

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

**MINUTES**

**Board of Selectmen Special Meeting**  
**Tuesday, December 15 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  
Mark Werner, BOF Alternate member  
Bruce Taylor, Fire Chief

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-** None

**Correspondence and Announcements**

Pat Del Monaco noted that there is a Winter Storm Warning in effect for Wednesday, December 16 to Thursday, December 17. She reminded everyone that cars cannot be parked on the road. For future reference she noted that salt and sand is available at the Drop Off Center during open hours.

Kim Hanson announced that glass now needs to be separated from other recycling at the Drop Off Center.

Khris Hall noted that she attended a recent meeting of the Candlewood Lake Authority and new officers were elected. Marianne Gaffey will serve as Chairman and Joan Archer will serve as Vice Chairman and Nick Mellis from New Fairfield was approved as head of the Candlewood Lake Marine Patrol. She thanked outgoing Chairman Phyllis Schaer for her leadership.

**Approval of Minutes**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 24, 2020. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

**Budget Transfers**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to make the following Inter -Departmental transfer in the amount of \$50,000. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

\$	Transfer From		\$	Transfer To	
\$50,000.00	E25301	Municipal Water System Fund 215 Balance	\$50,000.00	E25321	General Fund
<b>\$50,000.00</b>			<b>\$50,000.00</b>		

**Personnel Report**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the Personnel Report dated December 10, 2020 as presented. Kim Hanson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

**Appointments**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to appoint Ernie Lehman to the Library Board. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

The entire BOS congratulated Mr. Lehman and thanked him for his many years of service to the town.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**COVID 19 update**

Pat Del Monaco gave an update regarding COVID 19 and noted that New Fairfield has 58 new cases since Friday, December 9 with a total of 109 active cases. She noted that Connecticut currently has an infection rate of about 6%. She strongly recommended that residents stay home when possible, wear masks and social distance. A COVID 19 chart with updates is available on the New Fairfield website. There are daily updates on [ct.gov/coronavirus](http://ct.gov/coronavirus).

Khris Hall spoke of the group in town that is working weekly regarding the vaccine distribution. It is hopeful that vaccines will begin in New Fairfield by mid-January. Health care workers will be in the first group of people to be vaccinated and then senior citizens and essentials workers. This initiative is working in conjunction with the Town of Sherman. Health Director Tim Simpkins will be putting an article in the Town Tribune this week explaining the process.

Pat Del Monaco spoke of the proposed COVID budget. It was noted that this budget contains many unknowns but the most expensive element is the cost of medical professionals to distribute the vaccine. It was noted that the town has been in contact with Ridgefield Visiting Nurses Association to hire personnel to distribute the vaccinations. Other components of this COVID budget include communications and advertising of this vaccine, intense cleaning of the clinic location, community testing and increased hours for the Director of Emergency Management.

Pat Del Monaco spoke of Contact Tracing that has been done in New Fairfield and noted that this cost was previously covered by a grant which has now run out. An amount of \$25,000 has been put in the budget for contract testing. She spoke of the possibility of getting a community testing sites in New Fairfield. The Town is currently recruiting medical personnel that live in New Fairfield requesting them to volunteer at the clinic which could reduce the cost of vaccinations. There is also a need for non-medical volunteers. It was noted that anyone that volunteers for the clinic will receive the vaccine on the day of the clinic.

Kim Hanson asked about the possibility of saving some money by asking the schools to produce the communications video.

There was a brief discussion of the COVID budget and if \$177,300 is enough to cover the needs. It was noted that this budget will be set up as a Capital and Nonrecurring fund so that any left over money can be returned to the unappropriated Cap and Non.

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve an Additional Appropriation of \$200,000 to be used for expenses related to COVID 19. Kim Hanson seconded the motion.

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

**Noise Ordinance** – No update at this time.

### **COVID relief for Small Business**

Pat Del Monaco spoke of the possibility of financial relief for small businesses in New Fairfield. She noted that legally they cannot defer property tax payments for the businesses. There was a brief discussion of a grant program. It was decided to discuss this with the Board of Finance in the near future.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Vote on 2021 Meeting Dates**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the calendar of meeting dates for 2021 as presented. Kim Hanson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

#### **Board of Selectmen Budget for 2021-2022**

The BOS discussed the budget for 2021-2022. Specific items included an increase in material and supplies. Ed Sbordone noted that the total budget for the department would be \$201,096 which represents an increase of \$18,567 for a 10.17% increase. This will be discussed further at the Budget Workshop.

#### **Connecticut Fair Grant**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to accept a grant in the amount of \$500.00 for scene lighting for fire investigations. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

There was a brief discussion of the process of applying for grants.

### **Community Garden location**

Pat Del Monaco noted that the Community Garden that was located at the high school needs to be moved due to the school construction project. She suggested the old Creamery property next to the Senior Center for a new location. Gary Mummert noted that the site at the high school has been closed and noted that the committee has four new leaders. Khris Hall thanked Gary Mummert, Linda Fox and everyone involved in the Community Garden project.

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to use the Creamery property next to the Senior Center as the location for the Community Garden. Khris Hall seconded the motion.

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

### **Public Comment**

John McCartney thanked everyone involved with the Community Garden and spoke of the value that it brings to town.

### **Executive Session**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:20 pm to discuss on-going legal matters and discuss the tentative agreement between the Town of New Fairfield and Teamsters 677 Dispatchers and to invite Finance Director Ed Sbordone into the Executive Session for such time as it takes to discuss on-going legal matters. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to come back from Executive Session at 8:39 pm. Kim Hanson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the tentative agreement between the Town of New Fairfield 911 full-time communications center dispatchers and the Town of New Fairfield with the minor changes discussed in Executive Session. Khris Hall seconded the motion.

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

### **Adjournment**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 pm. Kim Hanson seconded the motion.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Kloos

Received by Email on 12/25/2020 @ 12:29 pm  
by Holly Z Smith, Asst. Town Clerk, New Fairfield