

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

MINUTES
Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting
Thursday, March 10, 2011
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
Tom Quigley, BOF Alternate
Kathy Hull, Director of Senior Services

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 noted that the town is eligible to receive approximately \$33,000 as a reimbursement for the snow storm on January 12th. This will be used to replenish snow materials and supplies and to pay for overtime due to the storm.

First Selectman Hodge noted that Library Board member Sharon Holm has resigned. Mr. Hodge thanked her for her service to the town.

First Selectman John Hodge noted that the Town of New Fairfield has purchased a communications tower in Patterson, NY. The tower has been turned over to Motorola. The Ball Pond Firehouse and the 300 Ball Pond Road have also been turned over and a shelter will soon be built at the base of the Bogus Hill tower at the Girl Scout property. The town is currently on track to start testing for this by April 25th. The town will approach cell carriers that will not interfere with the emergency radio frequencies to see if there is any interest in going on these towers.

Addition to Agenda

John Hodge made a motion to add agenda item #13A "Discussion of 824 Referral for purchase of Radio Communications Tower" Monika Thiel seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Public Comment- None

Approval of Minutes

Susan Chapman made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2011 regular meeting as presented. Monika Thiel seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Budget Transfers

John Hodge made a motion to approve the following Intra-Departmental transfer in the amount of \$2,164.00. Monika Thiel 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 #	
\$164.00	4120-610	Town Clerk-M&S	\$164.00	4120-341	Town Clerk-Vital Statistics
\$2,000.00	4161-332-5	Prof. Serv-Health Code	\$2,000.00	4161-332-9	Prof. Serv-Legal Inland/Wet
\$2,164.00			\$2,164.00		

Appointments

John Hodge made a motion to appoint Keith Landa to the Library Board to fill out the term of Sharon Holm. Monika Thiel seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

John Hodge made a motion to reappoint Gerard Schwalbe to the Inland Wetlands Commission. Susan Chapman seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

John Hodge made a motion to reappoint Bruce Kimble to The Candlewood Lake Authority. Monika Thiel seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

John Hodge made a motion to appoint Norma Gyle as an alternate to the Board of Finance. Susan Chapman seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Personnel Report

John Hodge made a motion to table the Personnel Report until the next meeting. Monika Thiel seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Vote to authorize the First Selectman to sign budget stabilization program between CIRMA and the Town of New Fairfield

John Hodge made a motion to authorize the First Selectman to sign budget stabilization program between CIRMA and the Town of New Fairfield. Susan Chapman seconded the motion.

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

Change in agenda

John Hodge made a motion to move agenda item #12 (Discuss and vote to set Town Meeting date to accept a gift for the Senior Center) to item #9A. Susan Chapman seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

John Hodge made a motion to add item #9B "Discuss and possibly vote to set a Town Meeting date to return \$121,000 from the Emergency Radio Communications Project to the unappropriated Capital and Nonrecurring account". Susan Chapman seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Vote to set date for Town Meeting

John Hodge noted that there is money left over from the Radio Communications project that will be returned to the Capital and Nonrecurring Account in the amount of \$121,000.00. This would be subject to Town Meeting approval. Selectman Monika Thiel questioned as to whether this money would have to go back into the general fund and not into the Capital and Nonrecurring fund.

John Hodge spoke of a donation that was received from the Estate of Priska Ellenberg in the amount of \$60,000 to be used for the Senior Center. Mr. Hodge noted that this was a wonderful gift and will be mostly used for a garden in the back of the Senior Center. Director of Senior Services Kathy Hull noted that Ms. Ellenberg was very active with the Senior Center and lived to be over 100. Ms. Hull thanked Ms. Ellenberg for her gift and noted that she will be missed.

John Hodge made a motion that the BOS 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, a Town Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 24, 2011 at 7:00pm in the Community Room @ 33 Route 37 for the following purpose to wit:

1. To consider and take action upon the acceptance of a gift in the amount of \$60,000 to be used exclusively for the Senior Center and for the expenditure thereof.
2. To consider and take action upon a resolution to return \$121,000 from the Emergency Radio Communications Project to the unappropriated Capital and Nonrecurring account.

Susan Chapman seconded the motion.

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

Vote to authorize the First Selectman to sign an application for the Town Clerk to apply for a Historic Preservation Grant in the amount of \$3500

John Hodge made a motion to authorize the First Selectman to sign an application for the Town Clerk to apply for a Historic Preservation Grant in the amount of \$3500. Monika Thiel seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Vote to authorize the First Selectman to sign an application for a Dept of Health Emerging Infections Contract

John Hodge made a motion that the BOS approve the following: RESOLVED that John Hodge, First Selectman and in his absence, Timothy R. Simpkins, Director of Health have been empowered to sign Department of Public Health Emerging Infections Contract #2011-0226 and any amendments hereto, on behalf of this corporation, between the Corporation and the Department of Public Health or its successor agency. Monika Thiel seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Mr. Hodge noted that this application is for the tick and Lyme Disease study. Anyone interested in participating in this study should contact either the Selectman's office or the Health Department in Town Hall. The total amount awarded from this grant is \$21,482.00.

Vote to draw down on a letter of credit on Shortwoods Acres

First Selectman Hodge spoke of Shortwood Acres which is a one-house subdivision. In order to build this subdivision, a substantial number of improvements were agreed to in order to build a house on this property. These improvements were not done and the owner disputes them. Town Engineer Tony Iadarola sent a letter to the Planning Commission explaining a list of concerns and comments regarding this property. Since this work was not done, the Planning Commission voted to authorize the BOS to draw down on the security. The town will contract at a later date to make these improvements and will use the money from the security to do so.

John Hodge made a motion that the First Selectman is hereby authorized to withdraw security for Shortwoods Acres in the amount of \$57,513.75 plus interest, if any, for the purpose of completing safety repairs and improvements and to use said funds for completing the projects as outlined Shortwoods Acres in a letter from the Town Engineer Tony Iadarola dated November 20, 2010 (attached hereto) without any further hearings or meetings. Susan Chapman seconded the motion.

John Hodge made a motion to amend the previous motion to attach the following items:

1. Letter dated November 20, 2010 from Town Engineer Tony Iadarola
2. Request for three-year extension dated February 28, 2011
3. Planning Commission vote to deny request dated March 4, 2011

Vote to amend motion: 2-0-1 (Motion approved-Monika Thiel abstained)

Vote on original motion as amended: 2-0-1 (Motion approved-Monika Thiel abstained)

Discussion of 824 Referral for purchase of Radio Communications Tower

First Selectman Hodge spoke of the Radio Communications Tower that was purchased recently and noted that an 824 Referral was not necessary in this situation since the property is not located in New Fairfield and the Planning Commission has no authority outside of New Fairfield. Selectman Susan Chapman noted that the communications tower falls within the plan of development that the Planning Commission is charged with implementing.

Public Comment- None

General Discussion: Items to be brought up by selectman for future agendas- None

Adjournment

Monika Thiel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:36pm. John Hodge seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)