

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

MINUTES

Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting
Thursday, January 24, 2019
7:30 PM
Community Room at 33 Route 37

Members present:

Pat Del Monaco, First Selectman
Khris Hall, Selectman

Members not present:

Kim Hanson, Selectman

Other Town Officials Present:

Ed Sbordone, Finance Director
Wes Marsh, BOF Chairman
Derrek Guertin, Fire Marshal

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Fire Prevention Poster winners

First Selectman Pat Del Monaco and Fire Marshal Derrek Guertin presented awards for both a fifth grader and fourth grader for the Fire Prevention poster contest. They each received a \$100 gift card to the Candlewood Creamery. First Selectman Del Monaco thanked the Candlewood Creamery and the Meeting House Hill School Art Teacher Emily Mancini.

Public Comment- None

Correspondence and Announcements

First Selectman Pat Del Monaco said a few words about Town Treasurer Phil Cammarano who passed away this week. She offered condolences to his family on behalf of the entire town.

Pat Del Monaco noted that at a Town Meeting immediately preceding this meeting, the Town voted to establish an Economic Development Commission. Selectman Khris Hall spoke of recruiting volunteers to this commission. Ideal people for this commission would have Real Estate, Financial or Marketing experience.

Addition to the agenda

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to add agenda item #13A "Vote on 2017-2018 Town budget expenditure surplus". Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 2-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Approval of Minutes

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2019 regular meeting as presented. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 2-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Budget Transfers- None

Personnel Report- None

Appointments

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to reappoint Shane Cosentino as the Tree Warden. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 2-0-0 (Motion approved)**

NEW BUSINESS

Update on Board of Selectmen 2019-2020 budget

Pat Del Monaco noted that the budget workshops have been completed. The BOS budget will be discussed further at upcoming BOS meeting and will be presented to the Board of Finance on Saturday, March 2nd. Selectman Khris Hall encouraged anyone with questions to bring them to the BOS at upcoming meetings. First Selectman Del Monaco noted that the budget will probably include recommendations for School Safety and security.

Tax Deferment for Federal Employees

Pat Del Monaco spoke of a Connecticut State Legislation that provides tax relief for Federal employees affected by the government shutdown. A copy of this resolution will be attached to the minutes of this meeting.

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the resolution establishing a Tax Deferment program for Federal Employees affected by the government shutdown. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 2-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Regional Animal Control

Pat Del Monaco noted that the Town pays approximately \$78,000 per year to belong to the Regional Animal Control group. She spoke of the challenge of getting officers here on a timely basis if needed and discussed the possibility of hiring a full-time Animal Control officer specifically for New Fairfield. She spoke of a salary survey and noted that the approximate salary for this would be \$46,000. A vehicle would also need to be purchased at a price between \$40,000 and \$60,000. This would be a onetime expense. It was noted that no additional insurance is needed for this. It was decided to put this in the Selectmen's budget for future discussion.

Drop off Center charge for wood chips

Pat Del Monaco noted that the Drop Off Center has an overwhelming amount of wood chips. Currently there is no charge to bring wood chips to the DOC but the town pays \$10 per yard to

dispose. There was a brief discussion of charging to bring wood chips to the DOC so that the cost to the town would break even.

Drop off Center charge for wood chips (con't)

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to charge \$10 per yard to dispose of wood chips at the Drop Off Center. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 2-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Vote on recommending to a Town Meeting the surplus for the 2017-2018 budget

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the following Warning for a Town Meeting:

Notice is hereby given to the electors of the Town of New Fairfield and those entitled to vote at all Town Meetings that a Town Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 14, 2019 at 7:15 pm in the Community Room at 33 Route 37, in New Fairfield, CT for the following purpose to wit:

1. To consider and act upon an authorization to apply \$140,387.83 of the 2017-2018 town budget surplus as follows: \$24,912.69 to Fire Company Reserve, \$60,000 to Public Works Trucks and Equipment and \$55,475.14 to Boat Dock Replacement Lock Box.

Dated at New Fairfield, CT this 24th day of January 2019.

Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 2-0-0 (Motion approved)**

OLD BUSINESS

Boat Dock Replacement Update

Pat Del Monaco noted that she met with Race Coastal Engineering regarding the boat docks and was told that by investing \$250,000 in repairs to the docks now, the town may be able to get an additional 5-10 years out of the existing structure and will be able to spread the savings in the lock box over the next ten years.

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to set this year boat dock slip fee increase at \$200 for boats and \$100 for jet skis. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 2-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve \$35,000 to be taken out the lock box for Race Coastal Engineering for design of the docks. Khris Hall seconded the motion.

Vote: 2-0-0 (Motion approved)

Public Comment

Kevin McKenzie asked about damage to the boat docks from the May 15th storm and inquired about what is covered by insurance.

Adjournment

Khris Hall made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 pm. Pat Del Monaco seconded the motion.

Vote: 2-0-0 (Motion approved)

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A TAX DEFERMENT PROGRAM
FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES AFFECTED BY THE SHUTDOWN

WHEREAS, the current shutdown of the Federal Government has impacted certain Federal Employees (“affected employee”), including those that are taxpayers of the Town; and

WHEREAS, HB 5765, defines "Affected employee" as a federal employee who, during the shutdown, is (A) a resident of this state, and (B) required to work as a federal employee without pay or furloughed as a federal employee without pay;

WHEREAS, on January 22, 2019, the State of Connecticut passed HB 5765 permitting municipalities to defer of real estate, motor vehicle and personal property taxes for affected employees of the Federal Government impacted by the shutdown; Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectman, pursuant to HB 5765, hereby establish a deferment program to defer the due date of taxes on real property, personal property or motor vehicles, or water or sewer rates, charges or assessments, owed by affected employees as defined by HB 5765; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectman directs the Tax Collector to administer the deferment program, so that the Town will not to be charge or collect interest on any tax, rate, charge or assessment or part thereof that is payable by an affected employee and which became due during the period when such individual was an affected employee.

RESOLVED, that those affected employees seeking to participate in the Town’s deferment program shall prove their eligibility by providing the tax collector with proof of Federal Employment and sign an affidavit stating that they are (a) a resident of this state, (b) the department of the federal government they are employed by, (c) that they are required to work as a federal employee without pay or furloughed as a federal employee without pay, and (d) they they will no longer be an affected employee when the branch of the Federal Government they are employed by is funded and its employees are called back to work.

RESOLVED, that each tax, rate, charge or assessment deferred under a program established pursuant to this section shall be due and payable without interest or penalty not later than sixty days after the date on which an individual is no longer

an affected employee. Thereafter, any portion of the tax, rate, charge or assessment or installment or portion thereof which remains unpaid and all interest and penalties otherwise provided by law shall apply retroactively to the original due date for the tax, rate, charge or assessment or installment or portion thereof. All provisions of the general statutes relating to continuing, recording and releasing property tax liens and the precedence and enforcement of taxes, rates, charges and assessments shall remain applicable to any deferred tax, rate, charge or assessment or installment or portion thereof.

RESOLVED, that nothing in this section shall affect interest or penalties on, or lien rights or collection of, any tax, rate, charge or assessment due before December 22, 2018, or after the date on which an individual is no longer an affected employee.