

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

MINUTES
Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting
Thursday, September 27, 2018
7:30 PM
Community Room at 33 Route 37

Members present:

Pat Del Monaco, First Selectman
Khris Hall, Selectman
Kim Hanson, Selectman

Other Town Officials Present:

Ed Sbordone, Finance Director
Bruce Taylor, Fire Chief
Pete Viola, PBC Chairman

Call To Order First Selectman Pat Del Monaco called the meeting to order at 7:30pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

Philip Naryniecki from Knollcrest noted that his community paid to have the brush removed shortly after the May 15th storm. The cost to the community was approximately \$6,500.00. He noted that the community has since learned that the town will be paying to clean up the private and town roads and asked about the possibility of Knollcrest being reimbursed for this expense. Mr. Naryniecki noted that his community will file the FEMA form regarding this. First Selectman Pat Del Monaco noted that this will be put on the agenda for the next regular BOS meeting. Selectman Kim Hanson asked how this would affect the FEMA reimbursement and it was decided that the Board of Selectmen will look into this further.

Correspondence and Announcements

First Selectman Pat Del Monaco noted that

- The Town Clerk will have absentee ballots for the November 6th election beginning Friday, October 5th in the Town Clerk's office.
- October is Fire Prevention month. There will be a poster contest in the schools and the Board of Selectmen will be the judges of this contest.

Selectman Kim Hanson noted that he attended the HRRRA meeting and spoke of the possibility of an increased tipping fee if the single stream recycling continues to contain plastic bags. There was a suggestion of putting a sign at the drop off center.

Addition to the agenda

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to amend the agenda to include the following additions:

- #9A- Discussion of the 2017-2018 preliminary pre-audit expenditure surplus
- #11A- Acceptance of Donations to the storm recovery fund and food pantry
- #11B-Set date for Public Hearing to transfer the Barn Brook Open Space to the Land Trust

Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Approval of Minutes

Kim Hanson made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2018 regular meeting as presented. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Budget Transfers- None

Personnel Report-None

Appointments

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to appoint Bob Jano as an alternate to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Kim Hanson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to reappoint Sean Loughran to the Parks and Recreation Commission. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to appoint George Martinetti as an alternate to the Permanent Building Committee. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion of proposed Blight Ordinance

There was a lengthy discussion of the draft blight ordinance. The Board discussed changes to the original draft and spoke of specific changes. Specific items discussed included the notifications to neighbors, definition of garbage and the amount of peeling paint on a house. It was decided that working farms would be considered exempt properties. First Selectman Del Monaco will look into optimal dates for the Public Hearing for this and will get back to the other Selectmen.

Discussion of the 2017-2018 preliminary pre-audit expenditure surplus

Pat Del Monaco noted that the Public Works department researched proposals for the repairing of the docks and received three proposals from one company but are having a hard time getting proposals for a job this big. Finance Director Ed Sbordone noted that his would have to go through the normal bid process. He further noted that the surplus is currently in the General Fund so the vote on this is not time sensitive. It was decided to have First Selectman Del Monaco attend the next Parks and Rec commission meeting to discuss this further and the possibility of creating a dock replacement fund. It was also noted that the some of the surplus should be put towards a truck for Public Works.

NEW BUSINESS

Vote to amend tax abatement for volunteers

Pat Del Monaco noted that she met with Bud Koral from the Fire Department, Finance Director Ed Sbordone, Tax Collector Kerrie Greening and Board of Finance Chairman Wes Marsh about the possibility of amending the policy for tax abatement for volunteer fire fighters and EMTs. There was a discussion of attracting and retaining more volunteer firefighters and EMTs. Suggestions included giving an abatement for motor vehicles taxes in situations where a firefighter does not own a home but does own a motor vehicle. Other suggestions included a provision for tax abatement for inactive members if they served 25 years or more or a provision for a spouse to continue to receive an abatement of real or personal property taxes for ten years in the event of a line of duty death. There was a suggestion of the tiers and the possibility of changing the benefits to three levels (0-1 years- \$0, 2-5 years- \$500 and over 6 years- \$1,000.) The cost for this program to the town is currently approximately \$28,000/year. The proposed

changes would cost the town approximately \$35,000 per year. It was noted that these changes are in line with surrounding towns. This will be discussed further at the next regular BOS meeting.

Vote for the approval of the CT FAIR Grant

Khris Hall made a motion to accept the CT Fair Grant in the amount of \$320.00. Kim Hanson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Acceptance of Donations to the storm recovery fund and food pantry

Pat Del Monaco made a motion accept anonymous donations totaling \$4,179.00 to the Storm Recovery Fund and an anonymous donation in the amount of \$150.00 to the food pantry. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Set date for Public Hearing to transfer the Barn Brook Open Space to the Land Trust

Kim Hanson made a motion to set Thursday, October 25th at 7:15 pm in the Community Room at 33 Route 37 for a Public Hearing to transfer the Barn Brook Open Space to the Land Trust. Pat Del Monaco seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Public Comment- None

Adjournment

Kim Hanson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**