

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

MINUTES
Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting
Thursday, August 27, 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
Anthony Yorio, BOF 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 7:35pm.

Pledge of Allegiance- None

Public Comment

Anthony Yorio spoke in support of the Gun Club in town and specifically how it may be affected by the proposed noise ordinance. He noted that this ordinance would be difficult to enforce and noted that there are other mechanisms to curtail noise and this proposed ordinance may have unintended consequences. He asked that the Gun Club be kept informed in any updates regarding the proposed noise ordinance.

First Selectman Pat Del Monaco spoke of the reason for the proposed noise ordinance and noted that the need for an ordinance has primarily been driven by loud parties particularly at night. She asked Mr. Yorio for suggestions on ways to curb loud parties without infringing on the rights of others. Mr. Yorio spoke of the Breach of Peace provision that can be used to curtail loud nighttime parties and thus there is no need for additional regulations.

Bill Parker spoke of the noise ordinance specifically in regard to motorcycles and ATVs. He asked that the noise ordinance include a provision that mufflers be required on these vehicles.

Correspondence and Announcements

First Selectman Pat Del Monaco announced that the September 11 Ceremony will be held on Friday, September 11 at 6:30 pm at Veterans' Park. This will be an in-person event as long as the COVID metrics remain low. This event will be limited to 100 people with masks and social distancing required. More information about this event will be available on the Town's website and in the Town Tribune.

Pat Del Monaco announced that PURA has launched an investigation into Eversource's response to Tropical Storm Isaias. New Fairfield is filing a motion to intervene and will provide testimony on the

town’s experience. It is also requested that individual experiences be documented. Customers can document their experiences either by email or paper mail. Information on this can be found on the Town’s website.

Pat Del Monaco spoke of the election on November 3. Polls will be open from 6am to 8pm for in-person voting. Absentee ballots will be handled differently this year. The Secretary of State will be sending applications for absentee ballots to all registered voters within the first two weeks of September. Completed absentee applications should be delivered the Town Clerk of New Fairfield either by mail or at the drop box at Town Hall. Absentee ballots will be mailed beginning Friday, October 2. Anyone with questions can call either the Selectmen’s office or the Town Clerk’s office.

Selectman Khris Hall noted that there is a great need for people to help with the election both before and on Election Day. Anyone interesting in helping out should contact the Registrar’s of Voters.

There was a brief discussion on whether or not the Board of Selectmen was required to vote on setting the time for the election. First Selectman Del Monaco did not believe this was required but will verify with the Town Clerk.

Pat Del Monaco noted that the next Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day will be on Saturday, September 12 from 9am to 2pm at Brookfield High School. Information on what is permissible to bring is on the New Fairfield Town’s website.

Pat Del Monaco spoke of the slight increase in COVID cases in Danbury and encouraged everyone to remain vigilant and to continue to wear a mask and maintain social distancing.

Approval of Minutes

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to amend the agenda to include the approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of August 13, 2020. Kim Hanson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

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

Budget Transfers

Pat Del Monaco made a motion approve the transfer of the following Intra-Departmental transfer in the amount of \$5,000.00. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

\$	Transfer From		\$	Transfer To	
\$5,000.00	4160/260.00	Uncladss P & B Workers Compensation	\$5,000.00	4160/130.01	Unclass P & B-Overtime Contingency
\$5,000.00			\$5,000.00		

Personnel Report- None

Appointments

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to reappoint Elisa Beckett-Flores to the Parks and Recreation Commission. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

The BOS thanked Elisa Beckett-Flores for her work on the Parks and Recreation commission. Selectman Kim Hanson thanked the Parks and Rec commission for all their hard work with athletic events and encouraged them to host more artistic and cultural events.

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to reappoint Cynthia LaCour to the Commission on the Aging. Kim Hanson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to reappoint Janet Loya to the Commission on the Aging. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to reappoint Maureen Salerno to the Commission on the Aging. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to reappoint Mark Werner to the Economic Development Commission. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

OLD BUSINESS

Candlewood Lake Island update

Pat Del Monaco noted that due to the spike in COVID cases in Danbury, Latins Cove Boat launch is closed and the Squantz Boat launch is open to only 50% of its normal capacity.

STEAP Grant Resolution

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

“RESOLVED, that First Selectman Patricia Del Monaco be, and hereby is, authorized to accept on behalf of the Town of New Fairfield, a 2020 Connecticut STEAP Grant in the amount of \$128,205.00 for Town Hall and Annex HVAC improvements; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that First Selectman Patricia Del Monaco is hereby authorized to enter into and execute any and all agreements, contracts and documents necessary to obtain said 2020 STEAP Grant with the State of Connecticut”.

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

Pat Del Monaco noted that this application is for a grant from the State of Connecticut to improve the HVAC system in both Town Hall and the Annex.

Noise Ordinance discussion

There was a discussion regarding a draft noise ordinance put together by Selectman Khris Hall. Selectman Hanson spoke of his concerns that the ordinance would be difficult to enforce and he is not in favor of this ordinance. He spoke of the difficulty of measuring decibel levels. There was a discussion of whether or not residents can be charged with “Breach of Peace” instead of enacting a noise ordinance. It was noted that this draft was based on ordinances from surrounding towns. It was noted that a Town Meeting would be required in order to enact this ordinance. There was a suggestion of checking with Danbury to see how they handle noise problems.

DEEP Municipal Waste Reduction Initiative

Pat Del Monaco noted that some waste energy facilities in Connecticut will be closing that will force the state to send waste to other states thus making the costs increase. DEEP is putting together some stakeholders to come up with some creative ideas to reduce the amount of waste. This initiative is sponsored by DEEP and municipalities are encouraged to participate. There was a discussion among the Selectmen about ways to reduce waste and whether or not federal laws would help. There was a discussion of whether or not an increase in fees would affect the amount of waste that is produced.

Public Comment- None

Tower Hill Lease Update

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:30 pm to discuss the Tower Hill Lease and to invite Finance Director Ed Sbordone into the Executive Session. Kim Hanson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:36 pm. Kim Hanson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Adjournment

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 pm. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Kloos

Received by Email on 9/1/2020 @ 8:30 a.m
By: Holly Z Smith, Asst. Town Clerk, New Fairfield