

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

MINUTES

Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting
Thursday, September 24, 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
Joan Archer, CLA delegate (NF)
Marianne Gaffey, CLA delegate (Brookfield)
Mark Howarth, Executive Director CLA
Jeff Main, CLA delegate (NF)
Nick Mellas, CLA Chief of Patrol
State Senator Julie Kushner

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 7:30pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

Knollcrest resident Ryan Lewis spoke of his concerns with the crowds on Candlewood Lake this summer. He spoke of safety and environmental concerns with these crowds.

Correspondence and Announcements

First Selectman Pat Del Monaco announced that applications for absentee ballots were sent to all eligible voters. Anyone wishing to vote via absentee ballot must fill out this application and send it to the Town Clerk via the ballot box at Town Hall or mail. Absentee ballots will be mailed out beginning Friday, October 2.

First Selectman Pat Del Monaco announced that the Town filed a motion for Immediate and Emergency relief with PURA as a result of Eversource's response to Tropical Storm Isaias. PURA's response was to compel Eversource to deploy "make safe" crews to every town in the event of another storm. Eversource will now be required to have outage reporting systems to be up and running and that their Community Liaison program be implemented.

Selectman Kim Hanson encouraged everyone applying for an absentee ballot to do it in a timely matter and not wait until the last minute. He spoke of his disappointment with the PURA decision in that it doesn't impose any penalties for Eversource.

Selectman Khris Hall noted that the Community Garden is closing since the property is needed for the new high school. She noted that volunteers are needed to keep the garden running. There are a few options for alternative locations in Town.

Kim Hanson suggested using the old greenhouse field by the Senior Center for a Community Garden. Pat Del Monaco noted that this property has been considered but was deemed too wet. Kim Hanson suggested raised gardens that were used in the past.

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 September 10, 2020. Khris Hall seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Budget Transfers

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to transfer \$1600 from Bigelow Road intersection to Building Repair Reserve Fund. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Personnel Report

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the Personnel Report dated September 24, 2020 as presented. Kim Hanson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

The entire BOS thanked Police Officer Oscar Johnson and Health Department Administrator Jane McGowan for all their hard work and wished both of them well in their retirements.

Appointments

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to reappoint TomQuigley to the Inland/Wetlands Commission. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

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

OLD BUSINESS

Candlewood Lake Authority Public Safety Presentations

Joan Archer from the Candlewood Lake Authority gave a presentation regarding the need for new patrol boats for the lake. She spoke of the increased crowds for both the lake and the islands this summer due to COVID 19. She noted that normally two officers go out together on one boat but since COVID there are two boats running side by side causing much more wear and tear on the boats. She spoke of the role of CLA Marine Patrol and the number of boating accidents on the lake this summer. Marianne Gaffey and Nick Mellas from CLA spoke of the increased use of boats this year and the additional wear and tear due to COVID 19.

Joan Archer spoke of the possibility of asking all five lake surrounding towns for \$60,000 to purchase boats. She noted that the boats should be ordered by October 2020 in order to be delivered by May 2021.

There was a discussion of the cost of the boats and the role of the surrounding towns regarding the funding of the boats. Pat Del Monaco asked if First Light or DEEP have been approached for possible sources of funding. Kim Hanson asked about the anticipated life of the boats and why there was not a long range plan for expensive items such as boats. He noted that this should be discussed at budget time. He suggested that representatives from all five towns pressure DEEP for funding. He asked about the possibility of purchasing a used boat.

Pat Del Monaco noted that the BOS is not ready to vote on this issue at this time and spoke of the possibility of meeting with First Light and DEEP.

Senator Julie Kushner noted that she has a lot of concerns about the status of the lake and noted that she would be interested in having a meeting with DEEP.

COVID 19 update

Pat Del Monaco noted that there is currently one active COVID 19 case in New Fairfield. She noted that she received a lot of positive feedback about recent updates and will continue to give updates on active cases every week. It was noted that there were five active cases last week. Once a case is past ten days it is no longer considered active.

Pat Del Monaco announced that Governor Lamont announced that there will be Phase III reopenings effective October 8th. Restaurants and Personal care facilities will be able to go from 50% capacity to 75% capacity with a cap of 100 people.

Noise Ordinance discussion

Pat Del Monaco spoke of the proposed Noise Ordinance and noted that it is being redrafted to include both quantitative and qualitative elements. It was decided to table until the next meeting.

Kim Hanson made a motion to table this item until the next regular BOS meeting scheduled for October 8, 2020. Pat Del Monaco seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Fiscal year 2019-2020 budget surplus

Pat Del Monaco spoke of an additional appropriation for fiscal year 2019-2020 which represents 100% of the 2019-2020 expenditure surplus. It was noted that 100% of the revenue surplus will remain in the General Fund.

Pat Del Monaco made a motion approve the transfer of the following Additional Appropriation for fiscal year 2019-2020 in the amount of \$623,027.90 Khris Hall seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

\$	Transfer From		\$	Transfer To	
\$597,828.43	E25321	General Fund- Unreserved (2019-2020 surplus)	\$225,000.00	301-4150-0000- 000/700.04	Cap & Non-Boat Dock replacement lock box
\$25,199.47	E25321	General Fund- Unreserved (Prior Year Close outs)	\$215,000.00	301-4330-0000- 000/742.03	Cap & Non-Public Works Truck and Equipment
			\$70,000.00	301-4330-0001- 000/742.04	Cap & Non-Bridge and Drainage Sewer Study
			\$56,127.90	001-4310-0000- 000/451.00	Public Works Road Repair
			\$40,000.00	301-4153-0000- 000/337.01	Cap & Non-Revaluation
			\$16,900.00	301-4192-0000- 000/700.05	Cap & Non-Zoning Regulations Maintenance
\$623,027.90			\$623,027.90		

Public Comment- None

Adjournment

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 pm. Khris Hall seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Kloos

**Received by Email on 9/28/2020 at 8:30 a.m.
By: Holly Z. Smith, Asst. Town Clerk, New Fairfield**