

Town of New Fairfield

Board of Selectmen

Board of Finance

4 Brush Hill Road

New Fairfield, CT 06812

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Joint Special meeting

Wednesday, September 4, 2024

7:30 PM

Elementary School Cafeteria

<p><u>Board of Selectmen members present</u> Melissa Lindsey, First Selectman Pat Del Monaco, Selectman Tom Perkins, Selectman</p>	<p><u>Board of Finance members present</u> Thora Perkins, BOF Chairman Patrick Hearty, BOF member Wes Marsh, BOF member Cheryl Reedy, BOF member Claudia Willard, BOF member John Arizzi, BOF alternate member Peggy Katkocin, BOF alternate member Greg Williams, BOF alternate member <u>Board of Finance members not present</u> Mark Beninson, BOF member</p>
<p><u>Others present</u> Dr. Ken Craw, Superintendent of Schools Carrie DePuy, Director of Business and Operations Terry Friedman, Town Treasurer Tony Iadarola, Town Engineer Vladimir Kan, Finance Director Mark Ottusch, Athletic Director Dominic Cipollone, BOE Chairman Greg Flanagan, BOE member Amy Johnson, BOE member Kim LaTourette, BOE member Sean Loughran, Parks and Rec Commission Chairman</p>	

Call To Order

First Selectman Melissa Lindsey called the meeting to order for the BOS at 7:00pm

BOF Chairman Thora Perkins called the meeting to order for the BOF at 7:00pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

Khris Hall spoke in support of using surplus to fund the track and field project and spoke against using the ARPA funds that were already approved for other projects.

BOF member Cheryl Reedy spoke of her frustration with not receiving sufficient information in order to make an informed decision regarding the funding of the track and field. She noted that the process has not been collaborative and transparent. She noted that the ARPA projects have already been approved by the taxpayers and will need a Town Meeting to use the funds for other projects.

Christine Garabo spoke in support of using ARPA funds for the track and field and spoke against spending money on a sewer study.

John McCartney spoke in support of using the 2023-2024 surplus to fund the track and field replacement. He noted that he voted to pass the budget at the fifth referendum primarily due to the promise to fund the track and field with the surplus. He encouraged the completion of all previously approved ARPA projects.

Keith Landa spoke in support of replacing the track and field with the budget surplus instead of using ARPA funds. He spoke of the need for a sewer study and noted that the ARPA funds should be used to fund what was voted on.

Jeff Alviti spoke in support of using the surplus funds for the track and field replacement and spoke of timing and the need to get on the schedule for next year.

Rory Languth spoke in support of replacing the track and field.

Millie Kellogg spoke in support of replacing the track and field with the surplus funds.

BOF member Cheryl Reedy spoke of the process of the vote for the school building fund. She spoke of the need to get more information for the ARPA projects and make sure that the process for doing projects is done correctly. She encouraged board members to be more transparent.

Jennifer Pappas questioned the costs of town projects.

Mike Wrobel spoke of the need to finish Fire House projects that have been in process in recent years.

BOE Chairman Dominic Cipollone spoke of the need for the town to come together fund the track and field replacement.

BOE member Kim LaTourette spoke in support of using the 2023-2024 surplus to fund the track and field replacement.

Jeff Alviti encouraged the board to vote for the track and field using the surplus at tonight's meeting.

Vote on Additional Appropriation for funding Turf Field and Track Replacement

First Selectman Melissa Lindsey spoke of the process of putting this meeting together. She spoke of concerns with using the entire surplus for the track and field replacement and in support of using some of the ARPA funds that were allocated for the sewer study towards to the track and field.

Selectman Pat Del Monaco spoke in support of the track and field replacement and the need for a sewer study. She spoke against the proposal to take approximately \$750,000 from the ARPA funds that were allocated for the sewer study and put it towards the track and field. She further spoke of the risks of not doing the sewer projects and the possible illegality of overriding the referendum that already approved using a portion of the ARPA funds for the sewer study.

Selectman Tom Perkins spoke of the risk of not putting some of the surplus into the medical fund. He spoke against the sewer study and noted that the cost of the sewers project would need to be bonded thus causing a significant increase in taxes..

Cheryl Reedy spoke of the process for changing the ARPA vote. There was a brief discussion of voting for the ARPA funds sewer study separately from the other ARPA projects. The two Boards reviewed the unallocated ARPA funds.

Change in Agenda

It was decided to have Town Engineer Tony Iadarola give the presentation before voting on reallocation of funds.

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to move agenda item #7 (Appropriation of remaining ARPA funds presentation) to item #4A. Tom Perkins seconded the motion.

Vote by BOS: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Vote by BOF: 5-0-0 (Motion approved- BOF Alternate John Arizzi was appointed after this motion and thus did not vote)

Appointment

BOF Chairman Thora Perkins noted that Mark Beninson was unable to attend this meeting and requested that Alternate John Arizzi serve as a full member in his place.

Presentation of remaining ARPA funds

First Selectman Melissa Lindsey noted that if the sewer project is taken out of the ARPA funds, the available funds for capital projects would be \$1,094,143.73. She spoke of proposed capital projects and the possibility of using \$329,593 from the ARPA funds for the Track and Field replacement.

Town Engineer Tony Iadarola spoke in detail of the sewer study project and spoke of critical deadline for the ARPA funds. He noted that the money for the sewer project must be encumbered by December 31, 2024 and the project must be completed by December 31, 2026. He reviewed other potential projects and noted that the goal is to make sure that no ARPA funds are turned back. The BOS and BOF thanked Tony Iadarola for all his hard work.

BOF Chairman Thora Perkins requested that the Turf and Field replacement be funded with \$329,593 of ARPA funds, \$600,000 of 2023-2024 surplus and \$20,407 from the BOE.

BOS Approval of transfer

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to recommend to a Town Meeting the following Additional Appropriation in the amount of \$600,000. Tom Perkins seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

\$	Transfer From		\$	Transfer To	
\$600,000.00	001-E25321	General Fund-Unreserved	\$600,000.00	306-4600-0000-000/700.03	BOE Cap & Non-Turf Track and Field replacement
\$600,000.00			\$600,000.00		

ABOF Approval of transfer

John Arizzi made a motion that the BOF approve the following Additional Appropriation in the amount of \$600,000 specifically for the Track and Field replacement. Thora Perkins seconded the motion. **Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)**

\$	Transfer From		\$	Transfer To	
\$600,000.00	001-E25321	General Fund-Unreserved	\$600,000.00	306-4600-0000-000/700.03	BOE Cap & Non-Turf Track and Field replacement
\$600,000.00			\$600,000.00		

Adjournment (BOF)

John Arizzi made a motion to adjourn the meeting for the BOF at 9:55 pm. Cheryl Reedy seconded the motion-**Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Public Comment

Cynthia Ross-Zweig asked that there be more transparency at public meetings and encouraged board members to work together.

Khris Hall encouraged the Boards to get the information out to the public sooner.

Approval of ARPA Fund reallocation

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to approve the ARPA funds reallocation and send to a Town Meeting. Tom Perkins seconded the motion. **Vote: 2-1-0 (Motion approved Pat Del Monaco opposed)**

Selectman Pat Del Monaco noted that she supports the track and field replacement but cannot support the reallocation of the ARPA funds.

Vote to approve Warning and set date for special Town Meeting

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to approve the following Warning for a Special Town Meeting. Tom Perkins seconded the motion. **Vote: 2-1-0 (Motion approved Pat Del Monaco opposed)**

Selectman Pat Del Monaco noted that she is in favor of projects but cannot support item #1 in the Warning.

Notice is hereby given to the electors of the Town of New Fairfield and those qualified to vote at a Town Meeting to be held on Tuesday, September 17, 2024 at 7:00 pm. at the Senior Center Community Room at 33 Route 37, New Fairfield, CT for the following purposes.

1. To consider and take action to rescind the ARPA funds approved by town referendum on October 11, 2022 for Sewer Design and Permitting (\$725,712), Small Business Grants (\$39,500), Pandemic Premium Pay (\$1,597), Emergency Housing Fund (\$25,000) that has not been spent or encumbered as of September 17, 2024.
2. To consider and act upon the expenditure of American Rescue Plan Funds of \$1,094,143 on:

Ball Pond Watershed Stormwater Drainage / Arden Avenue, Merlin Avenue and Orehill Road Phase 1, Candlewood Corners Drainage Repairs, Bear Mountain Bridge Safety Improvements, Senior Center Dam Study, Town Hall Parking Lot Drainage, Company A Firehouse Split System, Company A Firehouse Siding, Company A Firehouse Roof, Company A Firehouse Soffit Replacement, Squantz Pond Firehouse Air Conditioning Replacement, Senior Center Exterior Doors, ARPA Voting Expenses and High School Track and Turf Field Replacement.
3. To consider and authorize an Additional Appropriation to transfer \$600,000 from General Fund – Unreserved to Board of Education Capital and Non-Recurring Fund for the purpose of replacing the New Fairfield Stadium Turf and Track.

Further notice is hereby given that the Board of Selectmen, acting pursuant to and in reliance on Section 7-7 of the Connecticut General Statutes, has removed Item #2 for submission to the voters by machine vote and shall be no earlier than seven (7) days, and no later than fourteen (14) days after September 17, 2024 and further provided that such time shall be no less than the hours of 12:00 Noon to 8:00 pm.

Dated at New Fairfield, Connecticut this 4th day of September 2024

Adjournment (BOS)

Melissa Lindsey made a motion to adjourn the meeting for the BOS at 10:03 pm. Tom Perkins seconded the motion-**Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Kloos