

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

MINUTES
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Thursday, February 22, 2007
7:30 PM
High School Library

Members present:

John Hodge, First Selectman
Peggy Katkocin, Selectman
Ron Oliveri, Selectman

Other Town Officials Present:

Call To Order First Selectman John Hodge called the meeting to order at 7:30pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Amendment to Agenda

John Hodge made a motion to move agenda item #10 "Set a Town Meeting date to amend Veteran's Exemption Ordinance" to agenda item #1A in order to accommodate the veterans at the meeting. Ron Oliveri seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

To discuss and vote to set a Town Meeting date to amend Veteran's Exemption Ordinances

John Hodge spoke of the current Veterans' Exemption Ordinance and the proposed changes to the Veterans' Exemption Ordinance. Such benefit would raise the amount that veterans can take off the assessed value of their home as well as, raise the maximum income level to the maximum amount allowed by law. Mr. Hodge thanked the Veterans Association for their help with coming up with this proposal. Selectman Oliveri and Selectman Katkocin also thanked the Veterans Association for their cooperation with this proposal. Mr. Hodge noted that whether this proposal passes or fails, it will not affect the proposed budget for the next fiscal year.

John Hodge made a motion to set Tuesday, March 6, 2007 at 7:00pm at the High School library for the purposes of considering and amending the Veterans' Exemption Ordinance. Peggy Katkocin seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Correspondence and Announcements

John Hodge announced that "Emergency Call Boxes" have been installed at the Squantz Pond Fire House and the Ball Pond Fire House.

John Hodge thanked everyone from the Finance Department for all the great work with the budget process and getting the budget books out on a timely basis. Mr. Hodge further thanked the Finance Department for staying late the night before the snowstorm to make sure that payroll was complete.

John Hodge spoke about a donation from Pepsi in the amount of \$10,000 through a resident in town for the movies at Squantz Pond. Such resident will also personally donate another \$5,000 that in turn will be matched by Pepsi for a total donation of \$20,000. This donation allows the Town to purchase the movie equipment instead of renting it. Mr. Hodge gave the schedule for the four movies this summer. Mr. Hodge thanked Steve Merullo and the Park & Rec Department for pursuing this donation. The schedule for this summer is: June 15th - *Grease*, July 13th - *Madagascar*, August 3rd - *Shrek 2* and August 24th *Ghost Busters*.

John Hodge thanked the Fire Department for their tremendous effort in saving a house on fire during the snowstorm. Mr. Hodge thanked the Fire Department for their never-ending work in helping the town.

John Hodge spoke of the proposed requested BOS budget for 2007/2008. The increase for the Town side of the requested budget is 2.63% increase. When combined with all the other factors, it is a requested increase of 2.89%. More information will be forthcoming in the Citizen News.

John Hodge spoke of a report from LFR Consultants regarding the oil spill at the Police Station. LFR Consultants are proposing relatively simple and easy solutions for the problems regarding the oil spill. LFR Consultants have been in contact with DEP. This will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Selectman Peggy Katkocin spoke of the proposed school building projects. Mrs. Katkocin and some others met with Superintendent of Schools Dr. Castagnola and some administrators to discuss the proposed building projects. Mrs. Katkocin encouraged resident to give feedback regarding the building projects.

John Hodge announced that the closing for 31 Route 37 will be on Tuesday, February 27th.

Public comment None

Approval of Minutes

John Hodge made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2007 and February 14, 2007 meetings as presented. Ron Oliveri seconded the motion.

Vote: 2-0-1 (Motion approved- Peggy Katkocin abstained)

John Hodge made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2007 meeting as presented. Ron Oliveri seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Acceptance of ASCAP Agreement

John Hodge spoke of a contract with ASCAP that gives the Town permission to play copyrighted music in a municipal setting.

John Hodge made a motion to authorize the First Selectman to sign the ASCAP agreement on behalf of the Town of New Fairfield. Ron Oliveri seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Acceptance of HRRRA Agreement

John Hodge made a motion to authorize the First Selectman to sign the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Agreement as presented. Ron Oliveri seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Personnel Update

John Hodge made a motion to accept the Personnel Report as presented. Peggy Katkocin seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Resignations

John Hodge read a letter from Fire Chief Ed McCue that explained that the BOS must formally remove Fire and Police personnel that have moved out of town or are no longer interested.

John Hodge made a motion that the Board of Selectman remove the Fire/Police personnel as listed in a letter dated January 21, 2007 as presented by Fire Chief Ed McCue. Peggy Katkocin seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Budget Transfers

John Hodge made a motion to make an Intra-Departmental transfer in the amount of \$140 **from** line item #4120-341(Ordinance update) **to** line item #4120-610 (Town Clerk-materials & supplies) also in the amount of \$140. Peggy Katkocin seconded the motion. (Such document to be attached to the minutes of this meeting)

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Public Comment None

General Discussion: Items brought up by Selectmen for future agendas

John Hodge spoke of an Elderly Tax Credit. Mr. Hodge would like to ask the BOF to increase the Elderly Tax Benefit by increasing the income limit.

Executive Session

John Hodge made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 8:22pm to discuss personnel issues. Ron Oliveri seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

John Hodge made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:49pm. Ron Oliveri seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Ron Oliveri made a motion to authorize the First Selectman to sign the Collective Bargaining Agreement between The Town of New Fairfield and Local 677, International Brotherhood of Teamsters who represent the full-time Communications Center Dispatchers. Such contract will be in effect until December 31, 2009. John Hodge seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Adjournment

Peggy Katkocin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50pm. John Hodge seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)