

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

MINUTES
Board of Selectmen Public Hearing
Monday, October 22, 2018
7:15 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

Call To Order First Selectman Pat Del Monaco called the Public Hearing to order at 7:15pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Review of proposed Anti-Blight Ordinance

First Selectman Pat Del Monaco explained the purpose of this public hearing was to hear comments and suggestions regarding the most recent draft of the Anti-Blight Ordinance. Such draft is available at the Selectmen's office and on the Town of New Fairfield's website. First Selectman Del Monaco noted that a Blight Ordinance has been proposed in town three times before and was voted down each time. No votes were scheduled for this meeting. She explained how this draft is different from previous drafts and noted that the purpose of this ordinance is to find solutions for homes that are dilapidated, attracting illegal activity, a fire hazard or a danger to health and safety. She explained the challenges of getting these problems fixed under the current rules and regulations. This ordinance is focused on health and safety and not aesthetics. It was noted that many of the problem homes in town are currently abandoned. There are exemptions to this ordinance for commercial farms and extra time and consideration is giving to homes with extenuating circumstances.

The Board of Selectmen explained that there will be a Blight Prevention Board that will be made up of the First Selectman, Health Director, Building Official, Zoning Enforcement Officer, Director of Social Services and the Fire Marshal. The review process was discussed and it was noted that this ordinance is similar to the one adopted in Ridgefield. First Selectman Del Monaco noted that most of the surrounding towns currently have an Anti-Blight Ordinance.

It was noted that this ordinance would have to be voted on at either a Town Meeting or a machine vote in order to be adopted.

Public comment and questions

Many members of the public expressed their ideas and concerns regarding the draft ordinance and asked questions about how it differs from previous drafts that were defeated. Some questions included the process for review and where the fine money would go. There was a discussion of how to avoid neighbors going after neighbors for personal vendettas. Some suggestions included having residents serve on the

review board instead of town employees. It was noted that the Director of Social Services will serve on the review board in order to help homeowners that have challenges keeping up their home due to illness or income. It was noted that everything done by the Director of Social Services is kept confidential. Residents were encouraged to come up with ideas and suggestions for the draft if they have concerns about how it is currently written.

The Anti-Blight Ordinance will be discussed at Board of Selectmen meetings in the near future.

Adjournment

Kim Hanson made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing at 8:57 pm. Pat Del Monaco seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)