

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

**MINUTES**

**Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting**  
**Thursday, January 14, 2010**  
**7:30 PM**  
**Community Room**

***Members present:***

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

***Other Town Officials Present:***

Ed McCue, Fire Chief  
Various members of the Fire Dept.  
Tim Simpkins, Director of Health  
Jane McGowan, Administrative Assistant- Health Dept.  
Linda Fox, Library Director  
Margaret Golden, Assistant Library Director  
Gail Lehman, Library Board Chairman  
Various members of the Library Board  
Steve Merullo, Parks and Rec Director  
Ed Sbordone, Accounting Manager  
Kim Hanson, BOE Chairman  
Tom Wahlig, BOF Chairman  
Robert Klick, BOF Member  
Al Mardis, BOF Member  
Wes Marsh, BOF Member  
Tom Quigley, BOF Alternate

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

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Correspondence and Announcements**

The Board of Selectmen wished everyone a "Happy New Year"

**Public Comment**

Resident Joe Garufi thanked both the current and former BOS for all their support for the New Fairfield Dog Park. First Selectman Hodge thanked Mr. Garufi for all his work with the Dog Park.

**Approval of Minutes**

Susan Chapman made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 22, 2009 regular meeting as presented. John Hodge seconded the motion.

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

### **Recognition**

First Selectman Hodge presented Health Director Tim Simpkins and Health Department Administrative Assistant Jane McGowan with certificates of recognition for all their hard work with the H1N1 clinics and any work done regarding the flu pandemic. Mr. Hodge also thanked the two Administrative Assistants in his office, Diana Peck and Lynne Rix for all their work with the flu clinics.

Ms. McGowan thanked all the staff, nurses and volunteers who helped with the various clinics.

### **Discussion and approval of the purchase of a ladder fire truck**

Fire Chief Ed McCue spoke of the opportunity to purchase a 2007 Smeal 100 foot aerial truck from Mt. Kisco Fire Dept in the amount of \$512,500.00. Chief McCue showed slides of the truck and spoke of the features of the truck.

Firefighter Mike Gil spoke of the financing of the truck and the Fire Dept. Reserve Fund. It was noted that there is currently approximately \$1.1 million in the Fire Dept. Reserve Fund. Members of the BOS asked questions of the Fire Dept. and then the floor was opened to questions from the public. Many members of the public asked questions regarding the financing and the process of using the reserve fund.

John Hodge made a motion to approve the purchase of a ladder fire truck as authorized by the Fire Dept. Board of Directors subject to a complete mechanical inspection prior to purchase. Susan Chapman seconded the motion.

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

### **Library Construction Presentation**

Library Board member Sarah Marsh spoke of a potential renovation of the New Fairfield Public Library. Mrs. Marsh spoke of the design to renovate the library and noted that the current design has been approved by both the Zoning Commission and the Planning Commission.

Library Director Linda Fox spoke of the history of the library and gave a background of the current condition of the library.

The design to renovate the library would make the building ADA compliant and bring building codes up to date. There will also be new construction to the front and back entrances and to the northeast side. Architect Michael Tribe from Peter Gisolfi Associates spoke of the renovation project and noted ways to increase efficiency to the library.

There was a discussion of the cost of this project and the timeline to get it done. The approximate cost of this project is \$4,574,931.00. Linda Fox noted that they have received a grant in the amount of \$1,000,000 (or 30% of the project). There is currently existing donations of \$360,000 and a capital campaign for donations will be held.

### **Addition to agenda**

John Hodge made a motion to add agenda item #7A "Public Comment regarding the Library project" to tonight's agenda. Monika Thiel seconded the motion.

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

**Public Comment regarding the Library Project**

Many members of the public spoke of the project and asked questions of both the architect and the Library Board. The future of libraries was discussed and it was noted that many books are now available online or on hand held devices.

Library Board Chairman Sarah Marsh offered to have the Library Board speak to any group that may be interested in learning more about the library project. First Selectman Hodge noted that the BOS would be interested in comments and suggestions from the public. This can be done through the town’s website or through the suggestion box in the library.

**Library Union Contract**

Susan Chapman made a motion to ratify the Library Union Contract as presented for the period beginning January 1, 2010 and ending December 31, 2014. Monika Thiel seconded the motion.

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

John Hodge thanked the Library employees for their cooperation with the contract and noted that they recognized the difficult financial times. This agreement will be reopened in two years to take a look at salary increases and also contributions for the medical insurance.

**Appointments**

First Selectman John Hodge received a letter from the “Northwest Connecticut Convention and Visitors Bureau” and noted that he appointed himself as delegate.

First Selectman John Hodge noted that he is looking for one of the fellow selectmen to agree to become an alternate for HVCEO in the event that he cannot make a meeting.

First Selectman John Hodge noted that a resident who recently requested to be on the ZBA has withdrawn their request.

**Budget Transfers**

John Hodge made a motion to make the following Intra-Departmental transfer in the amount of \$10,000. Susan Chapman seconded the motion. (Such document to be attached to the minutes of this meeting).

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

\$'s	To Account #		\$'s	From Account #	
\$10,000.00	4160-250	Unclass P & B Unemployment	\$9,000.00	4160-260	Unclass. P&B-Workers Comp
			\$1,000.00	4160-220	Unclass P & B-Social Security
<b>\$ 10,000.00</b>			<b>\$ 10,000.00</b>		

John Hodge made a motion to make a transfer from Building Repair Reserve in the amount of \$8,120.10 with \$7,200.00 going to Public Works Replace Oil Unit Heater and \$920.10 for PD Camera Upgrade. Susan Chapman seconded the motion. (Such document to be attached to the minutes of this meeting).

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

**Personnel Report**

John Hodge made a motion to accept the Personnel Report dated January 14, 2010 as presented. Monika Thiel seconded the motion.

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

**Public Comment**

Holly Murtha spoke about allergens in the Community Room.

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

None

**Adjournment**

Susan Chapman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:46 pm. Monika Thiel seconded the motion.

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