

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

MINUTES
Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting
Thursday, September 26, 2019
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
Wes Marsh, BOF Chairman
Rick Regan, BOE member
Stephanie Strazza, BOE member

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment- None

Correspondence and Announcements

Pat Del Monaco noted that the referendum for the proposed school building projects will be held on Saturday, October 5th from 6am to 8pm. Absentee ballots will be available in the Town Clerk's office beginning Friday, September 27th. The Town Clerk is open from 8:30am to 5pm Monday thru Thursday and from 8:30am to 12 noon on Fridays. They will open on Saturday, September 28th from 9:00-noon for absentee ballots.

Pat Del Monaco announced that she received notice from FEMA that the Town will be receiving reimbursement for the money spent for debris removal for both the town and private roads after the May 15, 2018 storm. Total reimbursement from FEMA for this storm to date amounts to approximately \$2.1 million.

Kim Hanson asked about an email regarding allegations about an athletic program at the schools using the fields without payment. Finance Director Ed Sbordone noted that this is being investigated.

Kim Hanson asked about the possibility of adding an agenda item to tonight's agenda to discuss the possibility of rescinding the \$7,000 sent to Candlewood Lake Authority since it was never requested by the CLA board. It was decided that since this would only move forward if it was approved by CLA and two other towns, there is no need to act on this.

Addition to the Agenda

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to amend the agenda for tonight's meeting to change agenda item #11 to read "Discuss and possibly vote to set date and approve Town Warning for a Special Town Meeting to

consider the 2018-2019 budget surplus.” Kim Hanson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Approval of Minutes

Kim Hanson made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2019 regular meeting as presented. Pat Del Monaco seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Budget Transfers- None

Personnel Report

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the Personnel Report dated September 26, 2019 as presented. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Members of the BOS noted that they were sorry to see Mike McCarthy leave thanked him for his service to the town.

Appointments

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to appoint Don Kellogg as a regular member of the Permanent Building Committee. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to appoint Monica Santos to the Ball Pond Advisory Committee. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to accept the resignation from Ed Sbordone as a regular member of the Permanent Building Committee and to appoint him as an alternate member of the PBC. Kim Hanson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to elevate George Martignetti as a regular member of the Permanent Building Committee. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

NEW BUSINESS

Boat Dock Invoice

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the payment of the Boat Dock invoice for Race Coastal Engineering in the amount of \$4,096.47. Khris Hall seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Vote to amend Town of New Fairfield Debt Policy

Pat Del Monaco noted that the BOF voted unanimously to adopt changes to the Town of New Fairfield Debt policy that was originally adopted in October 2018. Ed Sbordone spoke of the changes to the policy and specifically the increase in the debt ceiling currently set at \$48 million and the annual general fund operating cost ratio of 7.5%. The BOF voted to move the debt ceiling to \$135 million and the percentage up to 15%. The BOF also set a caveat that this policy will be reviewed at least once a year.

Kim Hanson spoke of his concerns regarding the large increase to the debt ceiling and operating cost ratio and that the policy could be changed on a whim. Ed Sbordone noted that this increase would not

affect the Bond rating for the town. BOF Chairman Wes Marsh spoke of the need to change the policy in light of the proposed building project.

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the change to the Town of New Fairfield Debt policy. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 2-1-0 (Motion approved- Kim Hanson opposed)**

Discussion and vote to approve Town Warning to consider and act upon BOS budget surplus

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 Town Meetings that a Town Meeting will be held on Thursday October 10, 2019 at 7:00 P.M. 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 \$132,228.31 of the 2018-2019 town budget as follows: \$18,466.53 to Fire Company Reserve, \$21,860.00 to Fire Company Length of Service, \$15,000.00 to Bridge and Drainage Columbia Drive, \$10,700.00 to Business Machines and Equipment Wide Area Printer, \$20,000.00 to Town Properties Capital Public Works Doors, \$10,000.00 to Zoning Regulations Maintenance, \$12,203.78 to Boat Dock Replacement Lock Box, \$22,293.00 to Finance Salaries and \$1,705.00 to Unclassified Payroll and Benefits Social Security.

Dated at New Fairfield, CT this 26th day of September 2019. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 2-1-0 (Motion approved- Kim Hanson opposed)**

Selectman Kim Hanson spoke of his concerns of setting a precedent of using the budget surplus to fund salaries for adding of employees. He noted that the budget surplus has always been used for capital projects. Finance Director Ed Sbordone spoke of the change in the payroll system and the need to add an additional employee. He noted that this need was not known before the budget process.

Public Comment- Pat Del Monaco reminded everyone that the referendum vote for the proposed school project will be on Saturday, October 5th from 6am to 8pm at MHHS.

Adjournment

Kim Hanson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 pm. Pat Del Monaco seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**