400.00	001-4140-0000-000/105.00	Registrar of Voters-Elected Salaries
\$3,900.00			\$3,900.00		

Approve Tax Refunds recommended by the Tax Collector

Tom Perkins made a motion to approve the Tax Collector’s refund requests for May 9, 2024 totaling \$352.37 as presented. Pat Del Monaco seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Personnel Report

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the Personnel Report dated May 9, 2024 as presented. Tom Perkins seconded the motion. **Vote: 2-1-0 (Motion approved- Pat Del Monaco opposed)**

There was a discussion of the decision to split the Animal Control position into two part-time positions and whether they were compensated for “on call” hours.

Appointments

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to reappoint Maureen Salerno to the Commission on the Aging. Tom Perkins seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to reappoint Roberta Illardo to the Commission on the Aging. Pat Del Monaco seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to reappoint Bill Licht to the Candlewood Lake Authority. Tom Perkins seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

The entire BOS thanked Maureen, Roberta and Bill for their willingness to volunteer for the town.

Old Business- None

New Business

Vote to allow First Selectman to sign a 5-year lease with Pitney Bowes

Melissa Lindsey noted that this is a renewal of the postage machine lease. State contract pricing is followed.

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to allow the First Selectman to sign a 5-year lease with Pitney Bowes. Pat Del Monaco seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Vote to approve contract for consultant for Zoning regulations

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to approve the contract with Planametrics for the consultant for Zoning regulations. Tom Perkins seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Pat Del Monaco noted that the cost of Planametrics is \$54,700. There was a discussion of the budget for this consultant and how much is left in the budget line. Melissa Lindsey noted that there is a contingent for this line item and will get the exact amount before signing the contract.

Vote to approve Additional Appropriation

Melissa Lindsey read a letter from Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ken Crow requesting an additional appropriation.

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to approve the following Additional Appropriation in the amount of \$41,672.99 (TOWN MEETING REQUIRED). Pat Del Monaco seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

\$	Transfer From		\$	Transfer To	
\$41,672.99	001-E25321	General Fund- Unreserved	\$41,672.99	306-4600-0000-000/700.03	BOE Cap & Non
\$41,672.99			\$41,672.99		

Discussion of vacancy for Fire Marshal

Melissa Lindsey noted that Fire Marshal Derrek Guertin resigned to take a position closer to home. She spoke of the possibility of changing this position from full-time to part-time and noted that many surrounding towns of similar size have a part-time Fire Marshal. Pat Del Monaco spoke of concerns of changing this position to part-time.

Vote to approve the Everbridge agreement

Melissa Lindsey spoke of Everbridge which is similar to the “Alert Now” system and spoke of the additional features to this system. The difference in cost is \$5,300/per year for Alert Now vs. \$6,600 per year for Everbridge. The additional funds are in the budget for next year.

There was a discussion of the parameters of Everbridge which will be checked before any contracts are signed.

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to approve the Everbridge agreement. Tom Perkins seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Vote to allow the First Selectman to sign the contract for paving services

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to allow the First Selectman to sign the contract for paving services. Tom Perkins seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Public Comment

Christine Garabo thanked the First Selectman for her due diligence and research for part-time vs. full-time for the Fire Marshal and Animal Control Officers.

Khris Hall asked for follow up regarding the outreach position and asked when the report that she requested at a recent meeting.

Jena Alviti spoke of safety concerns for a part-time vs. full-time Fire Marshal. She explained that a part-time Fire Marshal may not be able to do inspections in a timely manner.

Kim Hanson thanked the First Selectman for saving budget money by reducing Fire Marshal hours.

Bob Jano explained the difference between the Fire Marshal and a Firefighter.

Mark Beninson noted that role of the Fire Marshal is Investigative purposes and inspections and is not an emergency responder.

Adjournment

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to accept meeting at 8:22 pm. Tom Perkins seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos