

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

**MINUTES**

**Board of Finance Regular Meeting**  
**Wednesday, March 16, 2022**  
**7:30 PM**  
**Virtual meeting via Zoom**

***Members present via Zoom***

Wes Marsh, Chairman  
Mark Beninson  
Michael Cammarota  
Thora Perkins  
Cheryl Reedy  
Claudia Willard  
Dave Coleman, Alternate  
Chris D'Esposito, Alternate  
Greg Williams, Alternate

***Other Town Officials Present via Zoom***

Olga Melnikov, Finance Director  
Terry Friedman, Town Treasurer  
Dr. Pat Cosentino, Superintendent of Schools  
Pat Del Monaco, First Selectman  
Khris Hall, Selectman  
Dr. Rich Sanzo, BOE Director of Business and Operations  
Dr. Karen Fildes, Director of Technology  
Julie Luby, Ass't Superintendent of Schools  
Kerrie Greening, Tax Collector  
James D'Amico, High School Principal  
Cheryl Milo, Middle School Assistant Principal  
James Mandracchia, MHHS Principal  
Allyson Story, MHHS Assistant Principal  
Alyce Misuraca, Director of Curriculum  
Dominic Cipollone, BOE Chairman  
Amy Johnson, BOE member  
Samantha Mannion, BOE member  
Ed Sbordone, BOE member

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

BOE Director of Business and Operations Dr. Rich Sanzo gave a brief overview of the rules and procedures for having a virtual meeting.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Appointments**- None

**Correspondence and Announcements**

Wes Marsh noted that the BOF received one email that was reviewed and forwarded to the BOF members.

**Public Comment**- Many members of the public spoke in support of both the BOE and Town budgets and encouraged the BOF to send both budgets to the taxpayers without making any further cuts.

### Approval of Minutes

Michael Cammarota made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2022 regular meeting as presented. Cheryl Reedy seconded the motion.

Michael Cammarota made a motion to amend the minutes of the March 9, 2022 meeting to reflect the fact that there was not a consensus to what the Mill Rate increase for the 2022-2023 budget should be. Cheryl Reedy seconded the motion.

**Vote on amendment to motion: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)**

**Vote on minutes as amended: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)**

### Budget Transfers

Wes Marsh made a motion to approve the following Inter-Departmental transfer in the amount of \$5,000. Michael Cammarota seconded the motion. **Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)**

\$	Transfer From		\$	Transfer To	
\$5,000.00	001-4197-0000-000/110.00	Land Use Salaries	\$5,000.00	001-4215-0000-000/130.00	Communications Center Overtime
<b>\$5,000.00</b>			<b>\$5,000.00</b>		

### Medical

Tom Kowalechik from USI spoke of the Medical Plan and specifically the amount for retiree plans which is approximately \$450,000. He further noted that the BOE has made some changes for their plans effective July 1, 2022. The estimate for medical for 2022-2023 is approximately \$6 million. This will be discussed further at the next BOF meeting on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget planning

Karen Fildes spoke of technology for the district and reasons to invest in infrastructure. She noted that this technology was crucial during the pandemic and allowed the district to shift to remote learning easily.

Dr. Fildes spoke gave a presentation of the infrastructure for technology and what has changed since 2019 and noted that financial cuts to technology will have serious ramifications.

Pat Del Monaco spoke of closing out of old capital projects which allowed the Town to fund projects instead of putting them in the 2022-2023 budget. There was a brief discussion of police equipment.

Cheryl Reedy thanked everyone for the BOE charts that showed the results of the pandemic on students both nationally and in New Fairfield. It was noted that all groups of students have suffered during the pandemic and it was suggested that these charts be publicized to show the story of the budget. There was a discussion of long-range data and the cost per pupil as compared to the surrounding districts. There was a suggestion of using ARPA funds in lieu of budget items. Dr. Sanzo explained the uses and restrictions for ARPA funds and ESSER Grants.

It was noted that most of the comments from the public were in support of sending the budget to the taxpayers without any additional cuts.

### ONGOING UPDATES

Medical update- Board noted that the medical fund has improved

Legal update- No comments

Expenditures- Olga Melnikov noted that everything is on track

Revenue- Board noted that revenue has improved

Capital and Nonrecurring- Dr. Sanzo explained the BOE non-lapsing funds and the capital improvement plan.

### **Public Comment**

Aline Fogel spoke of previous public comments made at recent meetings regarding the support of the budget and urged the BOF to not make any further cuts to the proposed budgets.

Keith Landa gave an explanation of the analysis for percentage increase.

Millie Kellogg spoke in support of the BOE budget and asked that no more cuts be made.

Joshua Flores spoke in support of both budgets. He further explained the intent of the ARPA funds.

### **Future Agenda items**

- The BOE and BOS requested budgets
- Medical Consultant
- Detailed capital plan
- Revenue
- Suggestion of putting a handout on the role of the BOF

### **Board Member Comments**

Members of the Board of Finance thanked everyone for a good discussion and wished everyone well.

### **Adjournment**

Michael Cammarota made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 pm. Mark Beninson seconded the motion. **Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Received by email on 03/22/2022 @ 8:30 a.m.  
by Chrystie M. Bontempo, Asst. Town Clerk, New Fairfield