# *Town of New Fairfield*

# Board of Finance

# 4 Brush Hill Road

# New Fairfield, CT 06812

### MINUTES

# Board of Finance Regular Meeting

**Wednesday, May 18, 2022**

**7:30 PM**

**Virtual meeting via Zoom**

**Members present via Zoom**  **Other Town Officials Present via Zoom**

Wes Marsh, Chairman Olga Melnikov, Finance Director

Mark Beninson Dr. Pat Cosentino, Superintendent of Schools

Michael Cammarota Pat Del Monaco, First Selectman

Thora Perkins Khris Hall*,* Selectman

Cheryl Reedy Kerrie Greening, Tax Collector

Claudia Willard Dr. Rich Sanzo, BOE Director of Business and Operations

Dave Coleman, Alternate Dominic Cipollone, BOE Chairman

Chris D’Esposito, Alternate Amy Johnson, BOE member

Greg Williams, Alternate Samantha Mannion, BOE member

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

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

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Appointments**- None

**Addition to the agenda**

Wes Marsh made a motion to add agenda item #11A “Discussion of letter from Disability Rights Connecticut” dated May 17, 2022 and vote on actions to take. Cheryl Reedy seconded the motion.

There was a discussion of whether this agenda item should be done in Executive Session. There was a suggestion of inviting a representative from Disability Rights Connecticut to a special meeting.

Wes Marsh made a motion to amend the original motion to add agenda item #11A which will be to discuss inviting a representative of Disability Rights Connecticut for education. Cheryl Reedy seconded the motion.

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

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

**Correspondence and Announcements**- None

**Public Comment**- Many residents thanked the Board of Finance and all the members of the public that supported the budget that passed last week.

Members of the public encouraged the Board of Finance to take advantage of educational opportunities regarding disability rights and civility. Board of Finance members were also encouraged to attend Board of Education meetings and some of their subcommittee meetings.

Board of Finance members were also encouraged to have their videos on during virtual meetings.

**Approval of Minutes**

Michael Cammarota made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2022 regular meeting as presented. Cheryl Reedy seconded the motion. **Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Michael Cammarota made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2022 special 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 $3,568.75. Cheryl Reedy seconded the motion. **Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| $ | Transfer From |  | $ | Transfer  To |  |
| $495.00 | 001-4161-100-003/332.01 | Legal-Labor | $495.00 | 301-4210-0000-000/742.02 | Cap & Non Police |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $573.75 | 001-4150-0000-000/610.00 | Finance M& S | $573.75 | 001-4151-0000-000/610.00 | BOF M& S |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $2,500.00 | 001-4160-0000-000/140.00 | Unclassified Payroll & Benefits-Salary Adj. | $2,500.00 | 001-4215-0000-000/112.00 | Communications Center-Part Time Salaries |
| **$3,568.75** |  |  | **$3,568.75** |  |  |

There was a brief discussion of the transfer for the Communications Center salaries and the challenge of hiring employees for this position.

Wes Marsh made a motion to approve the following Additional Appropriation (TOWN MEETING NOT REQUIRED) in the amount of $34,600.00. Cheryl Reedy seconded the motion. **Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| $ | Transfer From |  | $ | Transfer  To |  |
| $7,000.00 | 001-0000-0000-000/R34220096 | Police Private Duty Revenue | $7,000.00 | 001-4210-0002-000/130.02 | Police Private Duty Overtime |
|  | Revenue excess to cover private duty overtime |  |  |  |  |
| $9,500.00 | 301-4100-0000-000/700.14 | Unappropriated Cap & Non | $9,500.00 | 301-4210-0000-000/742.02 | Cap & Non Police Cars and Equipment |
|  | Printers for e-ticket system |  |  |  |  |
| $8,100.00 | 301-4100-0000-000/700.14 | Unappropriated Cap & Non | $8,100.00 | 301-4210-0000-000/742.02 | Cap & Non Police Cars and Equipment |
|  | Active Shooter Kits |  |  |  |  |
| $10,000.00 | 301-4100-0000-000/700.14 | Unappropriated Cap & Non | $10,000.00 | 301-4210-0000-000/742.02 | Cap & Non Police Cars and Equipment |
|  | PD Firearms |  |  |  |  |
| **$34,600.00** |  |  | **$34,600.00** |  |  |

Wes Marsh made a motion to approve the following Additional Appropriation (TOWN MEETING REQUIRED)

in the amount of $26,307.00. Thora Perkins seconded the motion. **Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| $ | Transfer From |  | $ | Transfer  To |  |
| $**$26,307.00** | 301-4100-0000-000/700.14 | Unappropriated Cap & Non | $**$26,307.00** | 301-4410-0000-000/742.02 | Cap & Non-Health |
|  | Ford Ranger-Health Department |  |  |  |  |
| **$26,307.00** |  |  | **$26,307.00** |  |  |

**Vote to set the Mil Rate for 2022-2023**

Wes Marsh made a motion to set the real estate and personal property Mil Rate for the fiscal year July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 at 32.47 Mils and the Motor Vehicle Mil Rate the fiscal year July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 at 32.46 Mils per Connecticut State Statute 12-71E. Cheryl Reedy seconded the motion. **Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Tax Collector Kerrie Greening noted that the Motor Vehicle Mil Rate is capped at a maximum of 32.46 Mils per State Statute.

**Vote to approve the Suspense List**

Wes Marsh made a motion to approve the Suspense List from the New Fairfield Tax Collector dated May 9, 2022. Michael Cammarota seconded the motion. **Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)**

**Vote and discussion on Medical Plan for 2022-2023**

Tom Kowalchik from USI spoke of the Medical Plan for 2022-2023. There was a discussion of the optimal Individual Stop Loss and Aggregate Stop Loss. Premiums and expenses from prior years were discussed.

Wes Marsh made a motion to budget $5,679,693.00 for the Medical Plan for fiscal year 2022-2023 with a $225,000 Individual Stop Loss and a 120% Aggregate Stop Loss. Mark Beninson seconded the motion. **Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)**

**Vote on the formation of a joint subcommittee for long term capital planning.**

Cheryl Reedy spoke of the possibility of forming a committee to discuss long term capital planning. This committee would comprise of a member from the BOE, BOF, BOS, Planning Commission and an employee of the Finance Department. This committee would discuss capital project to make sure the needs of the town and the schools are met and that the financing of these projects are met. There was a brief discussion of the need for this committee.

Cheryl Reedy made a motion that the Board of Finance approach the BOE and BOS to determine interest in creating an ad hoc committee for long term capital planning and to ask if anyone on the respective boards is interested in serving on this committee. Mark Beninson seconded the motion.

**Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)**

**Discuss and vote to invite a representative of Disability Rights Connecticut**

There was a discussion on whether or not to respond to an offer from Disability Rights Connecticut to send a representative to provide education and training to the Board of Finance. Members of the BOF expressed interest in having a representative come to a future meeting as long as the purpose was to provide education and not to focus on any individual.

Michael Cammarota made a motion to have the BOF respond to Disability Rights Connecticut indicating the desire to have a representative come to a meeting as long as predetermined parameters were met. Cheryl Reedy seconded the motion. **Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)**

**ONGOING UPDATES**

**Medical update-** No update

**Legal update**- There was a brief discussion of the Legal Labor account

**Year to date expenses review**- The Board reviewed year to date expenses. There were some questions about Recording Secretary salaries.

**Year to date revenue update**- The revenue for property taxes, interest liens and fees and motor vehicle supplement is higher than anticipated.

**Capital and Nonrecurring update**- There was a question about the library grant and it was noted that there is no update at this point.

**Public Comment**

John McCartney thanked everyone that supported the budget and noted that it overwhelming passed. He asked members of the BOF to take the support of the budget as a sign to listen to the public. He encouraged all members of the BOF to support the Capital and Nonrecurring Additional Appropriations at the Town Meeting. He further encouraged the BOF members to keep their videos on during the meetings.

Terra Volpe spoke of the meeting of May 9th regarding potentially offensive comments made at a previous meeting. She spoke of her disappointment that the member in question did not make an apology and/or attend the May 9th meeting.

**Future Agenda items**

* Update on the proposed joint subcommittee
* Discuss the possibility of in-person office hours for the BOF
* Update on the school projects
* Discussion of rules for public comments and civility.
* Representative from the BOE to discuss the Special Education budget.

**Board Member Comments**

Cheryl Reedy apologized to the public on behalf of the Board of Finance for comments that have been said at recent meetings that may have offended members of the public.

Claudia Willard spoke of civility by BOF members at previous meetings.

Michael Cammarota and Thora Perkins agreed with Cheryl Reedy and thanked her for the apology on behalf of the BOF members.

Wes Marsh spoke of comments at previous meetings and reminded everyone that elected officials should have a higher standard and should apologize if someone is offended by a comment.

**Adjournment**

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

**Received by email on 05/23/2022 @ 10:11 a.m.**

**By Tricia Quinn, Asst. Town Clerk, New Fairfield**