

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

**MINUTES**  
**Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting**  
**Tuesday, December 22, 2009**  
**7:30 PM**  
**Community Room**

***Members present:***

John Hodge, First Selectman  
Susan Chapman, Selectman  
Monika Thiel, Selectman

***Other Town Officials Present:***

Ed Sbordone, Accounting Manager

**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 there will be a clinic for the H1N1 Flu Vaccine on Monday, December 28<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon at the High School Cafeteria. Mr. Hodge noted that this clinic is open to everyone and there is no charge for the vaccine.

First Selectman Hodge noted that he received a letter stating that Patrick Callahan will be resigning from the Candlewood Lake Authority effective April 2010. Mr. Hodge thanked Mr. Callahan for all his hard work for CLA and noted that he will be looking for a replacement for Mr. Callahan.

First Selectman Hodge spoke of the governor's proposal to consolidate probate courts throughout the state. Currently New Fairfield and Sherman share a probate court and it is located in Town Hall. The newly consolidated probate court will be in New Milford. Mr. Hodge will ask Probate Judge Bill DeFeo to come to a BOS meeting in the near future to discuss this.

**Public Comment**

Alex Messerle noted that he attended the H1N1 Flu Clinic that was held on December 21<sup>st</sup> and noted that it was very organized and there was no charge for the vaccine.

**Approval of Minutes**

Susan Chapman made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 24, 2009 regular meeting as presented. John Hodge seconded the motion.

**Vote: 2-1-0 (Motion approved- Monika Thiel opposed)**

**Lions Club Presentation**

New Fairfield Lions Club President Tim Haas spoke of the Lions Club and noted the many events that they host throughout the year. Mr. Haas noted that the club meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month at 7:00pm at Bisciotti's Restaurant.

On behalf of the Lions Club, Mr. Haas presented the BOS with a check for \$6,000 for New Fairfield Social Services and another check for \$250 for the New Fairfield Fuel Bank. First Selectman Hodge thanked the Lions Club for all their hard work and their generous donations.

#### **Addition to Agenda**

John Hodge made a motion to add to the agenda item 5A "Acceptance of gift of \$250 from the New Fairfield Lions Club". Susan Chapman seconded the motion.

**Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

#### **Acceptance of Donation**

John Hodge made a motion to accept a donation of \$250 from the New Fairfield Lions Club for the Fuel Bank. Monika Thiel seconded the motion.

**Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

#### **Discussion and vote on Bond Reduction for Spruce Ridge Subdivision**

The Planning Commission requested a bond reduction for Spruce Ridge Subdivision. There was a discussion about the process for determining the amount of the bond reduction. Selectman Susan Chapman explained that the Town engineer investigates the property and makes the recommendation.

Susan Chapman made a motion that the BOS accept the bond reduction for Spruce Ridge as recommended by the Planning Commission. John Hodge seconded the motion.

**Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

#### **Discussion and vote on "in kind" donation from NFHS Booster Club**

John Hodge made a motion that the BOS accept an "in kind" donation of \$1600 from the NFHS Booster Club for the purpose of putting in stalls in the lower level of the Sports Pavilion at Rebel Turf. Susan Chapman seconded the motion.

**Vote: 2-0-1 (Motion approved-Monika Thiel abstained)**

#### **Discussion of Candlewood Lake Issues**

Alex Messerle spoke of a presentation he attended at Western Connecticut State University on Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup> regarding the Milfoil in Candlewood Lake. Mr. Messerle noted that the presentation was approximately three hours long with three different professors giving their ideas and suggestions to remedy the milfoil problem on Candlewood Lake. Representatives from First Light also attended the presentation at WCSU. Mr. Messerle spoke of draw downs of the lake and commented on how they affect the Milfoil. Mr. Messerle noted that the presentation at WCSU was a great exchange of information. Members of the BOS asked questions of Mr. Messerle regarding this presentation.

#### **Discussion and vote to authorize the first selectman to sign Communication Tower Agreement with T-Mobile Northeast**

John Hodge made a motion to authorize the first selectman to sign an amendment to the Communication Tower Lease Agreement with T-Mobile Northeast which increases the monthly rent payment by \$600 to \$2,822.73 per month with an escalation of 4% a year thereafter on the monthly rent. Susan Chapman seconded the motion.

John Hodge made a motion to amend the amendment to the T-Mobile Tower lease agreement to clarify paragraph 2 in that it needs to clearly reflect that T-Mobile will be paying 104% escalating on a yearly basis. Monika Thiel seconded the motion.

**Vote to amend motion: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

**Vote on motion as amended: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

### **Discussion of Connecticut Conference of Municipalities BOF Presentation**

Selectman Monika Thiel spoke of a training session that she attended for newly elected officials through the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities. After attending this session, Ms. Thiel found out that New Fairfield was once a member of CCM but is not at this time. Ms. Thiel set up a presentation for a member of CCM to come to the Board of Finance meeting on December 16<sup>th</sup> to give a presentation about the town joining CCM. First Selectman Hodge noted that it was not the purview of the BOF but instead the BOS to decide about joining CCM. Mr. Hodge spoke of the background of CCM and noted the reasons why the prior BOS dropped CCM approximately two years ago. Mr. Hodge spoke of COST (Counsel for Small Towns) and noted that New Fairfield belongs to COST for annual dues of approximately \$920 which is approximately \$8,000 per year less than CCM.

### **Discussion of 2009-2010 Budget**

First Selectman Hodge spoke of the state budget for 2009-2010 and noted that the governor may cut state funding by 3% which would amount to approximately \$167,000 for New Fairfield. Mr. Hodge noted that he has been in contact with the Finance Director and the town is keeping an eye on this. Mr. Hodge went over potential line items shortfalls and also spoke of revenues that have been more than anticipated.

### **Budget Transfers-** None

### **Personnel report**

John Hodge made a motion to approve the Personnel report dated December 22, 2009 as presented noting that the board is only voting on the first three items and the rest are for informational purposes only. (Such document to be attached to the minutes of this meeting.) Monika Thiel seconded the motion.

**Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

### **Appointments**

First Selectman Hodge spoke of a letter he received to fill a vacancy for a Zoning Board of Appeals. Mr. Hodge spoke of a potential conflict of interest with the candidate and the board decided to hold off on making this appointment.

John Hodge made a motion to appoint Thomas Green, John Falkowski and Rodney Bourdeau as sub-registrar of vital statistics for the Town of New Fairfield. (Such document to be attached to the minutes of this meeting). Monika Thiel seconded the motion.

**Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

### **Public Comment**

Ron Oliveri noted that the board should definitely hold off on appointing a candidate to the ZBA with a potential conflict of interest.

Mr. Oliveri thanked Pat Callahan for all he has done for the Candlewood Lake Authority. Mr. Oliveri also thanked Director of Social Services Cindy White and the Lions Club for all their work with the generous donations to people in need this holiday season.

Mr. Oliveri suggested that the new selectmen read the state statutes and review the handbook for both the BOS and the BOF.

Mr. Oliveri wished everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year!!

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

Selectman Thiel thanked the board for the information that she received prior to the meeting and noted that it was very helpful. Ms. Thiel asked First Selectman Hodge for information regarding the arbitration and asked for a total of the financial impact of the arbitration.

First Selectman Hodge presented the other selectmen with information regarding Intra-Departmental transfers which contained an opinion from prior town counsel in 1995 noting that transfers are done at the department level and do not have to be brought to the Board of Finance.

The entire Board of Selectman wished everyone Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!!!

**Adjournment**

Susan Chapman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 pm. John Hodge seconded the motion.

**Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**