

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

MINUTES
Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting
Thursday, January 28, 2021
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
 Elissa Johnson, Ball Pond Advisory Committee

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- None

Approval of Minutes

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 14, 2021. Kim Hanson 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 \$83,000.00. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

\$	Transfer From		\$	Transfer To	
\$8,000.00	001-4160-0000-000/140.00	Unclassified P&B Salary Adjustments	\$6,000.00	001-4140-0000-000/110.00	Registrar of Voters Salaries
			\$2,000.00	001-4140-0000-000/610.00	Registrar of Voters-M&S
\$40,000.00	001-4210-000-000/110.00	Police-Salaries	\$75,000.00	001-4310-0000-000/112.01	Public Works-Town Engineer
\$35,000.00	001-4210-005-000/13.00	Police-SRO Overtime			
\$83,000.00			\$83,000.00		

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to make the following Intra-Departmental transfer in the amount of \$20,000.00. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

\$	Transfer From		\$	Transfer To	
\$1,000.00	001-4161-0000-001/332.01	Professional Services-Legal Land	\$20,000.00	001-4161-0000-004/332.01	Professional Services-Legal General Other
\$7,000.00	001-4161-0000-003/332.01	Professional Services-Legal Labor			
\$1,000.00	001-4161-0000-005/332.01	Professional Services-Legal Health			
\$5,000.00	001-4161-0000-007/332.01	Professional Services-Legal Zoning			
\$5,000.00	001-4161-0000-008/332.01	Professional Services-Legal ZBA			
\$1,000.00	001-4161-0000-009/332.01	Professional Services-Legal In/Wetlands			
\$20,000.00			\$20,000.00		

Personnel Report

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to approve the Personnel Report dated January 28, 2021 as presented. Kim Hanson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

The entire BOS thanked Margaret Golden for her many years of service to the library and wished her well in her retirement. They further congratulated Sioban Gilligan in her new position as Assistant Library Director.

Appointments

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to appoint Terra Volpe to the Parks and Recreation Commission. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

It was noted that this appointment is to replace Elisa Beckett-Flores who has resigned from the Parks and Recreation Commission. The BOS thanked Elisa for her service to the Parks and Rec Commission.

OLD BUSINESS

COVID 19 update

Pat Del Monaco noted that the infection rate for COVID 19 in New Fairfield has come down slightly but stressed that it is still important to remain vigilant with safety precautions.

The vaccine clinic is expected to start on February 2nd. An Alert Now message will go out over the weekend to update residents on the status of the clinic. These clinics will be open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays by appointment only. Currently, appointments are available online through VAMS for residents ages 75 and over. Anyone having trouble accessing the VAMS website can contact the Senior Center or Selectmen's office.

There was a brief update on COVID testing in New Fairfield and it was noted that the town is having difficulty getting testing supplies due to its proximity to Danbury.

Khris Hall spoke of the vaccination clinics that will be held for the next few months at the Senior Center. There will be a practice run on Monday, February 1st to make sure that everything is running smoothly. She thanked the many volunteers that have helped to make this clinic possible.

There was a brief discussion of the budget for COVID expenses. It was noted that the amount of money budgeted for Ridgefield VNA is less than originally planned since the town has been very successful recruiting volunteers. It was also noted that Sherman will participate in the clinics and will contribute to 20% of the expenses.

Noise Ordinance – This will be discussed further at the February 11th meeting.

COVID relief for Small Business

Pat Del Monaco noted that she contacted the Town Attorney regarding COVID relief for small businesses in New Fairfield. It was noted that this fund must be established by Town Ordinance. It was decided that the Town Attorney will research what surrounding towns have for this. It was noted that property taxes cannot be abated in Connecticut unless it is specifically mentioned in statute. This will be discussed further at the next BOS meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

CT DEEP grant for Ball Pond

Elissa Johnson from Ball Pond Advisory Committee spoke of a grant application for Ball Pond that can be used for control of invasive species and the identification and monitoring of cyanobacteria. The minimum amount for this grant is \$2,500. The Ball Pond Advisory Committee plans to apply for \$2,960.11. It was noted that there is a lot of volunteers willing to give in-kind donations towards this project. There was a brief discussion of the possibility of providing a stipend to a graduate student for some research work.

Kim Hanson made a motion to approve the grant proposal from the Ball Pond Advisory Committee for matching funds for a cyanobacteria study as presented with the stipulation that a possible change to the \$2,289.12 in-kind donation being reduced by \$700.00 and up to an additional \$700.00 funding from BPAC. Pat Del Monaco seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)

New Fairfield Tax Abatement Committee

Pat Del Monaco spoke of a conversation with the Town Attorney regarding a statute that allows for the BOS to provide a tax abatement for anyone that is poor and unable to pay taxes. Since this is a standing committee instead of an ad-hoc committee, an ordinance is necessary to establish this committee. There was a brief discussion of an existing committee such as the Board of Assessment Appeals serving in this role. It was decided to see what surrounding towns do for this and discuss it more at the next meeting.

Donations to Social Services

Pat Del Monaco read a letter from Director of Social Services Cindy White regarding donations made to New Fairfield Social Services from the period between June 5 and December 16, 2020 for an aggregate amount of \$9,675 to be allocated as follows:

- Social Services Fund- \$3,680.00
- Food Pantry- \$5,495.00
- Fuel Bank- \$500.00

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to accept with gratitude donations to Social Services in the amount of \$9,675.00. Kim Hanson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Public Comment- None

Executive Session for 13 and 15 Route 37

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 8:34pm to discuss 13 and 15 Route 37. Kim Hanson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:54pm. Khris Hall seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Adjournment

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 pm. Kim Hanson seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Kloos

Received by Email on 2/1/2021 @ 8:30 am
by Holly Z Smith, Asst. Town Clerk, New Fairfield