

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

MINUTES
Board of Finance Regular Meeting
Wednesday, March 8, 2023
7:30 PM
via Zoom

Members present

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

Other Town Officials Present

Pat Del Monaco, First Selectman
Khris Hall, Selectman
Lori-Ann Beninson, Selectman
Olga Melnikov, Finance Director
Holly Smith, Town Clerk
Terry Friedman, Town Treasurer
Tim Simpkins, Director of Health
Dr. Ken Craw, Superintendent of Schools
Julie Luby, Ass't Superintendent of Schools
Carrie DePuy, Director of Business and Operations
Katherine Matz, Pupil Personnel Director
Dominic Cipollone, BOE Chairman
Tim Blair, BOE member
Greg Flanagan, BOE member
Amy Johnson, BOE member
Kimberly LaTourette, BOE member
Samantha Mannion, BOE member
Ed Sbordone, BOE/PBC member

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Appointments- None

Correspondence and Announcements

Chairman Wes Marsh noted that the BOF received 11 emails since the March 4th budget presentations. He read the names of the author of each email and their respective positions on the proposed budget.

Public Comment

Many residents spoke in support of the proposed budgets and encouraged the BOF to find other ways to cut the budget instead of cutting the operating budgets.

Approval of Minutes

Kim Hanson made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2023 regular meeting as presented. Cheryl Reedy seconded the motion. **Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Thora Perkins made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2023 special meeting as presented. Mark Beninson seconded the motion. **Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Kim Hanson made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2023 regular meeting as presented. Cheryl Reedy seconded the motion. **Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Discussion of Medical Expense and Debt Service updates to the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 budgets

Medical Fund

Wes Marsh spoke of the Medical Fund and the amount recommended to budget for next year. He spoke of claims projections and noted that it is hopeful that the trending of claims will go down. Chairman Marsh noted that claims were higher than expected and reminded everyone that the Medical Fund was under budgeted last year by almost \$400,000. There was a brief discussion of budgeting for the medical fund and possible alternate ways to fund it. There was a suggestion of putting some of the additional interest revenue for this fund.

Insurance consultant Tom Kowalchik will be at the next BOF meeting on March 15th.

Debt Service

Town Treasurer Terry Friedman noted that bonding is scheduled for March 27th at an amount of \$12,000,000. There was a discussion of the bonding policy including the limit of payments that can be made in a fiscal year.

There was a brief discussion of the possibility of revisiting the debt policy to adjust the premium paid in the first two years. It was decided not to change the debt policy at this time.

Discussion of the BOS and BOE requested Fiscal Year 2023/2024 budgets

There was a discussion of the Board of Education budget with specific questions including enrollment and the size of the new high school and the college graduation rate for New Fairfield graduates.

First Selectman Pat Del Monaco spoke of the ambulance service in town and the companies used by surrounding towns.

Public Comment

Residents spoke of the proposed budget including increase in taxes due to the building project, capital improvements in the schools and a potential roof replacement for the Middle School. Some residents spoke of the college graduation rate and noted that New Fairfield students are in line with the national average.

Future Agenda items

- Discussion of Medical Fund and Capital and Nonrecurring
- Appointment of a BOF liaison to the Fire Department
- Discussion of the policy for closing out projects.

Board Member Comments

Members of the BOF thanked the Town employees for their quick turn around with getting information to the board. They thanked the members of the public for giving their opinions regarding the budget.

Adjournment

Kim Hanson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:46 pm. Claudia Willard seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Received by email on 03/15/2023 @ 8:30 a.m.
by Chrystie M. Bontempo, Asst. Town Clerk, New Fairfield