

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

MINUTES
Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting
Thursday, July 22, 2010
7:30 PM
Community Room

Members present:

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

Other Town Officials Present:

Jay Waterman, Finance Director
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 read a letter from New Fairfield residents who had a house fire on Father's Day. The homeowner praised the Fire Department and thanked everyone involved in helping to save their house.

First Selectman Hodge noted that the town received a grant in the amount of \$227,000 for engineering of the water system. This grant is in addition to the \$500,000 grant that the town received for the school water system.

First Selectman Hodge noted that the town received a grant from the Department of Homeland Security for mobile generators.

Public Comment

Eileen Horgan spoke of the BOS meeting of June 24th in support of Selectman Monika Thiel.

Rudy Bahrens spoke of the June 24th BOS meeting and also the library project and the Parks & Recreation settlement.

Mary Bahrens spoke of the June 24th BOS meeting and in support of Selectman Thiel.

HRRA Chairman Mike Gill noted that the E-waste program will go into effect on October 1, 2010. As of October 1st the town will be required to take residential electronics free of charge. Mr. Gill spoke of having a redemption date before that day. Mr. Gill also noted We-Recycle will start taking all electronics without charging the town.

Jim Mellett spoke of the Director of Buildings and Grounds

First Selectman John Hodge spoke of checks and balances in Town Hall.

Change in Agenda

John Hodge made a motion to move agenda item #9 “Discuss and possibly vote to set a Town Meeting date for the acceptance of High Winds Road” to item #3A and to add item #10A “Discussion of subordination of Small Cities Grant”. Susan Chapman seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Discuss and possibly vote to set a Town Meeting date for the acceptance of High Winds Road

John Hodge made a motion to approve the following Warning: Notice is hereby given to the electors of the Town of New Fairfield and those qualified to vote at Town Meetings that a Town Meeting is to be held on Thursday, August 12, 2010 at 7:00pm in the Community Room @33 Route 37 for the following purpose to wit: To consider and take action upon the acceptance of High Winds Road as a town maintained road. Susan Chapman seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Approve Minutes of Board of Selectmen’s Meetings of June 24th, July 6th and July 9th

Selectman Monika Thiel asked that the approval of the minutes of the June 24, 2010 meeting be tabled until the next BOS meeting in order to review the wording. It was decided to table the minutes of the June 24, 2010 regular meeting until the next regular BOS meeting.

John Hodge made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 6, 2010 special meeting as presented. Susan Chapman seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

John Hodge made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 9, 2010 special meeting as presented. Monika Thiel seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Introduction of planned Storm Drain Marking and Education Program

Jim McAlister from the Candlewood Watershed Initiative spoke of an education program to make residents aware of the importance of protecting water quality. This program will begin in New Fairfield and will hopefully involve the entire watershed. Medallions will be placed at random storm drains to serve as a reminder to residents. Volunteers are needed for the program. More information is available in this week’s *Citizen News* or residents can contact the Watershed Initiative via e-mail at cwi4ourlakessake@aol.com. Each volunteer will be invited to sign a medallion that will be placed on the storm drains. Mr. McAlister invited the three selectmen to sign a medallion that will be placed on storm drains.

Discussion of Sober House Fine

First Selectman Hodge spoke of a lawsuit involving a “sober house” in New Fairfield. As a result of this lawsuit a permanent injunction was placed on this house and a \$5,000 fine was received from the homeowner for having violated the zoning ordinances. To date, \$2500 of the \$5,000 fine has been received. Mr. Hodge noted that the town would like to donate this fine to a legitimate “sober house”.

Addition to agenda

John Hodge made a motion to add agenda item #6A “Vote on allocation of Sober House Fine” to the agenda. Susan Chapman seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Allocation of Sober House fine

John Hodge made a motion that the BOS approve allocation of the Sober House Fine to MCCA (Midwestern Connecticut Council on Alcoholism) in Danbury. Susan Chapman seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Personnel Report

John Hodge made a motion to approve the Personnel Report dated July 22, 2010 as presented. Susan Chapman seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Preliminary update on 2009-2010 fiscal year

Finance Director Jay Waterman noted that the fiscal year 2009-2010 will end with a surplus of over \$300,000. Mr. Waterman spoke of specific revenues and expenditures that caused the surplus. Mr. Waterman noted that the Police Department did not spend as much as anticipated and that revenues from the Real Estate Conveyance tax was higher than expected.

Gift from New Fairfield Community Foundation

John Hodge made a motion to approve the acceptance of a gift of \$1990 from the New Fairfield Community Foundation to purchase an Ice Machine for the Concession Stand. Susan Chapman seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Discuss and vote on subordination of Small Cities Grant

First Selectman Hodge spoke of the Small Cities loan in the amount of \$17,000 that a resident took in 2001. Such resident would now like to take a Home Equity loan which would make the town second in line in the event of a foreclosure. Mr. Hodge explained that this house is currently mortgage free and has plenty of equity.

John Hodge made a motion to authorize the subordination of \$17,000 to the Home Equity loan on the property. Susan Chapman seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Appointments

Susan Chapman made a motion to appoint John Ransom and John Ransom Jr. to the Fire Police. John Hodge seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Public Comment

Rudy Bahrens spoke of union wages and raises and also spoke of the library project.

Mary Bahrens noted that this meeting was much more civil than the last BOS meeting. She also spoke of the system of checks and balances

Jim Mellett and Robert Klick thanked Jim McAllister from the Candlewood Lake Authority for his presentation.

Addition to the agenda

John Hodge made a motion to add agenda item #13A "Discussion of Park & Rec computer programs." Monika Thiel seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Discussion of Park & Rec computer programs

There was a discussion of the new computer program at the Parks and Recreation Dept. First Selectman Hodge spoke of “Rec Track” and its features. Selectman Thiel spoke of software programs.

Selectman Thiel thanked the Public Works Department for their hard work at the Town Park.

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

Selectman Monika Thiel asked for an update on the school building projects. There was a discussion of whether or not information on the school building projects belongs on the purview of the Board of Selectman.

Adjournment

John Hodge made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:14pm. Susan Chapman seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Kloos