

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

MINUTES
Board of Finance Regular Meeting
Wednesday, October 19, 2022
7:30 PM
Conference Room at 33 Route 37

Members present

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

Members not present

Claudia Willard
Dave Coleman, Alternate

Other Town Officials Present

Pat Del Monaco, First Selectman
Khris Hall, Selectman
Olga Melnikov, Finance Director

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Appointments

Wes Marsh noted that Claudia Willard would not be in attendance for tonight's meeting and asked Chris D'Esposito be elevated to a full member in her place.

Correspondence and Announcements- None

Public Comment- None

Approval of Minutes

Thora Perkins made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2022 regular meeting as presented. Mark Beninson seconded the motion. **Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Mark Beninson made a motion to approve the minutes of the special October 12, 2022 meeting as presented. Chris D'Esposito seconded the motion. **Vote: 5-0-1 (Motion approved- Cheryl Reedy abstained)**

Budget Transfers- None

Long-term capital planning update

Cheryl Reedy spoke of the Long-Term Capital Planning Committee and noted that this committee held two meetings. Both meetings had representation from all three of the main boards (BOE, BOF and BOS). She noted that many different ideas and opinions were discussed but no decisions were made. It is possible that this committee will meet after the first of the year.

Fiscal-year surplus update

The Board discussed the surplus numbers since 2014-2015 for both expenditures and revenue. There was a discussion of trending for overtime for the Communications Center and it was noted that two new part-time employees have been hired which should decrease the amount spent on overtime.

Discussion of additional expense reports

There was a discussion of a request by some Board of Finance members to receive expenditure reports for the Board of Education on a monthly basis. The discussion included questions of what exactly would be the purpose of receiving these reports and it was noted that the BOF does not have line item control over the Board of Education budget. Some members of the Board expressed an interest in receiving this report on a quarterly basis. It was decided that this report will be given to the BOF members on a monthly basis but discussion will only occur at the BOF meetings if questions can not be answered ahead of time by the Director of Business and Operations of the Superintendent of Schools.

ONGOING UPDATES

Medical update-Olga Melnikov spoke of medical claims that are Incurred by not Recorded (IBNR). There was a discussion of the balance in the Medical Fund and the need to build up the Medical Insurance fund. It was noted that the balance may be lower due to claims going up as a catch up on procedures from COVID. There was a suggestion of allocating some of the 2021-2022 surplus towards the medical fund.

Legal update- There was no discussion regarding the legal report.

Year to date expenses review-There was a discussion of the rising cost of gas, diesel and fuel oil. The Board reviewed Police Officer positions.

Year to date revenue update- Olga Melnikov noted that revenue from building permits and conveyance fees continue to come in over budget. Interest income is higher than recent years.

Capital and Nonrecurring update- There was a brief discussion of when the New Fairfield Library project will be accepted by the State. First Selectman Pat Del Monaco spoke of the renovation fund for the library project and noted that there are some issues with the HVAC system and the exterior door to the library which may hold up the acceptance by the State.

Public Comment- None

Future Agenda items

- Discussion of the Public Comment policy.
- Surplus for the year 2022-2023
- Medical Fund

Board Member Comments

Cheryl Reedy spoke of the passing of long-time Library Board Chairman Gail Lehman and sent sympathy to her family.

Adjournment

Chris D'Esposito made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 pm. Michael Cammarota seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)