

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

MINUTES

Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting
Tuesday, November 22, 2016
7:30 PM
Community Room at 33 Route 37

Members present:

Susan Chapman, First Selectman
Mike Gill, Selectman
Kim Hanson, Selectman

Other Town Officials Present:

Wes Marsh, BOF Chairman
John Hodge, Police Committee
George Cushing, Police Committee
John McCartney, Police Committee

Call To Order First Selectman Susan Chapman called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Correspondence and Announcements

First Selectman Susan Chapman announced that the Annual Tree Lighting will be held this Saturday, November 26th with festivities beginning at noon with the parade at 5:00pm.

Public Comment- None

Approval of Minutes

Susan Chapman made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2016 regular meeting as presented. Mike Gill seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Budget Transfers- None

Personnel Report- None

Appointments- None

Vote to approve the BOS regular meeting dates for 2017

Susan Chapman made a motion to approve the BOS regular meeting dates for 2017 as presented. Kim Hanson seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Vote to authorize the First Selectman to sign the Prevention Council Grant

Susan Chapman made a motion to authorize the First Selectman to sign the Prevention Council Grant. Mike Gill seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Police Committee discussion

Police Committee Chairman John Hodge introduced the members of the Police Committee and explained the work that has been done over the last year.

The final recommendation of the Police Committee is: Given that crime statistics are low and the cost of an Independent Department would represent a significant increase in the annual budget and there has virtually been no input or policing complaint by the public, it is recommended that the Town of New Fairfield retain the status quo for this fiscal year of six local officers, six resident troopers and one resident state trooper sergeant. It is further recommended that for the next fiscal year of 2017-2018 the resident state trooper size be reduced by two troopers and two more New Fairfield local officers be hired. This recommendation is being made solely as a hedge against the State of Connecticut abandoning the Resident State Trooper program due to financial difficulties and possibly leaving the Town without proper coverage or greatly increasing the cost of a trooper. This recommended shift in the current Trooper/Officer program of 2017-2018 would save the Town approximately \$12,000/per year based upon the current 2016 cost. It is also the recommendation of this committee that the Town maintain the current policy of one patrol car per officer. Based upon prior historical New Fairfield policing levels, the Police Committee agrees that if the department were to change over to an Independent Police Department there is a need for no fewer than 17 full time officers. The change to our current structure of six local officers, six resident state troopers and one resident state trooper sergeant to a fully independent department of 17 would come to an additional cost of \$696,000 to the current budget base based upon 2016-2017 all in costs as we know them right now. They agreed upon an Independent force size of no fewer than 17 local officers includes 15 local police officers, one local police sergeant and one local police command officer. It would also include one full time and one part-time police secretary. It will also assume one officer per car. Further noting that there was virtually no input or complaints from the public during this committee process, the BOS should determine if the Town should be surveyed regarding police services.

There was a discussion among the BOS and the Police Committee regarding certain scenarios. Main topics of discussion were calls to Sherman, crime statistics in New Fairfield, the possibility of sharing cars among officers and ways to reduce overtime. The Police Committee offered to meet again in July 2017 to discuss the effect of the State budget on the Police Department.

General Discussion: Items to be brought up by Selectmen for future agenda

The following will be discussed at a meeting in the near future:

- Hauler Registration Fees
- RFP for EMS Contract
- CLA update
- BOF General Fund Policy

Adjournment

Kim Hanson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 pm. Mike Gill seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Respectfully submitted,