

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

**MINUTES
Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting
Thursday, August 22, 2024
7:30 pm
Community Room at 33 Route 37**

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| <u>Board of Selectmen members present</u> Melissa Lindsey, First Selectman Pat Del Monaco, Selectman Tom Perkins, Selectman | <u>Other Town officials present:</u> Vladimir Kan, Finance Director Terry Friedman, Town Treasurer Dominic Cipollone, BOE Chairman Ed Sbordone, BOE member Thora Perkins, BOF Chairman Claudia Willard, BOF member Jim Keller, Parks and Rec Commission member |
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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

Kerri Ahern spoke in support of funding the track and field with using surplus funds from the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

BOE Chairman Dominic Cipollone spoke in support of funding the track and field with surplus funds and the verbal promise made by some members of the BOF. He further spoke of the need to replacement of the Middle School Oil tank.

Jeff Alviti spoke in support of funding the track and field with using surplus funds from the 2023-2024 fiscal year. He encouraged the BOS to transfer the funds as soon as possible in order to get this project on the schedule.

Keith Landa spoke in support of the track and field replacement and noted that delaying projects will only make the projects more expensive.

Katie Williams thanked the boards for scheduling joint meetings as they allow residents to know what is going on in town.

Jim Keller spoke in support of the track and field replacement for the perspective of a coach.

BOF Chairman Thora Perkins clarified that the BOF did not formally vote to use the surplus funds for the track and field replacement. She noted that instead an informal poll was conducted and four of the six members of the BOF agreed to make a “good faith” effort to support the track and field replacement.

Khrist Hall encouraged the BOS to defer the vote to transfer money into the Medical Fund until a decision has been made for the track and field replacement.

Stephanie Strazza spoke in support of the track and field replacement and noted that delaying the project will cost more in the long run.

Ann Brown asked why the track and field got in this condition and encouraged the BOS to look at all the town’s needs before making a decision about the surplus.

Jennifer Pappas asked about the condition of the underlay on the track and asked if that needs to be replaced too.

Correspondence and Announcements

First Selectman Melissa Lindsey made the following announcements:

- Six emails were received regarding the track and turf. Three emails were in support of funding the track and field and three were against the funding.
- Multi-Board Listening Hours will be held this Saturday, August 24th from 9:00 am to 10:30 am at the New Fairfield Library.

Approval of minutes

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2024 regular meeting and the August 12, 2024 multi-board meeting as presented. Tom Perkins seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Change in Agenda

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to amend the agenda to move agenda item #6 (Additional Appropriation of \$320,000 to the Medical Fund) to agenda item #11A. Melissa Lindsey seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Approve Tax Collections recommended by the Tax Collector

Tom Perkins made a motion to approve the Tax Collector’s refund requests for August 22, 2024 totaling \$6,930.40 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 August 22, 2024 as presented. Pat Del Monaco seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Appointments

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to appoint Dan McDermott as the Corporate Member Northwest CT Public Safety Communications. Tom Perkins seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Old Business

Approve Small Business Grant

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the ARPA Small Business Grant in the amount of \$5,000 for the New Fairfield Animal Welfare Society. Tom Perkins seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Melissa Lindsey read a letter from the Economic Development Grant noting that they have exhausted their methods of advertising for these grants and asked that all remaining funds be allocated to another ARPA project. It was decided to ask the Economic Development Commission to make one last attempt to reach out to non-profits to see if there is any interest in the grant.

New Business

Vote to approve Additional Appropriation for the BOE

Town Treasurer Terry Friedman spoke of the process for reimbursement from the State for the school building project. She noted that the State holds 5% of the reimbursement until the final audit is complete. It's possible that it may take the State four or five years to complete the final audit and as a result, the Town will have to lay out money on a temporary basis while waiting for reimbursement.

There was a discussion among the BOS regarding the funding for possible emergencies. Finance Director Vladimir Kan spoke of funding for the Medical Fund. Pat Del Monaco asked that the Town wait to see what the trend is for the Medical Fund for the year and noted that the "Stop Loss" will be activated if necessary. BOE Chairman Dominic Cipollone spoke of the need to fund the turf and field replacement and noted that delaying the project will cause it to be more expensive. First Selectman Lindsey assured everyone that the track and field is safe and Gmax testing falls within the testing standards.

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to table the request for an Additional Appropriation from the BOE. Tom Perkins seconded the motion. **Vote: 2-1-0 (Motion approved- Pat Del Monaco opposed)**

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to table the request for an Additional Appropriation from the Medical Fund until after September 3, 2024. Tom Perkins seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Vote to approve change to Fire Apparatus Insurance

First Selectman Melissa Lindsey read a letter from Fire Chief Bruce Taylor regarding necessary changes to the Fire Apparatus Insurance.

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to approve the changes with insuring the Fire Apparatus as presented. Tom Perkins seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Vote to authorize First Selectman to sign Master Municipal Agreement for Rights of Way Projects

Melissa Lindsey spoke of the Resolution for the Master Municipal Agreement for Rights of Way project and noted that it helps the town move forward with Right of Way projects.

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to approve the following Resolution: Resolved that the honorable Melissa A. Lindsey, First Selectman is hereby authorized to sign the agreement entitled “Master Municipal Agreement of Rights of Way Projects”. Tom Perkins seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Public Comment

Jeff Alviti assured everyone that the field and track are currently safe and meet Gmax testing standards but encouraged the BOS to approve replacing them as soon as possible so that this project can get on the schedule to be done next season.

BOF Chairman Thora Perkins noted that the BOF put the expenditure surplus from last year into the Medical Fund and added additional monies to the Medical Fund a few months into the year. She further spoke of the testing standards for the fields and noted that the field meets all the requirements for playing for this year.

Board Member Comments

Melissa Lindsey spoke of her personal desire to replace the track and field but noted that she needs to be responsible for all the taxpayers and look at the whole picture.

Tom Perkins noted that he is not opposed to the track and field replacement but spoke of the need to do due diligence before making any decisions.

Pat Del Monaco asked for a breakdown of expenses and status of the ARPA projects. Melissa Lindsey spoke of the possibility of having a special meeting to discuss ARPA projects in the near future.

Adjournment

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 pm. Tom Perkins seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos

Received by email on 08/28/2024 @ 8:30 a.m.
by Chrystie M. Bontempo, Asst. Town Clerk, New Fairfield