

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

MINUTES  
**Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting**  
**Thursday, March 26, 2020**  
**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 and Town Treasurer

Paul Gouveia gave a brief overview of the rules and procedures for having a virtual meeting.

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

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Public Comment**-None

**Addition to the agenda**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to add agenda item #11A “Discuss and possibly vote on donation to the Senior Center”. Kim Hanson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

**Correspondence and Announcements**- None

**Approval of Minutes**

Kim Hanson made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2020 regular meeting as presented. Khris Hall 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 March 26, 2020 as presented. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

**Appointments**- None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Community Garden Agreement**

Pat Del Monaco noted that the only change from the previous agreement was the date. Kim Hanson noted that the BOE and PBC should be aware that this agreement requires a month notice to back out of in case the land is needed for a future project.

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to accept the Community Garden Agreement as presented. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

**Animal Control Agreement**

Pat Del Monaco noted that Regional Animal Control has formally released New Fairfield from their agreement. They did however, ask that they be allowed to use the actual shelter or kennel in the case that the New Milford kennel is unavailable. There was a brief discussion of making sure that there is no financial obligation on behalf of New Fairfield and that New Fairfield is released from liability. It was decided to renew this agreement on a yearly basis.

Kim Hanson made a motion to table the approval of the Animal Control Agreement. Pat Del Monaco seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

**Vote on boat dock fee payment extension**

Pat Del Monaco spoke of some requests that the town has received about extending the deadline for boat dock fee payments. To date, approximately 100 slips have been paid for, 25 have checks in transit and 25 have not yet paid. She spoke of the challenge of paying online and the possibility of the town ending up with empty slips if people on the waiting list get look elsewhere in the meantime. There was a brief discussion of the optimal date for the extension. There was a brief discussion of what should be done in the event if someone that has already paid asks for a refund.

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to extend the boat dock fee payment until April 30, 2020. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

**Discussion and vote on donation to the Senior Center**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to accept with gratitude a donation in the amount of \$4,013.50 from Collette Travel Services to the Senior Center. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Budget update**

Pat Del Monaco noted that at their March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting, the BOF has directed the BOS to cut \$384,400 from their budget broken down to \$300,000 for capital and nonrecurring and \$84,400 from the operating budget. She spoke of the following proposal to cut the budget:

Capital and Nonrecurring:

Additional Tower Reserve	\$ 25,000
Business Machines (Social Services)	\$ 900
Business Machines (Library)	\$ 2,200
Replace NF17	\$215,000 (Postponed)
Tax Revaluation	\$ 40,000 (Postponed)
Zoning Regulations	\$ 16,900 (Postponed)
Total Capital reductions	\$300,000

Operating:

NW CT Public Service Communications	\$ 5,200.00
Worker’s Comp	\$ 15,000.00
Road Repair	\$ 64,200.00
Total Operating reductions	\$ 84,400.00

There was a discussion among the BOS regarding the proposed cuts and whether further cuts will be necessary. Selectman Kim Hanson spoke of his concerns regarding the ability for the state to continue to pay to the towns thus affecting revenue. It was decided that the BOS will wait until three weeks before the June 15<sup>th</sup> deadline before directing the BOF to set the budget without taxpayer approval.

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to accept the BOS proposed reductions as presented. Kim Hanson seconded the motion. **Vote: 2-1-0 (Motion approved- Kim Hanson opposed)**

### **Coronavirus update**

Pat Del Monaco noted that as of today there are 15 known cases of coronavirus in New Fairfield. She reminded everyone of the importance of practicing social distancing and good personal hygiene. She discouraged people from getting together especially to play basketball. She asked that anyone that knows they have been in contact with someone that has tested positive or has been in a “hot spot” to please self isolate.

Pat Del Monaco noted that Connecticut is now offering qualifying organizations with fewer than 100 employees no interest loans under the Connecticut Recovery Bridge Loan program. These organizations can apply for a loan for the lesser of \$75,000 or 3 months of operating expenses. More information can be found at [www.ct.gov](http://www.ct.gov). Anyone needing assistance can reach out to the New Fairfield Economic Development Commission or the Selectmen’s office.

Pat Del Monaco thanked everyone that donated food to the mobile food pantry at the New Fairfield Congregational Church in conjunction with New Fairfield Senior Services. Food will be distributed on Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> from 3-5pm for anyone that needs it. More information regarding this can be found on the town’s website. Kim Hanson encouraged anyone that needs food before April 2<sup>nd</sup> to contact Cindy White with Social Services. He also encouraged residents to check in on neighbors and to refer them to the town offices if they need any help.

Khrist Hall spoke of the need to self isolate especially in light of the fact that many New Fairfield residents often go back and forth to New York State. She further spoke of an initiative with the Economic Development Commission to research the many programs that may become available in the near future.

### **Discussion of participation in Sustainable CT**

There was a brief discussion of the participation in Sustainable CT and it was decided this would be agreeable as long as there are no expenses to the town.

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to sign the resolution for registering for Sustainable CT. Kim Hanson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

**Public Comment-** Selectman Kim Hanson thanked First Selectman Pat Del Monaco for all the work that she is doing for the town with the Coronavirus outbreak and encouraged residents to stay positive.

### **Adjournment**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 pm. Kim Hanson seconded the motion.

**Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**