

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

MINUTES
Board of Selectmen Special Meeting
Tuesday, September 4, 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

Correspondence and Announcements

First Selectman John Hodge announced that the special BOS meeting was scheduled for tonight, September 4th because of the need to cancel the regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, September 13th, due to Rosh Hashanah.

John Hodge announced that there will be a tribute service on Tuesday, September 11th at 7:00pm on the Veteran's Green to mark the sixth anniversary of the attacks. If it is raining, the service will be held at the Senior Center.

John Hodge announced that the lower parking lot at the High school will be paved September 11th, 12, 13th and 14th.

John Hodge announced that a \$50,000 reimbursement check has been received from the Commission of the Arts and Tourism and Culture of the State of Connecticut for the Historic Houses.

John Hodge announced that the town received a payment in the amount of \$37,907 from FEMA due to the Nor'easter in April.

Selectman Peggy Katkocin spoke about an FOI complaint and hearing filed against the First Selectman from Jody Gemmel.

Discussion and vote on Public Comment policies

John Hodge made a motion to limit public participation at Board of Selectman meetings to three minutes per speaker and a total of fifteen minutes. Ron Oliveri seconded the motion.

A discussion ensued as to the pros and cons of limiting public comment and whether the board should limit the entire public comment period to fifteen minutes.

Ron Oliveri made a motion to amend the previous motion to delete the fifteen total minutes rule. John Hodge seconded the amendment to the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Vote on Mr. Hodge's original motion as amended

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

It was decided that this policy would go into effect at the next Board of Selectman meeting.

Vote to move agenda item

John Hodge made a motion to move item #9 (Discuss and possibly vote to approve repair of Fire System Suppression for NFVFD from emergency building repair fund) to item #3A on the agenda. Peggy Katkocin seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Vote to approve repair of Fire System Suppression for NFVFD

Bob Jano spoke of the need to replace the Fire System Suppression system at Company A Firehouse in order to comply with new codes and regulations.

John Hodge made a motion to make an appropriation not to exceed \$2,000 from the emergency building repair fund for the purpose of replacing the Fire System Suppression system at Company A Firehouse. Peggy Katkocin seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Public Comment

Jody Gemmel spoke of new rule limiting public comment to three minutes.

Ralph Langham spoke of the new three minute public comment rule and explained how it has been very successful with the Board of Education meetings.

Miles St. Jacques spoke about nova chipping on Sunswept Drive and gave his opinion. (Such statement to be attached to the minutes of these minutes)

John Hodge noted that the \$163,000 in the budget in prior years was simply a projection going forward and was just a suggestion on paper and ultimately another method was decided.

Approval of Minutes

Ron Oliveri made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2007 regular meeting and the August 21, 2007 special meeting as presented. John Hodge seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Ron Oliveri made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 16, 2007 special meeting as presented. John Hodge seconded the motion.

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

Appointments

John Hodge made a motion to approve Ed Sbordone as a member of the Library Board. Ron Oliveri seconded the motion.

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

Selectman Oliveri thanked Marty Andrews for his service to the Library Board.

Approval of Municipal Water Rates as recommended by the WPCA

Peggy Katkocin made a motion to recommend to a Town Meeting that the Town of New Fairfield approve municipal water rates of .012 cents per gallon to be billed to all users on a quarterly basis based on average quarterly water usage as recommended by the Water Pollution Control Authority of New Fairfield. John Hodge seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Acceptance of grant for New Fairfield Public Library

John Hodge made a motion to authorize the First Selectman to sign the DERX Foundation grant to the New Fairfield Free Public Library in the amount of \$22,436 for upgrades to their computer system. Ron Oliveri seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Personnel Report

John Hodge made a motion to accept the personnel report as presented. Ron Oliveri seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Public comment

Al Mardis gave his opinion of the context of the Board of Finance meeting held on August 28th.

Sarah Marsh spoke of the library DERX grant and the appointment to the Library Board.

Marty Andrews spoke about the appointment to the Library Board.

General Discussion: Items brought up by Selectmen for future agendas

The following items were suggested for the next agenda: John Hodge asked that a discussion regarding nova chipping of roads be on the next agenda. Ron Oliveri asked to have Public Works Director Bobby Rzasz give the costs of nova chipping vs. reclamation. Peggy Katkocin asked for an update on the Senior Center.

Adjournment

Ron Oliveri made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 pm. John Hodge seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)