

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

MINUTES

Board of Finance Regular Meeting
Wednesday, March 10, 2021
7:30 PM
Virtual meeting via Zoom

Members present via Zoom

Wes Marsh, Chairman
Michael Cammarota
Jane Landers
Cheryl Reedy
Anthony Yorio
Mark Werner, Alternate
Greg Williams, Alternate

Members present not present

Tom Garben

Other Town Officials Present via Zoom

Ed Sbordone, Finance Director and Town Treasurer
Pat Del Monaco, First Selectman
Khris Hall, Selectman
Kim Hanson, Selectman
Dr. Rich Sanzo, BOE Director of Business and Operations
Dr. Pat Cosentino, Superintendent of Schools
Julie Luby, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
James D'Amico, High School Principal
Scott Rohwedder, High School Assistant Principal
Christine Baldelli, Middle School Principal
Cheryl Milo, Middle School Assistant Principal
James Mandracchia, Meeting House Hill School Principal
Allyson Story, Meeting House Hill School Assistant Principal
Mark Ottush, Athletic Director
Melissa Busnel, Special Education Supervisor
Peggy Katkocin, BOE Chairman
Rick Regan, BOE member

Call To Order Chairman Wes Marsh called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

Paul Gouveia gave a brief overview of the rules and procedures for having a virtual meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

Correspondence and Announcements

Michael Cammarota introduced New Fairfield High School Senior Andrew Tompkins who will be attending BOF meetings and interviewing BOF members to learn about finance for his SEE (Senior Enrichment Experience) project. Andrew Tompkins thanked the BOF for this opportunity.

Public Comment- None

Approval of Minutes

Michael Cammarota made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2021 regular meeting as presented. Cheryl Reedy seconded the motion.

Jane Landers made a motion to amend the minutes for the February 17, 2021 meeting to add an addendum to correct that BOE Chairman Peggy Katkocin attended the Pension and Bonding subcommittee instead of First Selectman Pat Del Monaco. Cheryl Reedy seconded the motion.

Vote on amendment: 5-0-0 (Motion approved)

Vote on motion as amended: 5-0-0 (Motion approved)

Jane Landers made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2021 special meeting minutes as presented. Michael Cammarota seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion approved)

Appointments

Anthony Yorio made a motion to revisit agenda item #3 “Appointments” and to elevate Greg Williams to a full member for the purpose of tonight’s meeting in Tom Garben’s absence. Michael Cammarota seconded the motion. **Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Discussion of Medical Plan for 2021/2022

Tom Kowalchik from USI spoke of the medical plan for 2021/2022. He spoke of how COVID has affected elective surgeries and the possibility of more elective surgeries this year that were delayed last year. There was a discussion of Individual Stop Loss (ISL) vs. Aggregate Stop Loss (ASL) and the premiums associated. It was noted that no one has been identified as a laser claim. Mr. Kowalchik will come back to a meeting in the near future with updated simplified charts.

Pension Commission update

Mark Werner spoke of the Pension Commission and noted that the Board of Education has delegated Town Treasurer Ed Sbordone as a representative to the Pension Commission. This commission held their first meeting on March 1st.

Audit Subcommittee meeting with auditor

Wes Marsh noted that he serves on the audit subcommittee along with Jane Landers and Michael Cammarota. They will plan a meeting with the auditor sometime during the week of March 22nd.

Discussion of BOE and BOS requested budgets for 2021-2022

Wes Marsh spoke of the process for budget planning and spoke of the challenge of balancing the needs of the town and schools vs. the taxpayer’s ability to pay. He spoke of recent budget referendums and the number of active voters. The taxable grand list was compared to the Town of Brookfield.

There was a discussion among the members of the BOF which included adjustments to property taxes such as elderly relief and fire department tax abatement.

Finance Director Ed Sbordone spoke of debt service and how it will affect the budget and the possibility of 20 year bonding vs. 25 year bonding. There was also a discussion of taking money from the General Fund and how it would affect the AAA rating.

First Selectman Pat Del Monaco spoke of the Federal COVID stimulus package for the town and spoke of the uses for this grant and noted that it must be used by the end of 2024.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino and Director of Business and Operations Dr. Rich Sanzo spoke of COVID grants for education and specifically the ESSER grant and the American Rescue Fund.

Wes Marsh spoke of the five main parts of the budget which include payroll, non-payroll, capital and nonrecurring, debt service and medical. He noted that the budget as stands would have an increase of 5.99%. In order to go down to 4.99%, \$500,000 must be cut from the budget. This will be discussed further at upcoming BOF meetings.

Public Comment

BOE Chairman Peggy Katkocin thanked the BOF for the positive comments about the schools made at the March 6th meeting. She spoke in favor of the 20 year bond for the new schools instead of the 25 year bond and thanked Finance Director Ed Sbordone for the work done on this.

Future Agenda items

- Budget Planning
- Medical
- Federal COVID grants
- Boat dock invoice

Board Member Comments

Members of the BOF spoke of their desire to have as many taxpayers as possible involved in the budget process.

Adjournment

Greg Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:51 pm. Jane Landers seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

**Received by email on 3/15/2021 @ 12:05 p.m.
By: Holly Z Smith, Asst. Town Clerk, New Fairfield**