

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

MINUTES

Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting

Thursday, August 8, 2024

7:30 pm

Via Zoom

<u>Board of Selectmen members present</u> Melissa Lindsey, First Selectman Pat Del Monaco, Selectman Tom Perkins, Selectman	<u>Other Town officials present:</u> Dr. Ken Craw, Superintendent of Schools Olga Melnikov, Finance Director Carrie DePuy, BOE Director of Business and Operations Terry Friedman, Town Treasurer Dominic Cipollone, BOE Chairman Amy Johnson, BOE member Ed Sbordone, BOE member Thora Perkins, BOF Chairman Patrick Hearty, BOF member Wes Marsh, BOF member Claudia Willard, BOF member Mark Ottusch, Athletic Director Don Kellogg, PBC Chairman Elisa Beckett-Flores, Registrar of Voters Dan McDermott, Registrar of Voters Anita Brown, Housing Opportunities Chairman Kathy Hull, Housing Opportunities member Patrick Callahan, State Representative
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Broadcast Coordinator Quintin Flower explained the rules for a virtual meeting.

Call To Order First Selectman Melissa Lindsey called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

Khris Hall thanked Finance Director Olga Melnikov for all her service to New Fairfield and wished her well in her new job. She further spoke in support of the Affordable Housing Plan and encouraged the BOS to approve the report that must be filed with the State. She also spoke in favor of the Additional Appropriation to fix the lighting and track and field at the high school.

Katie Williams thanked everyone for their cooperation in coming together for a compromise with the budget. She encouraged the funding of capital projects and the 5-year capital plan created by the Board of Education.

Kathy Woolven spoke in support of the funding of the track and turf field at the high school.

Correspondence and Announcements

First Selectman Melissa Lindsey made the following announcements:

- The Summer concert (The Chase) on Memorial Field for August 8th has been rained out. It is rescheduled for Thursday, August 15th at 6:30 pm. Split Decision will perform on Thursday, August 22nd at 6:30pm.
- New Fairfield Day is scheduled for Saturday, Sept 7th with a rain date of Sunday, Sept 8th.
- There will be a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Paint the Town Purple for Alzheimer's Awareness on Friday, September 6th at 10:00 am at Town Hall. The "Walk to End Alzheimer's" will be held on Sunday, September 22nd. There will Alzheimer's Education events on September 10th and September 11th. More information can be found in the Town's Newsletter.

Approval of minutes

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2024 regular meeting as presented. Tom Perkins seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Tom Perkins made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2024 Joint Special meeting as presented. Pat Del Monaco seconded the motion.

Vote: 2-0-1 (Motion approved- Pet Del Monaco abstained)

Budget Transfers

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to approve an Intra-Departmental transfer for fiscal year 2023-2024 in the amount of \$80,158.00. (Such document to be attached to the minutes of this meeting). Tom Perkins seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve an Intra-Departmental transfer for fiscal year 2024-2025 in the amount of \$92,300.00. (Such document to be attached to the minutes of this meeting). Tom Perkins seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Tom Perkins made a motion to approve an Inter-Departmental transfer for fiscal year 2024-2025 in the amount of \$3,000.00. (Such document to be attached to the minutes of this meeting). Pat Del Monaco seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

There was a discussion of an Unspent Bond Proceed transfer in the amount of \$194,652.30. It was noted that this was due to an old capital project for the schools. By transferring this into debt service, it will hopefully offset next year's budget. This will be submitted to the BOF for approval at their August 28, 2024 meeting.

Tom Perkins made a motion to approve an Unspent Bond Proceeds transfer for in the amount of \$194,652.30. (Such document to be attached to the minutes of this meeting). Pat Del Monaco seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Approve Tax Collections recommended by the Tax Collector- None

Personnel Report

Tom Perkins made a motion to approve the Personnel Report dated August 8, 2024 as presented. Pat Del Monaco seconded the motion. **Vote: 2-1-0 (Motion approved- Pat Del Monaco opposed)**

Pat Del Monaco spoke of her concerns with the restructuring and the cutting of the hours for the Director of Emergency Management position. There was a brief discussion of the background of the new Finance Director.

Appointments

BOF Alternate

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to appoint John J. Arizzi as an alternate member of the Board of Finance. Tom Perkins seconded the motion. **Vote: 2-1-0 (Motion approved- Pat Del Monaco opposed)**

It was noted that both John J. Arizzi and Jessica Sanchez applied for the alternate position on the BOF. There was a discussion of their respective backgrounds.

Permanent Building Committee Alternate

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to appoint Mike Coates as an alternate member of the Permanent Building Committee. Tom Perkins seconded the motion. **Vote: 2-1-0 (Motion approved- Pat Del Monaco opposed)**

Pat Del Monaco spoke of her concerns and disappointment with the decision not to reappoint Ed Sbordone as an alternate to the PBC and the benefits of his financial expertise on the committee.

Emergency Management Director

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to appoint Lori-Ann Beninson as the Emergency Management Director. Tom Perkins seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Finance Director

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to appoint Vladimir Kan as the Finance Director. Tom Perkins seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

New Business

Housing Opportunity Committee Presentation

Housing Opportunities Chairman Anita Brown spoke of the purpose of the Housing Opportunities Committee and the timeline of what has been accomplished since Summer 2023. Housing Opportunities member Kathy Hull spoke of the Housing Needs Assessment and the current housing available. Consultant Jocelyn Ayer spoke of goals and

strategies and how New Fairfield can address its identified housing needs over the next five years.

The entire Board of Selectmen thanked the entire Housing Opportunities Committee and Consultant Jocelyn Ayer for their tremendous work with this project.

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to accept the Housing Opportunities Plan as presented. Tom Perkins seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Vote to approve Additional Appropriation for the BOE

First Selectman Melissa Lindsey read a letter from Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ken Craw requesting an Additional Appropriation of \$950,000 for the funding of the Rebel Stadium Track and Turf project. There was a discussion of funding this Additional Appropriation from the 2023-2024 budget surplus. First Selectman Lindsey spoke of her desire to wait a few weeks until the exact surplus amount is determined. It was noted that four members of the BOF previously agreed to fund this project with the surplus. Members of the BOS discussed the timeline with Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ken Craw and Athletic Director Mark Ottush. Finance Director Olga Melnikov noted that the Revenue surplus is expected to be approximately \$1.3 million and the Expenditure surplus is not yet finalized. Board of Finance Chairman Thora Perkins spoke of the current balance in the Medical Fund.

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to table the approval of the Additional Appropriation until the next regular BOS meeting on August 22, 2024. Tom Perkins seconded the motion.

Vote: 2-1-0 (Motion approved-Pat Del Monaco opposed)

Vote to approve funding for legal cost for LOSAP

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to approve funding for the legal costs for the LOSAP program up to \$2,500. Tom Perkins seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Public Comment

Jennifer Pappas asked about the status of the temporary Community Outreach position and asked if there were any written reports about the work done by this employee. First Selectman Lindsey noted that this position ended on June 30th. She encouraged Ms. Pappas to schedule a meeting or submit an FOI request if she would like additional information.

Kim Hanson spoke in support of funding the turf field through Field Fees and the need to use the 2023-2024 surplus to replenish the Medical Fund.

Keith Landa spoke of the cost of five referendums and the delaying of decisions that costs the town extra money.

Board of Education Chairman Dominic Cipollone spoke of the need for turf fields vs. grass fields and the need to replace the lighting on the field. He encouraged all boards to work together.

Jessica Sanchez thanked the BOS and BOF for considering her for a position on the BOF. She thanked all the volunteers of the town.

Kim Hanson asked about recent inspections for the lighting on the field.
Dominic Cipollone spoke in support of the Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools.

John McCartney thanked Ed Sbordone for all his volunteer work for the town and expressed his disappointment that Mr. Sbordone wasn't reappointed as an alternate to the Permanent Building Committee.

First Selectman Melissa Lindsey encouraged everyone to work together for the good of the town and to keep comment civil.

Jeff Alviti spoke in support of property funding capital projects and in support of the Superintendent of Schools.

Board Member Comments

Melissa Lindsey thanked all the volunteers for the Town's Boards and Commissions and especially thanked Ed Sbordone for all his hard work.

Tom Perkins spoke of comments on social media about tax bills. He spoke of the low turn out and expense for early voting and encouraged residents to write to State legislators to get this mandate overturned.

Adjournment

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 pm. Tom Perkins seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos

Received by email on 08/12/2024 @ 2:53 p.m.
by Chrystie M. Bontempo, Asst. Town Clerk, New Fairfield

TOWN OF NEW FAIRFIELD
FISCAL 2023-2024
Intra-Department Transfer

<u>\$'S TRANSFER FROM:</u>		<u>\$'S TRANSFER TO:</u>			
505.00	001-4120-0000-000 / 342.00	Town Clerk - Ordinance Update	505.00	001-4210-0000-000 / 110.00	Town Clerk - Salaries
311.00	001-4151-0000-000 / 801.00	BOF - Contingency	311.00	001-4151-0000-000 / 110.00	BOF - Salaries
3,460.00	001-4160-0000-000 / 220.00	Unclassified Payroll & Benefits - Social Security	3,000.00	001-4160-0000-000 / 140.00	Unclassified Payroll & Benefits - Salary Adjustments
			300.00	001-4160-0000-000 / 290.00	Unclassified Payroll & Benefits - Employee Physicals
			160.00	001-4160-0000-000 / 580.00	Unclassified Payroll & Benefits - Employee Mileage
23,600.00	001-4161-0000-004 / 332.01	Legal - General/Other	300.00	001-4161-0000-001 / 332.01	Legal - Land
			15,000.00	001-4161-0000-003 / 332.01	Legal - Labor
			3,300.00	001-4161-0000-007 / 332.01	Legal - Zoning
			3,600.00	001-4161-0000-008 / 332.01	Legal - ZBA
			1,400.00	001-4161-0000-009 / 332.01	Legal - Inland/Wetlands
2.00	001-4164-0005-000 / 430.04	Business Machines - Copier Maintenance	1.00	001-4164-0008-000 / 431.07	Business Machines - Fire Equipment
			1.00	001-4164-0011-000 / 431.10	Business Machines - Land Use Equipment
190.00	001-4193-0000-000 / 610.00	ZBA - M&S	190.00	001-4193-0000-000 / 110.00	ZBA - Salaries
12,500.00	001-4195-0005-000 / 620.03	Utilities - Fuel Oil	12,500.00	001-4195-0003-000 / 620.01	Utilities - Electric
2,000.00	001-4195-0000-000 / 626.00	Utilities - Gasoline & Diesel	1,600.00	001-4195-0004-000 / 620.02	Utilities - Telephone
			400.00	001-4195-0002-000 / 620.08	Utilities - Fire Companies
14,500.00	001-4210-0000-000 / 110.00	PD - Salaries	14,500.00	001-4210-0001-000 / 130.00	PD - Overtime
10,000.00	001-4210-0003-000 / 317.03	PD - Troopers Overtime	20,000.00	001-4210-0001-000 / 317.01	PD - Resident Sergeant Overtime
10,000.00	001-4210-0005-000 / 130.00	PD - SRO Overtime			
2,500.00	001-4215-0000-000 / 112.00	Communications Center - Part-time Salaries	2,500.00	001-4215-0000-000 / 110.00	Communications Center - Salaries
500.00	001-4220-0000-000 / 322.00	FD - Education & Training	500.00	001-4220-0001-000 / 430.09	FD - Vehicle Maintenance & Repairs
90.00	001-4295-0000-000 / 110.00	Animal Control - Salaries	90.00	001-4295-0000-000 / 610.00	Animal control - M&S
80,158.00			80,158.00		

TOWN OF NEW FAIRFIELD
FISCAL 2023-2024
 Unspent Bond Proceeds Transfer

TRANSFER FROM:				\$'S	TRANSFER TO:	\$'S	TRANSFER TO:
194,652.30	308-4900-0000-000 / 800.00	School Capital Projects - Transfer Out	194,652.30	401-0000-0000-000 / R3900001	Debt Service - Transfers In		
194,652.30			194,652.30				

*Submitted at the BOS meeting on 08/08/2024
 To be submitted at the BOF meeting on 08/28/2024*