

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

MINUTES
Board of Finance Special Meeting
Wednesday, May 5, 2021
7:30 PM
Virtual meeting via Zoom

Members present via Zoom

Wes Marsh, Chairman
Michael Cammarota
Jane Landers
Cheryl Reedy
Anthony Yorio
Terry Friedman, Alternate
Mark Werner, Alternate

Members Absent

Tom Garben
Greg Williams, Alternate

Other Town Officials Present via Zoom

Ed Sbordone, Finance Director and Town Treasurer
Pat Del Monaco, First Selectman
Khris Hall, Selectman
Dr. Pat Cosentino, Superintendent of Schools
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

Appointments

Cheryl Reedy made a motion to appoint Terry Friedman to a full voting member for the purpose of this meeting in Tom Garben's absence. Jane Landers seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion approved)

Correspondence and Announcements

Wes Marsh read some emails sent to the Board of Finance regarding the budget. These emails expressed concerns regarding potential tax increases for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

Public Comment-None

Approval of Minutes

Jane Landers made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2021 regular meeting as presented. Michael Cammarota seconded the motion. **Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Discussion of final mark up for the 2021-2022 budget

Wes Marsh spoke of the final mark up for both the Town and the Education budget. He noted that there is still no information from the State regarding funds that may come in for COVID relief. First Selectman Pat Del Monaco noted that the Town is expected to get information regarding these funds by Tuesday, May 11th.

There was a discussion of whether or not to recommend a budget to a Town Meeting or if the BOF should wait until more information is received. There was a suggestion of budgeting excess revenue in anticipation of the COVID relief funds and also the possibility of decreasing the amount for the medical plan. There was a brief discussion of whether or not there are restrictions on the COVID relief fund money.

It was noted that 2.81% is that increase for the debt service for the two school projects. Some members of the BOF suggested that the increase should not be any more than the amount for the debt service.

It was decided to hold a special BOF meeting on Wednesday, May 12th to do the final mark up for the budget. Wes Marsh reviewed the timeline for this and noted that waiting until May 12th would have the referendum sometime in the beginning of June.

Jane Landers made a motion that the BOF hold a special BOF meeting on Wednesday, May 12th at 7:30pm to discuss and do a final mark up on the 2021-2022 budget. Michael Cammarota seconded the motion. **Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Public Comment

BOE Chairman Peggy Katkocin thanked the BOF members for their hard work and perspective on the budget and noted that many comments made at the BOE meetings have mostly been in favor of keeping things in the budget and paying additional taxes if necessary.

Future Agenda items

A special meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 12th to discuss the budget and vote on the final mark up.

Board Member Comments

Members of the Board of Finance thanked their fellow board members and anyone from the public for a respectful and meaningful discussion regarding the budget. They encouraged members of the public to send feedback before the May 12th special meeting.

Adjournment

Michael Cammarota made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 pm. Jane Landers seconded the motion. **Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)**