

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

MINUTES

Board of Finance Regular Meeting
Wednesday, June 15, 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

Members not present via Zoom

Greg Williams, Alternate

Other Town Officials Present via Zoom

Olga Melnikov, Finance Director
Dr. Pat Cosentino, Superintendent of Schools
Pat Del Monaco, First Selectman
Khris Hall, Selectman
Terry Friedman, Town Treasurer
Don Kellogg, PBC Chairman
Ed Sbordone, BOE/PBC member
Samantha Mannion, BOE member

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

Quintin Flower gave a brief overview of the rules and procedures for a virtual meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

Appointments- None

Correspondence and Announcements

Chairman Wes Marsh announced that the BOE will be having a reception on Monday, June 20th at 6:30 at the high school to welcome the new Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kenneth Craw.

Public Comment

A resident spoke of concerns regarding the possibility of the Board restricting Public Comment so that names of individual Board members are not mentioned. They spoke of their opposition to this suggestion and noted that anyone on any board should be able to take criticism and comments should not be limited.

A resident thanked Board members for attending the special BOF meeting on Monday, June 13th regarding the importance of inclusion and respect for people with disabilities. He further thanked them for having their video cameras on the entire meeting and spoke of the importance of allowing the public to see elected officials. This resident further apologized to the Board for his public comment remarks made at the May 18th meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Michael Cammarota made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2022 regular meeting as presented. Cheryl Reedy seconded the motion. **Vote: 5-1-0 (Motion approved- Claudia Willard opposed)**

There was a brief discussion of how Public Comment is recorded in the minutes.

Budget Transfers- None

Presentation by the Permanent Building Committee regarding the school building projects

Permanent Building Committee Chairman Don Kellogg gave a presentation regarding the school building projects including many pictures.

The High School project and is on time and on budget. The cost of the project that was approved at referendum is \$84,220,000 with \$24,751,500 spent to date. The project is 28.85% complete and 92.3% of the contingency is remaining. The building is schedule to open in the Fall of 2023 with demolition of the existing building to continue until Spring 2024.

The Consolidated Early Learning Academy (CELA) is scheduled to open in September 2022. The approved price at referendum for this project was \$29,190,000 with \$16,944,400 spent to date. There is 73% of the designated contingency remaining. The demolition of the existing building is scheduled to be completed by June 2023.

Discussion of ARPA Funds (American Rescue Plan Act)

Pat Del Monaco spoke of an opinion from the Town Attorney regarding the process for allocating ARPA funds.

There was a lengthy discussion of the process for allocating the ARPA funds and the role of the BOF in making decisions regarding the ARPA funds.

Vote to retain auditor for the 2022-2023 fiscal year

Wes Marsh made a motion to retain the current auditor, PKF O'Connor Davies LLP for the fiscal year. Thora Perkins seconded the motion. **Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Status of the Joint Board Subcommittee for long term capital planning

Cheryl Reedy noted that First Selectman Pat Del Monaco, BOE Chairman Dominic Cipollone, BOE/PBC Member Ed Sbordone, Director of Buildings and Grounds Phil Ross, Finance Director Olga Melnikov and Town Treasurer Terry Friedman will serve on the subcommittee for long term capital planning. The first meeting will be held on Thursday, July 14, 2022 from 1:00pm to 2:30pm via Zoom.

Discussion of in-person office hours for the BOF

Cheryl Reedy made a motion to table the discussion of office hours for the BOF until the next regular BOF meeting. Michael Cammarota seconded the motion. **Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Discussion of the Public Comment policy for the BOF

Cheryl Reedy made a motion to table the discussion of the Public Comment policy for the BOF until the next regular BOF meeting. Claudia Willard seconded the motion. **Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)**

ONGOING UPDATES

Medical update- The BOF reviewed the Medical Fund. It was noted that the fund balance has dropped by almost \$1 million over the last fiscal year. Money may need to be added to the fund during the next budget cycle.

Legal update- The balance in the legal fund as of June 7, 2022 is approximately \$44,000. This fund will be under budget for this fiscal year.

Year to date expenses review- There was a brief discussion of the amount spent on overtime. Olga Melnikov noted that there are no anticipated problems with expenditures. Mark Beninson asked about transfer for salaries for the Communications Center.

Year to date revenue update- The Tax collection rate is 99.77%. Substantial revenue was received for Supplemental Motor Vehicle Tax and the Tax sale of certain properties.

Capital and Nonrecurring update- Finance Director Olga Melnikov explained the process for carrying over balances for the Capital and Nonrecurring fund.

Public Comment- None

Future Agenda items

- PPS Director will come to the July meeting
- Treasurer Terry Friedman will present the debt policy
- In-person office hours discussion
- Discussion of Public Comments
- Initial discussion of forming BOF bylaws
- Initial discussion of possible in-person meeting per year.
- Discussion of School Safety issues

Board Member Comments

Cheryl Reedy and Wes Marsh thanked Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino and Director of Business and Operations Dr. Rich Sanzo for their work and cooperation during their tenure with New Fairfield and wished them both well in their future endeavors.

Adjournment

Mark Beninson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:51 pm. Michael Cammarota seconded the motion. **Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Received by email on 06/22/2022 @ 10:58 a.m.
by Chrystie M. Bontempo, Asst. Town Clerk, New Fairfield