

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

MINUTES

**Board of Finance Regular Meeting
Wednesday, April 20, 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
Dr. Pat Cosentino, Superintendent of Schools
Pat Del Monaco, First Selectman
Lori Beninson, Selectman
Khris Hall, Selectman
Dr. Rich Sanzo, BOE Director of Business and Operations
Terry Friedman, Town Treasurer
Holly Smith, Town Clerk
Dr. Karen Fildes, Director of Technology
Julie Luby, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Christine Baldelli, Middle School Principal
Allyson Story, MHHS Assistant Principal
Dominic Cipollone, BOE Chairman
Kathy Baker, BOE member
Tim Blair, BOE member
Greg Flanagan, BOE member
Amy Johnson, BOE member
Kimberly LaTourette, BOE member
Samantha Mannion, BOE member
Ed Sbordone, BOE member

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Appointments- None

Correspondence and Announcements

Wes Marsh noted that the BOF received four emails concerning the budget since the previous meeting of April 13th. Two emails were in support of the budget and two emails were not in favor of any budget increases.

Wes Marsh noted that the BOF received a letter from BOE Chairman Dominic Cipollone noting that the BOE met for a special meeting on April 19th and revised their 2022-2023 budget due to inflationary costs and changes in the budgeted special education costs.

Change in policy for Public Comment

Mark Beninson made a motion to set a three-minute time limit per speaker for Public Comments for all BOF meetings. Cheryl Reedy seconded the motion. **Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Public Comment

Many members of the public spoke in support of both the Education and the Town budgets and asked the BOF to send the proposed budget to the taxpayers without any further cuts.

Tom Perkins spoke against budget increases and asked that the BOF review the respective BOE and BOS budgets and look for cuts that can be made.

Approval of Minutes

Michael Cammarota made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2022 regular meeting as presented. Cheryl Reedy seconded the motion. **Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Budget Transfers

Wes Marsh made a motion to approve the following Inter-Departmental transfers in the amount of \$7,500. Cheryl Reedy seconded the motion. **Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)**

\$	Transfer From		\$	Transfer To	
\$7,500.00	001-4197-0000-000/110.00	Land Use Salaries	\$7,500.00	001-4215-0000-000/130.00	Comm. Center-Overtime
Reason:	Staff Shortage at the Comm. Center				
\$7,500.00			\$7,500.00		

Vote to send Board of Finance recommended 2022/2023 budget to a Town Meeting

Wes Marsh noted that the BOE met on April 19th and voted to send an increased budget to the BOF due to increases in costs for utilities, transportation and special education expenses. He noted that per State Statute, the BOF is not required to accept the revisions to this budget. There was a discussion of the reasons for the budget increases and how COVID 19 has affected expenses.

Wes Marsh presented a chart with several scenarios and how the Mill rate is affected by cuts. He compared using the bond premium, interest income revenue and changes to the operating budget. There was a lengthy discussion on the best ways to increase revenue and how much of the bond premium to use.

Wes Marsh made a motion approve both the BOE and BOS respective operational budgets as presented and to use \$1,350,000 from the bond premium and to increase the interest income revenue by \$150,000 yielding a Mil Rate increase of 3.11%. Cheryl Reedy seconded the motion.

Cheryl Reedy made a motion to call the question on the previous motion. Michael Cammarota seconded the motion.

Vote to call the question: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Vote on motion after question was called: 4-2-0 (Motion approved-Mark Beninson, Michael Cammarota, Wes Marsh and Cheryl Reedy in favor, Thora Perkins and Claudia Willard opposed)

Wes Marsh made a motion to recommend to a town meeting a Board of Finance recommended budget consisting of education expenditures totaling \$48,236,562 from the general fund and \$93,885 from the capital & nonrecurring fund for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023 be approved. Michael Cammarota seconded the motion. **Vote: 5-1-0 (Motion approved- Mark Beninson, Michael Cammarota, Wes Marsh, Cheryl Reedy and Claudia Willard in favor, Thora Perkins opposed)**

Wes Marsh made a motion to recommend to a town meeting a Board of Finance recommended budget consisting of town governmental expenditures totaling \$13,265,589 from the general fund and \$788,239 from the capital & nonrecurring fund and \$799,502 from other governmental funds for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023 be approved. Michael Cammarota seconded the motion. **Vote: 4-2-0 (Motion approved-Mark Beninson, Michael Cammarota, Wes Marsh and Cheryl Reedy in favor, Thora Perkins and Claudia Willard opposed)**

Public Comment

Members of the public thanked the Board of Finance members for coming to a consensus on the budget and for not making any additional cuts to the operational budgets. They encouraged everyone to vote at the referendum to make sure that the budget passes.

Future Agenda items

- Medical
- Capital and Nonrecurring

Board Member Comments

Michael Cammarota thanked everyone involved in the budget process and encouraged everyone to vote at the referendum.

Cheryl Reedy thanked all the Board of Finance members for their input and especially fellow Board member Mark Beninson for being flexible. She thanked the public for their input and also Finance Director Olga Melnikov and Director of Business and Operations Rich Sanzo for their hard work.

Claudia Willard thanked everyone for their participation in the budget process.

Mark Beninson thanked everyone for their hard work with the budget process and encouraged the public to get out and vote.

Thora Perkins thanked everyone for their hard work.

Chris D'Esposito thanked everyone regarding the budget process and encouraged everyone to vote at referendum.

Greg Williams thanked everyone involved in the budget and was impressed by the level of public participation.

Wes Marsh thanked everyone involved in the process and thanked the public for their participation.

Adjournment

Mark Beninson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:33 pm. Claudia Willard seconded the motion. **Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Received by email on 04/26/2022 @ 11:07 a.m.
by Chrystie M. Bontempo, Asst. Town Clerk, New Fairfield