

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

**MINUTES
Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting
Thursday, July 9, 2009
7:30 PM
High School Library**

Members present:

John Hodge, First Selectman
Tom Corbett, Selectman
Ron Oliveri, Selectman

Other Town Officials Present:

Jay Waterman, Finance Director
Ed Sbordone, Accounting Manager
Al Mardis, Board of Finance member
Ed McCue, Fire Chief
Various members of the Fire Dept.

Call To Order First Selectman John Hodge called the meeting to order at 7:55pm immediately following the Town Meeting

State of Town Address

First Selectman John Hodge gave the "State of the Town Address" for the year 2008-2009. This included an overview of the financial situation for the year. First Selectman Hodge noted that the town is in strong financial shape and announced that the General Fund has a balance of over \$7,000,000. The tax collection rate is very favorable. Mr. Hodge thanked all the department heads for all their hard work and diligence and announced that approximately \$970,000 has been returned to the town from both the town side and the Board of Education.

First Selectman Hodge spoke of the town moving forward and noted the many capital additions to the town specifically the new Senior Center and the sports pavilion on Rebel Turf. Mr. Hodge thanked all the taxpayers and the many volunteers that allow the town to move forward.

Correspondence and Announcements

First Selectman Hodge announced that the State Traffic Commission has confirmed the speed limits that the BOS had voted to readopt at a previous meeting.

Public Comment

None

Financial report for 2008-2009 fiscal year

Finance Director Jay Waterman spoke of the financial status of the town for the fiscal year 2008-2009. Mr. Waterman gave an overview of the expenses and revenues for the year and noted that New Fairfield has an exceptional tax collection rate. Mr. Waterman also spoke of the contingency fund for the town. Selectman Ron Oliveri thanked Mr. Waterman and the department heads for all their hard work this year. First Selectman John Hodge thanked Jay Waterman and the entire Finance Department for their diligence.

Emergency Radio Communications bid results

First Selectman Hodge spoke of the emergency radio system. The original proposed project for the emergency radios in the amount of \$2.1 million was defeated at a referendum in December 2008. Since then, the BOS retained a new consultant to determine the needs of the town. The RFP's for this project came back on June 25th. There was a discussion of financing of this project.

John Hodge made a motion to move to a Town Meeting an appropriation of \$1,200,000 for an Emergency Communications radio upgrade and authorize the expenditure thereof. Said project will be funded from the following revenue sources \$150,000 from the Capital and Nonrecurring Fund Emergency Radio Communications line, \$970,000 from the 2008-2009 budget surplus and \$80,000 from the town's unappropriated general fund balance. Ron Oliveri seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Approval of Minutes

Ron Oliveri made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2009 regular meeting as presented. John Hodge seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Acceptance of Gifts for Outdoor Cinema

John Hodge made a motion to accept gifts/donations from Union Savings Bank (\$2,500), Danbury Hospital (\$750), the Peczeniuk family (\$5,000) and First Step Preschool (\$300) for a total donation of \$8500 for the Park and Rec drive-in movie series. Ron Oliveri seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Budget Transfers

John Hodge made a motion to make the following Intra-Departmental transfer. Tom Corbett seconded the motion. (Such document to be attached to the minutes of this meeting and sent to the BOF for informational purposes)

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

\$'s	To Account #		\$'s	From Account #	
\$197.14	4162-313-2	Candlewood Lake Authority	\$197.14	4162-421	Household Hazardous Waste
\$ 197.14			\$ 197.14		

Personnel Report

John Hodge made a motion to approve the Personnel report dated July 9, 2009 as presented. Ron Oliveri seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Financial Report for Senior Center

First Selectman John Hodge announced that the new Senior Center was completed in 8 ½ months and came in slightly under budget. The Opening Ceremony was held on July 2nd.

There was a discussion of the Board of Finance vote regarding the \$74,500 additional appropriation to cover the loan repayment for architect fees. The Town Meeting resolution made no mention of repayment. It was decided to get further clarification on what exactly happened and table this until the next meeting.

Update on Dunham/Highwinds

First Selectman John Hodge gave an update on the Dunham/Highwinds. This project was unable to be finished by the developer and thus the town drew down on the letter of credit and brought in their own contractors to do “public improvements” to the property. Expenses for this project are paid directly from the letter of credit in a separate account that is separate and apart from the town’s funds. Expenses for this project are reviewed first by the law firm of Secor Cassidy.

Memorandum of agreement for Homeland Security Grant Program

Ron Oliveri made a motion to authorize the first selectman to sign the Homeland Security Grant Program. Resolved, that the Board of Selectmen may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security any and all documents which deems to be necessary or appropriate and Further resolved, that John Hodge, as First Selectman of New Fairfield is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Town of New Fairfield and to do and perform all acts and things which he deems to be necessary or appropriated to carry out the terms of such documents, including by not limited to, executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by such documents. The undersigned further certifies that John Hodge now holds the Office of First Selectman and that he has held that office since November 22, 2005. John Hodge seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Public Comment

Board of Finance member Al Mardis thanked the Board of Selectman for a wonderful job this year and for putting the town in such strong financial shape.

Resident Jim Stead commended the Board of Selectmen for all their work and determination with the Emergency Radio System project.

Addition to Agenda

John Hodge made a motion to add to the agenda item #14A “Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a separation agreement.” Tom Corbett seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Executive Session

John Hodge made a motion to go into executive session at 9:16pm for the purpose of discussing a separation agreement. Tom Corbett seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

John Hodge made a motion to come out of executive session at 9:22pm. Ron Oliveri seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

John Hodge made a motion to accept the separation agreement as discussed in executive session. Tom Corbett seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

General Discussion: Items to be brought up by selectmen for future agendas

None

Adjournment

Ron Oliveri made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 pm. Tom Corbett seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)