

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

MINUTES
Board of Selectmen Public Hearing
Wednesday, May 8, 2019
6:30 PM
Community Room at 33 Route 37

Members present:

Pat Del Monaco, First Selectman
Khris Hall, Selectman

Other Town Officials Present:

Ed Sbordone, Finance Director
Wes Marsh, BOF Chairman

Members not present:

Kim Hanson, Selectman

Call To Order First Selectman Pat Del Monaco called the public hearing to order at 6:30pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Review of Treasurer Responsibilities and Internal controls

First Selectman Pat Del Monaco noted that the purpose of this public hearing was to get opinions and feedback regarding the possibility of changing the way the Town Treasurer is hired by having them appointed to the position instead of the current practice of electing the treasurer. In the wake of the most recent treasurer's death this past January, the deputy treasurer was appointed to fill the position. It was noted that in this case, the deputy treasurer also serves as the Town's Finance Director. First Selectman Del Monaco noted that she inquired with Town Counsel to see if there was a conflict of interest in having the same person serve as Town Treasurer and Finance Director. According to Town Counsel, there is no conflict of interest and that many towns in Connecticut don't have a separate Treasurer position and that many towns have this position appointed by the Board of Selectmen.

Ms. Del Monaco noted that she spoke with the Town Auditors to inquire about concerns of the possibility of losing internal controls with an appointed position. She noted that the Town Auditors spoke in favor of having the position be appointed and gave the opinion that it would strength internal controls.

Selectman Khris Hall spoke in favor of appointing this position and gave a brief description of the role of the Town Treasurer.

Public Comment

BOF Chairman Wes Marsh as well as Tom Quigley and Linda Farina spoke in favor of having the Treasurer as an appointed position and gave various reasons. They noted that by appointing someone to this position, it would allow the BOS to better research and find the most qualified candidate.

Greg Moore, Al Mardis, Mary Ann Carson, Donald Salvato, Bob Burke and John Hodge spoke against the combining of the Finance Director/Treasurer positions and asked that the BOS trust the voters. It was noted that there have been many qualified Treasurers in the past as an elected position. It was argued that having an elected Treasurer would allow them to be 100% free and independent from the BOS. It was also argued that not allowing this position to be elected takes rights away from the voters and may result in the loss of internal controls with the position.

Finance Director Ed Sbordone noted that he would like to see this position as an appointed position because it will allow for the candidate to be vetted and will allow for a better search of backgrounds.

This will be discussed further in the future and any decisions must be voted on at a Town Meeting.

Adjournment

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to adjourn the public hearing at 7:16 pm. Khris Hall seconded the motion.

Vote: 2-0-0 (Motion approved)