

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

MINUTES
Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting
Thursday December 9, 2010
7:30 PM
Community Room

Members present:

John Hodge, First Selectman
Susan Chapman, Selectman

Members not present:

Monika Thiel, Selectman

Other Town Officials Present:

Ed Sbordone, Accounting Manager
Wes Marsh, BOF Chairman
Al Mardis, BOF member
Jim Gardner, Fire Chief
Various Firefighters
Linda Fox, Library Director
Margaret Golden, Assistant Library Director
JoAnn Yachulke, Children's Librarian
Gail Lehman, Library Board Chairman
Sarah Marsh, Library Board Vice Chairman
Janet Hansen, Library Board member

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Correspondence and Announcements

Selectman Susan Chapman noted that the Tree Lighting was a success and the Christmas tree in town looks great.

Public Comment

Mike Gill from HERRA (Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority) gave an overview of the operating year of July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010. Mr. Gill noted that the revenues for the year were \$591,257 with expenses of \$288,765 and an increase of net assets of \$302,492. Mr. Gill gave the board an executive summary of the year and noted that from April 2010 to November 2010 over 52,870 lbs of electronics were recycled.

BOF Chairman Wes Marsh asked that in the future if there is an update regarding financial documents such as the HERRA update that it be on the agenda instead of during the Public Comment portion of the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Susan Chapman made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2010 special meeting and the November 19, 2010 special meeting as presented. John Hodge seconded the motion.

Vote: 2-0-0 (Motion approved)

Addition to agenda

John Hodge made a motion to add agenda item #5A “Clarification of BOS vote on October 28, 2010 for Brush Truck.” Susan Chapman seconded the motion.

Vote: 2-0-0 (Motion approved)

First Selectman Hodge noted that there was a question from the town’s purchasing agent regarding the following motion made at the October 28, 2010 regular BOS meeting. “John Hodge made a motion that the BOS approve the purchase of Brush Truck #14 for a price not to exceed \$125,000 with \$93,750 to come from the New Fairfield Fire Dept. Apparatus Replacement Fund. Susan Chapman seconded the motion.” Mr. Hodge clarified that the \$93,750 will come from the town and not from the Town of New Fairfield Fire Dept. Accounting Manager Ed Sbordone will report back to the town’s Purchasing Agent Patty Mota regarding this.

Discussion of Library project

Library Board Chairman Gail Lehman spoke of a proposed project to build a new library in town on the parcel of property on Gillotti Road adjacent to the High School. This proposed project would be a one-story modular building similar to the Senior Center. Mrs. Lehman noted that putting the new library at the Gillotti Road property would have advantages over renovating the existing library since there would be no inconvenience of having to relocate the library during the construction. This location would also solve the parking problem existing at the current library. It was noted that the parking lot for the proposed new library could also be used as an overflow lot for the High School and Middle School events.

The library board is expected to have drawings and cost estimates done by the end of December and would like to have a Town Meeting regarding this project. The library board has voted to pay for the full construction drawing documents. First Selectman John Hodge suggested that a drawing of the front elevation of the building and the proposed floor plan be put in the *Citizen News*. Mr. Hodge spoke of possible uses for the existing library building. Mrs. Lehman thanked the patrons of the library for all their support and suggestions.

Budget Transfers- None

Personnel Report

First Selectman John Hodge thanked Parks & Recreation Director Linda Lull for all her hard work in the Parks and Recreation department and especially with the 5K Turkey Run held in November.

John Hodge made a motion to approve the Personnel Report dated December 9, 2010 as presented. Susan Chapman seconded the motion.

Vote: 2-0-0 (Motion approved)

Discussion and vote on amendment to T-Mobile Lease

First Selectman Hodge noted that T-Mobile redid the antennas on the cell towers in October 2009. At that time, T-Mobile also wanted to add the fiber optics into the conduits. An agreement was negotiated with T-Mobile which will increase the rent for T-Mobile to \$3,610.64/month.

John Hodge made a motion to authorize the first selectman to sign the second amendment to the Communications Tower Lease agreement between the Town of New Fairfield and T-Mobile Northeast LLC. Susan Chapman seconded the motion.

Vote: 2-0-0 (Motion approved)

Vote on Constellation Energy contract

First Selectman Hodge noted that the contract for the generation part of the electric energy with Constellation is up in June. They have offered a rate of .078 kwh that will save the town approximately \$15,000/year on the town side. Constellation would like a three-year contract and will give a “non-appropriation” clause in the contract that means the contract is spelled out for three years but if the town declines to make an appropriation for that line item in the future it can get out of the contract.

John Hodge made a motion to approve the signing of a three year contract with Constellation Energy commencing on July 1, 2011 to purchase electric power at a rate of .078 kwh subject to a new appropriation clause being in the contract and a guarantee that the price for energy would be lowered if market conditions become more favorable during the term of the contract. Susan Chapman seconded the motion

Vote: 2-0-0 (Motion approved)

Addition to the agenda

John Hodge made a motion to add items #10A “Approve Easement agreement with Aquarian Water Company” and #10B “Appointments” to the agenda. Susan Chapman seconded the motion.

Vote: 2-0-0 (Motion approved)

Approval of Easement

First Selectman John Hodge spoke of condition of the well area on Ball Pond Road East and Gillotti Road where the pump house is. Aquarian Water has asked to put a fence around it. Since there is rock and ledge on the property line, the town is asking for an easement on the town’s right of way.

John Hodge made a motion to have a Public Hearing for the easement for Aquarian Water Co. at 7:00pm immediately prior to the next regular BOS meeting on December 23, 2010. Susan Chapman seconded the motion.

Vote: 2-0-0 (Motion approved)

Appointments

John Hodge noted that he is appointing Cindy White as the town’s municipal agent for the elderly.

John Hodge made a motion to appoint Tom Edwards as an alternate to the Permanent Building Committee. Susan Chapman seconded the motion.

Vote: 2-0-0 (Motion approved)

Public Comment- None

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

Vote to authorize the first selectman to sign the agreement with Aquarian Water Company will be on the agenda for the next regular BOS meeting of December 23rd.

Executive Session

John Hodge made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:09pm for the purpose of discussing settlement of litigation. Susan Chapman seconded the motion.

Vote: 2-0-0 (Motion approved)

John Hodge made a motion to come back out of Executive Session at 8:15pm. Susan Chapman seconded the motion.

Vote: 2-0-0 (Motion approved)

John Hodge made a motion to approve the settlement of litigation between 100 Route 37 LLC and the Town of New Fairfield as discussed in Executive Session. Susan Chapman seconded the motion.

Vote: 2-0-0 (Motion approved)

Adjournment

Susan Chapman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:16pm. John Hodge seconded the motion.

Vote: 2-0-0 (Motion approved)