

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

MINUTES
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Thursday, March 12, 2009
7:30 PM
High School Library

Members present:

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

Other Town Officials Present:

Michael Hunter, RCC
Bob Kenny, Emergency Management Coordinator
Ed McCue, Fire Chief
Various members of the fire department

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 noted that there will be a special BOS meeting on Wednesday, March 18th at 7:30 in the High School library to discuss the proposed school building project. Mr. Hodge noted that he would especially like feedback from parents and encouraged all residents to come out and give their opinion regarding the proposed project.

First Selectman Hodge noted that HART bus has received operating approval for the commuter bus service from New Fairfield to the Southeast train station. Mr. Hodge noted that the tentative start date for this service would be May 4th with an approximate cost of \$1.25 each way. Mr. Hodge further noted that the town is not involved in this project and there will be no budgetary impact to the town.

Public Comment- None

Presentation of Emergency Radio Communication

First Selectman Hodge noted that he hired a third party consultant to evaluate the proposals for the Emergency Radio Communications by Pier Con and by resident Ron Graiff. Mr. Hodge introduced Michael Hunter from RCC and Bob Kenny from Region 5 Emergency Management. Mr. Hodge explained the background of both Mr. Hunter and Mr. Kenny.

Mr. Hunter went over short term and long term recommendations. Specific topics included discussion of analog vs. digital and the console equipment. Mr. Hunter also spoke of the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

Members of the BOS asked questions of both Mr. Hunter and Mr. Kenny. First Selectman Hodge then opened the meeting to any members of the public that wished to comment on the Emergency Radio System. Fire Chief Ed McCue thanked Mr. Hunter and Mr. Kenny and spoke of a recent fire with very bad communication and noted the need for new equipment. Firefighter John Muller asked about echoing and also noted the need for new equipment.

The entire Board of Selectmen thanked Mr. Hunter and Mr. Kenny.

John Hodge made a motion to authorize the first selectman to negotiate with RCC to put together and analyze and RFP for Emergency Radio Communications. Ron Oliveri seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Change in Agenda

John Hodge made a motion to move agenda item #10 (Discussion of Dog Park) to item #4A. Ron Oliveri seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Discussion of Dog Park

Resident Joe Garufi spoke of the proposed Dog Park for New Fairfield. Mr. Garufi noted that the organization has already raised funds and anticipates that it will need approximately \$15,000. Selectman Oliveri asked that the BOS be provided with an estimate of start up costs and maintenance costs. First Selectman Hodge noted that this will need to go to a Town Meeting and is hopeful that it could be done in about 45 days. Mr. Hodge asked for a proposal stating who would maintain the property. The approval at the Town Meeting is pending full funding by the organization. It was noted that all three selectmen support the idea of a dog park pending final details.

Approval of Minutes

Ron Oliveri made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2009 regular meeting as presented. John Hodge seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Historic Preservation Grant

John Hodge made a motion that the Board of Selectmen approve the following resolution. "Resolved, that John E. Hodge, First Selectman is empowered to execute and deliver in the name and on behalf of this municipality a contract with the Connecticut State Library for a Historic Documents Preservation Grant." Ron Oliveri seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Budget Transfers

Selectman Ron Oliveri noted that the Board of Finance approved two transfers that were approved at the Board of Selectman's meeting of February 26th. The Board of Finance decided to reduce the transfers by \$3,000 each. There was a discussion of the transfers.

Ron Oliveri made a motion to accept the transfers as voted on by the Board of Finance at their meeting on March 10, 2009. Tom Corbett seconded the motion.

Vote: 2-0-1 (Motion approved)

Appointments

John Hodge made a motion to reappoint Patrick Callahan as a member of the Candlewood Lake Authority representing the Town of New Fairfield. Ron Oliveri seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

John Hodge made a motion to reappoint Keith Norton as the Tree Warden for the Town of New Fairfield. Ron Oliveri seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Personnel Report

John Hodge made a motion to approve the Personnel Report as presented. Ron Oliveri seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Public Comment- None

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

It was decided to have someone from HART bus service come to an upcoming BOS meeting to discuss the commuter bus service to the Southeast train station. First Selectman Hodge noted that this is a user paid for service and will not increase taxes.

Executive Session

John Hodge made a motion to go into executive session at 9:34pm to discuss a personnel issue. Ron Oliveri seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

John Hodge made a motion to come out of executive session at 9:45pm. Ron Oliveri seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

John Hodge made a motion to authorize the first selectman to sign the two separation agreements which were presented in executive session. Tom Corbett seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Adjournment

Tom Corbett made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:46 pm. John Hodge seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)