

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

**MINUTES**  
**Board of Selectmen Special Meeting**  
**Monday, April 13, 2020**  
**7:30 PM**  
**Virtual meeting via Zoom**

**Members present:**

Pat Del Monaco, First Selectman  
 Khris Hall, Selectman  
 Kim Hanson, Selectman

**Other Town Officials Present:**

Ed Sbordone, Finance Director and Town Treasurer  
 Wes Marsh, BOF Chairman  
 Dr. Rich Sanzo, BOE Director of Business and Operations  
 Kerri Greening, Tax Collector  
 Peggy Katkocin, BOE Chairman  
 Rick Regan, BOE member

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

**Correspondence and Announcements**

Selectman Khris Hall thanked the Fire Department and the Public Works Department for all their hard work with today’s storm with installing generators to town buildings in case of power outages and cleaning up debris around town.

First Selectman Pat Del Monaco noted that she has been in contact with Eversource and they are working through the night to restore power to any homes in town without power.

**Approval of Minutes**

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

**Budget Transfers**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to make the following Inter-Departmental budget transfer in the amount of \$10,000.00. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

It was noted that this transfer was necessary because of extra work due to the coronavirus pandemic.

\$	Transfer From		\$	Transfer To	
\$5,000.00	42100001-110.02	Police-Secretary Salaries	\$10,000.00	4290-110.00	OEM Salaries
\$5,000.00	42100005-130.00	Police-SRO Overtime			
<b>\$10,000.00</b>			<b>\$10,000.00</b>		

**Budget Transfers (con't)**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to make the following Intra-Departmental budget transfer in the amount of \$15,155.00. Kim Hanson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

\$	Transfer From		\$	Transfer To	
\$15,000.00	4310-130.00	Public Works-Overtime	\$15,000.00	4310-112.01	Public Works-Town Engineer
\$155.00	4155-105-00	Board of Assessment Appeals-Elected Salaries	\$155.00	4155-610.00	Board of Assessment Appeals-M&S
<b>\$15,155.00</b>			<b>\$15,155.00</b>		

**Personnel Report-** None

**Appointments-** Pat Del Monaco made a motion to reappoint Peggy Katkocin to the Water Pollution Control Authority. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Vote to allow First Selectman to lock in fuel rates for the fiscal year July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022**

Finance Director Ed Sbordone noted that fuel rates have gone down since the start of the coronavirus pandemic. Locking in rates at this time would save the town approximately \$27,000 and the BOE approximately \$61,000.

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to allow the First Selectman to lock in fuel rates for the fiscal year July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

**Discussion and vote on select tax relief options as provided in Governor’s Executive Order 7S**

Pat Del Monaco spoke of the Governor’s Executive Order 7S concerning two tax relief options. The town is obligated to pick at least one of the options but can offer both and must decide by April 25. The first one is a tax deferral program that allows the town to defer tax payments for 90 days. The grace period for the deferral program would be extended to October 1. The second program is a low interest rate program that establishes a low interest rate for taxes that are currently delinquent for three months starting April 1, 2020 and will revert back to the regular interest rate on July 1, 2020.

Tax Collector Kerrie Greening spoke of the tax deferral program and noted it this would be helpful to taxpayers that are already struggling to pay taxes. There was a brief discussion of the criteria to qualify for these programs. The deferral program applications must be completed by July 1, 2020.

There was a brief discussion of how the tax relief plans will affect cash flow for the town. It was suggested that the town may want to hold off deciding how to use the budget surplus until the effect of COVID 19 on the budget is known.

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to adopt both the tax deferral program and low interest rate program as defined in Governor Lamont’s Executive Order 7S. Khris Hall seconded the motion.

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

**Discussion and vote on Senior Center Programs**

Pat Del Monaco spoke of correspondence from Senior Center Director Kathy Hull regarding the continuation of salaries for Senior Center instructors. The instructors will be paid for classes that were scheduled through the month of March. There was a discussion of the possibility of continuing to pay instructors to teach classes

virtually or for helping the Senior Center in another capacity. It was suggested that it would be beneficial to have as many classes as possible done remotely. Members of the BOS thanked Kathy Hall and her staff for reaching out to seniors in town throughout this whole pandemic.

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to pay the Senior Center instructors for classes missed during the month of March for a total of \$850 and to continue to pay for virtual classes and other work that benefits the Senior Center through the end of the fiscal year. Khris Hall seconded the motion.

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

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Discussion and vote on purchase of property located at 78 Gillotti Road**

Pat Del Monaco noted that the Permanent Building Committee voted to recommend to the BOS the purchase of 78 Gillotti Road for the building of the new high school. Dr. Rich Sanzo gave a brief presentation including pictures of the site location and noted that the BOE also voted to endorse the purchase. He spoke of the three different options that were discussed by the PBC and noted the financial savings with option C and the advantages of using the property at 78 Gillotti Road. The cost to purchase the property at 78 Gillotti Road is \$325,000. As a result, the PBC voted to remove \$452,777 from the project budget. This represents the cost of \$325,000 for the property plus the state reimbursement amount. Additionally, the PBC also decided to move \$447,228 to the contingency for this program. There was a brief discussion of the three site options.

Pat Del Monaco spoke of the procedure for the purchase of this property in light of the governor's executive orders and the suspension of in-person voting. This order provides for the majority vote of the BOS and BOF to pass critical and time sensitive votes. She suggested having a joint meeting of the BOS and BOF on Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. The BOS will vote to authorize the purchase of the property and the BOF will vote to authorize the appropriation. Residents are encouraged to give their public comment either at the April 15 BOF meeting or by email to the BOS or BOF.

Kim Hanson made a motion to table the vote to purchase 78 Gillotti Road. Khris Hall seconded the motion.

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

### **Coronavirus update**

Pat Del Monaco spoke of the many executive orders enacted by Governor Lamont in recent days. She specifically spoke of Executive Order 7T which prohibits short-term rentals except for essential lodgers. This includes vacation and leisure use for Air BNBs and hotels. The enforcement of this is the responsibility of individual towns. Ideas to enforce would be to notify owners of short-term rentals to inform them of this order and encourage compliance.

Pat Del Monaco noted that the Economic Development Commission would like to do a fundraiser selling t-shirts and canvas tote bags to help local businesses. The cost to the EDC for these items is \$5 each. It was suggested that a fund be established and then be disbursed to local businesses in the future. There was a brief discussion of which businesses would be eligible for this. This will be discussed further at the next regular BOS meeting on April 23.

The Social Services and Congregational Food Bank will be accepting donations every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 11am to 2pm in the Congregational Church parking lot. Peg's Mobile Food Pantry is going to be having a food distribution event on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. Kim Hanson thanked the local restaurants for all the great things they are doing to help residents.

Khris Hall noted that many people are shopping at grocery stores without masks and encouraged everyone to wear one. She will be handing out masks on Wednesday, April 15 at Stop and Shop.

**Budget Update**

The BOF will be having a virtual meeting every Wednesday at 7:30 pm. The adoption of the budget will be in early June. Public comment regarding the budget is encouraged.

**Public Comment**- Mike Gill spoke of the Executive Order 7S regarding the potential purchase of 78 Gillotti Road and believed that this only allows for the acquisition of property and not the appropriation of funds.

Pat Del Monaco responded to Mr. Gill's comment and noted that there is legal opinion giving the authority of the appropriation.

**Adjournment**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 pm. Kim Hanson seconded the motion.

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