

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

MINUTES
PUBLIC HEARING AND
SPECIAL BOARD OF SELECTMAN'S MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2009
7:30 P.M.
HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

Members present:

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

Other Town Officials Present:

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joseph Castagnola
Assistant Superintendent of Schools Alicia Roy
High School Principal Mariana Coelho
Middle School Principal Diane Hartman
Meeting House Hill School Principal Sarah McLain
Meeting House Hill School Assistant Principal Carrie Killian
Board of Education member Karen Chance
Board of Education member Ralph Langham
Board of Education member Ron Lyons
Board of Education member Ed Siebert
Board of Finance member Jane Landers
Board of Finance member Wes Marsh
Board of Finance alternate Brian Shea
Board of Finance member Tom Wahlig
Permanent Building Committee Chairman Pete Viola
Permanent Building Committee Member Paul Bruno
Permanent Building Committee Member Steve Merullo
Town Treasurer Phil Cammarano
Accounting Manager Ed Sbordone
Director of Management Services Craig McClain
Director of Buildings and Grounds Phil Ross
Scott Pellman, B&L Companies
Ken Biega, O&G Industries

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Discussion of school construction

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joseph Castagnola spoke of the proposed school project and specifically explained the method of computing projected enrollment. Assistant Superintendent of Schools Alicia Roy spoke of NEASC and the accreditation process. Ms. Roy noted that the High School was put on "warning" status due to the condition of the building specifically the science wing. Ms. Roy spoke of plans to update the science labs. Town Treasurer Phil Cammarano spoke of the total cost of the project and ways to finance the project. Mr. Cammarano spoke of state reimbursements and current interest

rates. Ken Biega from O & G Industries spoke of the water suppression system and the heating in Meeting House Hill School.

Questions and Answers regarding the school construction

Members of the Board of Selectman asked questions regarding the process and the financing for the proposed project. First Selectman John Hodge noted that a lot of other debt will soon be retiring.

Public Comment

Resident Rudy Bahrens spoke of future enrollment for the schools.

Board of Education member Ralph Langham spoke of the quality of education in New Fairfield.

Board of Education member Ed Siebert spoke of the state mandate for water systems and also spoke of statistics for projected enrollment.

Board of Finance member Jane Landers also spoke of projected enrollment in the schools.

Resident Darlene Anderson-Alexander spoke of the need to update the schools especially Meeting House Hill School.

Permanent Building Committee member Steve Merullo encouraged residents to get as much information as possible about the proposed projects.

Meeting House Hill School Principal Sarah McLain invited the public to come in and tour Meeting House Hill School.

Permanent Building Committee member Paul Bruno spoke of the capacity of the schools.

First Selectman John Hodge noted that there will be another public hearing regarding the building projects on Wednesday, April 1st. Mr. Hodge encouraged all residents to get involved in the process and to get as much information as possible. Mr. Hodge invited anyone with questions to stop by the selectman's office or call or e-mail him.

Adjournment

Ron Oliveri made a motion to adjourn the public hearing at 9:00pm. Tom Corbett seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Kloos