

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

MINUTES
Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting
Thursday, July 23, 2020
7:30 PM
Virtual meeting via Zoom

Members present:

Pat Del Monaco, First Selectman
Khris Hall, Selectman
Kim Hanson, Selectman
Mike O'Toole, Fire Department
Wes Marsh, BOF Chairman
Jane Landers, BOF member
Cheryl Reedy, BOF member
Mark Werner, BOF alternate member

Other Town Officials Present:

Ed Sbordone, Finance Director and Town Treasurer
Bruce Taylor, Fire Chief
Mike Gill, Fire Department
Cheryl Reedy, BOF member

Quinton Flowers 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 7:35pm.

Pledge of Allegiance- None

Public Comment

Many residents expressed their concerns regarding safety issues, overcrowding, sanitation problems and loud noise throughout town but especially the islands in Candlewood Lake.

Darcy and Sean Daly spoke of problems with noise in their Charcoal Ridge neighborhood and Elaine and Stephen Hicks spoke of noise problems near the Town Park.

Correspondence and Announcements

Pat Del Monaco announced that the Split Decision concert has been rescheduled to Thursday, July 30 at Memorial Field and the movie Trolls has been rescheduled to Friday, July 24 also at Memorial Field. Both events are weather dependent. Information regarding cancellations can be found on the Parks and Recreation Facebook page. Pat Del Monaco noted that she will also add cancellation information to the Town's Facebook page.

Approval of Minutes

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2020 meeting as presented. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to add "Approval of the June 25 BOS meeting minutes" to the agenda. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 25, 2020 meeting as presented. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 2-0-1 (Motion approved- Kim Hanson abstained)**

Budget Transfers

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to make the following Intra-departmental transfer in the amount of \$1,525.00. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

\$	Transfer From		\$	Transfer To	
\$150.00	1-4215/610.0	Communications Center-Materials and Supplies	\$150.00	1-4215/660.00	Communications Center-Emergency Notification
\$1,375.00	1-4151/610.00	Board of Finance-Materials and supplies	\$1,375.00	1-4151/336.00	Board of Finance-Town Audit
\$1,525.00			\$1,525.00		

Boat Dock Invoice

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the invoice from Race Engineering in the amount of \$1,095.00. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Personnel Report

Pat Del Monaco made motion to approve the Personnel Report dated July 23, 2020 as presented. Kim Hanson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Appointments

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to reappoint Tom Edwards to the Parks and Rec commission. Kim Hanson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to reappoint Mark Lamanna to the Parks and Rec commission. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Candlewood Lake Island

Pat Del Monaco noted that she is part of a newly formed group designed to tackle issues that currently exist on Blueberry Island, Button Island and Sand Island in Candlewood Lake. This group is made up of representatives from the municipalities and DEEP, Candlewood Lake Authority, First Light and Encon Police. These issues involve gatherings of multiple people creating a lot of noise. This is especially problematic during the COVID pandemic. It was noted that there are no bathrooms on these islands thus causing potential sanitation problems. Large groups of people are being dropped off without means to evacuate if necessary. It was noted that all three of these islands are below the 440 line and thus are owned by First Light. Currently, they are open to the public free of charge and do not close at a specific time.

Joan Archer gave a written statement which includes a map of the lake. She spoke of the overcrowding, problems with alcohol and excessive noise. It was noted that the Lake Patrol has voiced concerns but they have limited jurisdiction.

Jeff Main spoke of the problems with overcrowding and noted that since it is First Light property, FERC should be involved in the solution on how to curb these issues.

Pat Del Monaco gave a brief description of the first meeting of this group. There will be a follow up meeting of this group next week. She spoke of reaching out to the governor's office to ask for help with enforcement regarding large groups.

There was a discussion of a potential noise ordinance. Selectman Khris Hall spoke of noise ordinances currently in Brookfield and Danbury. Selectman Kim Hanson spoke of the responsibility of DEEP to enforce the rules and not to defer the enforcement to the municipalities. It was decided to discuss the lake issues and noise ordinance at the next BOS meeting.

STEAP Grant

Pat Del Monaco noted that the governor has released STEAP grant provisions for this year. There is a limit of \$128,000 with first priority given to projects that are specifically needed due to COVID 19. She spoke of the need for a new ventilation system for Town Hall and Annex. Town Engineer Tony Iadarola has had discussions with a HVAC firm regarding the best options for this project.

2020 Homeland Security Grant

Pat Del Monaco noted that the town applies for this grant every year and it is used to help fund the salary for the Emergency Management Director.

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to adopt the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Town of New Fairfield may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (formerly the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security) any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Pat Del Monaco, as First Selectman of the Town of New Fairfield, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Town of New Fairfield and to do and perform all acts and things which she deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents, including, but not limited to, executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by such documents.

The undersigned further certifies that Pat Del Monaco now holds the office of First Selectman and that she has held that office since November 21, 2017.

Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

60 Sawmill Road

Pat Del Monaco spoke of a structure fire that occurred at 60 Saw Mill Road where firefighter foam was used that contained pfa's. Due to this, DEEP has requested sampling of wells. Three drinking water wells were sampled in the near area and all three contained pfa's. One of the wells had a sample that exceeded the criteria limit set by EPA. These wells must be resampled within 30 days. The initial proposal for this work is approximately \$4,900.00 but there may be a way to reduce the cost by shopping around. There was a discussion among the members of the BOS and members of the Fire Dept. as to how to fund the resampling and possible remediation. There was a question about the role of the property owner regarding the funding of this.

Boat Dock

Pat Del Monaco gave an update on the boat docks and noted that the bid was received in March shortly before everything shut down due to COVID 19. She noted that they would still like to get the first phase done this fall. She spoke of the need to do this as soon as possible since the uneven tension is causing the anchoring system to break. She referred to the project projections and noted that the cost to do this work is approximately \$830,000. There was a brief discussion of the possibility that the town could do some of the work themselves to lower the price. Demolition and disposal can be done by the town as well as replacing the brackets on the anchors. This still would leave the fund approximately \$200,000 short thus there was a discussion of the possibility of borrowing against the boat dock replacement fund for 2021-2022 and 2022-2023. It was decided to discuss this with the Board of Finance at their next meeting.

Public Comment

Jeff Hurwitz spoke of issues with noise and overcrowding and parties on Candlewood Lake islands and the Hollywyle area that has impacted quiet enjoyment of neighbors and safety issues especially during the COVID pandemic. He spoke of his frustration with the attitude of the offenders and inability for the police to enforce any rules.

Adjournment

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 pm. Kim Hanson seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Kloos

Received by Email on 7/29/2020 @ 8:30 am
By: Holly Z. Smith, Asst. Town Clerk, New Fairfield