

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

**MINUTES**  
**Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting**  
**Thursday, June 27, 2024**  
**7:30 pm**  
**Via Zoom**

<b><u>Board of Selectmen members present</u></b> Melissa Lindsey, First Selectman Pat Del Monaco, Selectman Tom Perkins, Selectman	<b><u>Other Town officials present:</u></b> Olga Melnikov, Finance Director Shareen Langdon, Tax Collector Terry Friedman, Town Treasurer Mark Beninson, BOF member Cheryl Reedy, BOF member Amy Johnson, BOE member Ed Sbordone, BOE member/Deputy Treasurer Bruce Taylor, Fire Chief
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**Call To Order** First Selectman Melissa Lindsey called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Public Comment**

Mark Werner spoke in support of the enhancements to the LOSAP plan for the New Fairfield Volunteer Fire Department.

Bruce Taylor thanked Mark Werner, Terry Friedman and the Board of Selectmen for their help with the enhancements to the Fire Department LOSAP plan.

Cheryl Reedy spoke in support of the LOSAP program. She thanked Mark Werner, Olga Melnikov, Terry Friedman and the Board of Selectmen for their hard work with this program.

**Correspondence and Announcements**

First Selectman Melissa Lindsey announced that the Budget Referendum will be held this Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 8pm at the Senior Center.

The first multi-board “Listening Hours” was held on Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> at the library. It was well attended and most concerns and comments were regarding the budget. Future dates for Listening Hours are Saturdays, July 20<sup>th</sup>, August 24<sup>th</sup>, September 21<sup>st</sup>, October 19<sup>th</sup> and November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Pat Del Monaco suggested that the “Listening Hours” be posted as a meeting to avoid any potential FOI issues.

Selectman Pat Del Monaco read a letter from Jeff Hurwitz about the health, safety and noise issues on Blueberry Island. First Selectman Melissa Lindsey spoke of a recent meeting with Candlewood Lake Authority and the New Fairfield Health Director regarding Blueberry Island. She noted that she will reach out to Mr. Hurwitz soon. Selectman Tom Perkins noted Blueberry Island is close to his house and that the noise level is a constant problem. This will be discussed further at a future meeting.

**Approval of minutes**

Tom Perkins made a motion to approve the minutes of the Jun 13, 2024 regular meeting as presented. Pat Del Monaco seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

**Budget Transfers**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the following Intra-Departmental transfer in the amount of \$9,600. Tom Perkins seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

<u>\$</u>	<u>Transfer From</u>		<u>\$</u>	<u>Transfer To</u>	
\$4,000.00	001-4220-0000-000/322.00	Fire Companies - Education and Training	\$4,000.00	001-4220-0000-000/610.02	Fire Companies M & S
\$2,500.00	001-4220-0001-000/610.03	Fire Co. Supplies and Equipment	\$2,500.00	001-4220-0001-000/430.09	Fire Companies- Vehicle Maintenance & Repairs
\$2,000.00	001-4164-0001-000/431.00	Business Machines- Assessor	\$3,000.00	001-4164-0000-000/615.00	Business Machines- Postage
\$1,000.00	001-4164-0001-000/431.03	Business Machines- Communications Center			
\$100.00	001-4310-0000-000/421.01	PW-Disposal of Waste	\$100.00	001-4310-00003-000/610.01	PW- Snow M&S
<b>\$9,600.00</b>			<b>\$9,600.00</b>		

**Approve Tax Collections recommended by the Tax Collector**

Tom Perkins made a motion to approve the Tax Collector’s refund requests for June 27, 2024 totaling \$136.07 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 June 28, 2024 as presented. Pat Del Monaco seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

**Appointments**

**Commission on the Aging**

Tom Perkins made a motion to reappoint Cathy McCarthy to the Commission on the Aging. Pat Del Monaco seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

## **New Business**

### **Vote to approve close out on capital projects**

Melissa Lindsey noted that the Health Dept. (COVID) and the Library Renovations projects can be closed out.

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to transfer \$62,551.50 from the Health Dept. (COVID) (Capital and Nonrecurring) and the Library Renovations (Capital and Nonrecurring) to the unappropriated Capital and Nonrecurring account. Tom Perkins seconded the motion.

**Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

### **Vote on enhancements to New Fairfield Volunteer Fire Department Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP)**

Town Treasurer Terry Friedman thanked the Fire Department for their service and dedication to the Town. She spoke of proposed enhancements to the Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) and plans to finance the cost of the enhancements. The proposed enhancements include:

- Increase the LOSAP benefit from \$13 to \$25 per month per year of service beginning with the fiscal year 2024-2025 year. The rate per month per year of service will remain at \$13 per month through the 2023-2024 fiscal year. The estimated cost to the Town is \$22,000.
- Increase the maximum number of years of credited service for future service from 20 years to 40 years. Service for years over 20 years would be counted for service starting in fiscal year 2025-2026. The estimated cost to the Town is \$16,000 in the first year and \$34,000 by the tenth year.
- Provide retroactive credit for up to 5 years of service earned only as additional years are served. Retroactive credit cannot exceed the total number of years a volunteer has served. The credit is provided at \$13 per month. The estimated cost to the Town is \$16,000 in the first year and \$12,000 by the fifth year.

Finance Director Olga Melnikov spoke of using the overage of interest revenue to fund these enhancements. Cheryl Reedy encouraged the BOS not to phase in the enhancements over a few years as proposed.

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to approve the proposed changes to the LOSAP program enhancements and the estimated annual cost. Tom Perkins seconded the motion.

**Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to transfer \$30,000 from Police Sergeant and \$30,000 from Police Resident Trooper to Unclassified payroll and benefits-pension to make an additional \$60,000 contribution to the LOSAP enhancements. Tom Perkins seconded the motion.

**Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

### **Public Comment**

Laura Consiglio spoke of concerns regarding Selectmen Tom Perkins' column in the Town Tribune. She encouraged the Selectmen to set a temporary Mil Rate of higher than a 4.27% increase in the event that the budget fails at referendum on June 29<sup>th</sup>.

Terra Volpe encouraged the Selectmen to set a temporary Mil Rate of higher than a 4.27% increase in the event that the budget fails at referendum on June 29<sup>th</sup>.

Cheryl Reedy thanked the BOS for approved the enhancement to the Fire Department LOSAP plan. She further thanked the BOS for closing out some capital projects.

Mark Werner thanked the BOS for their support of the LOSAP program. He thanked Cheryl Reedy, Olga Melnikov and Terry Friedman for all their hard work with putting the proposal together.

Heather Palkewick thanked the BOS for supporting the enhancements to the Fire Department LOSAP plan. She encouraged the BOS to support the school budget and asked that they set a Mil Rate of of higher than a 4.27% increase in the event that the budget fails at referendum on June 29<sup>th</sup>.

Fire Chief Bruce Taylor thanked everyone involved in set up of the Fire Department LOSAP enhancements.

### **Vote to approve Local 443 Dispatchers Tentative Agreement – Executive Session**

#### **Discuss Pending litigation– Executive Session**

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:26 pm to discuss Local 443 Dispatchers Tentative Agreement and pending litigation and to invite Attorney Tim Herbst, Attorney Courtney George and Finance Director Olga Melnikov to the Executive Session. Tom Perkins seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 9:14 pm. Pat Del Monaco seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to approve Local 443 Dispatchers Tentative Agreement as presented. Pat Del Monaco seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

### **Adjournment**

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 pm. Tom Perkins seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Kloos

Received by email on 07/03/2024 @ 8:30 a.m.  
by Chrystie M. Bontempo, Asst. Town Clerk, New Fairfield