

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

MINUTES

Board of Finance Regular Meeting
Wednesday, November 16, 2022
7:30 PM
via Zoom

Members present

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

Pat Del Monaco, First Selectman
Lori-Ann Beninson, Selectman
Khris Hall, Selectman
Olga Melnikov, Finance Director
Terry Friedman, Town Treasurer
Carrie DePuy, BOE Director of Business and Operations
Ed Sbordone, BOE/PBC member

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Appointments- None

Correspondence and Announcements- None

Public Comment

Olivia Micca spoke of concerns regarding the proposed Public Comment Policy and asked the Board to vote against the proposed policy.

Approval of Minutes

Michael Cammarota made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2022 regular meeting as presented. Mark Beninson seconded the motion.

Thora Perkins made a motion to amend the minutes of the October 19, 2022 regular meeting to add under the BOE Transfer request that the BOF is also requesting quarterly transfers. Cheryl Reedy seconded the motion.

Vote on amendment: 5-0-0 (Motion approved- Claudia Willard was not able to log into the meeting and vote on this motion)

Vote on motion as amended: 5-0-0 (Motion approved-Claudia Willard was not able to log into the meeting and vote on this motion))

Budget Transfers- None

Board of Finance 2023 Calendar of meetings

Cheryl Reedy made a motion to approve the 2023 Calendar of Meetings with the change of Final Mark up from April 5, 2023 to April 12, 2023. Thora Perkins seconded the motion. **Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion approved- Claudia Willard was not able to log into the meeting and vote on this motion)**

Update- Fiscal year 2021-2022 surplus

First Selectman Pat Del Monaco noted that the BOS has not yet voted on the budget surplus since they are waiting on quotes and results of grant requests. It is hopeful that this will be done in December.

Board of Education budget surplus for Fiscal year 2021-2022

There was a discussion of the best uses for the 2021-2022 surplus (\$49,105.45) and Prior Year Close outs (\$307,175.15) and whether or not it should be used for BOE expenses or put into the Medical Fund. Finance Director Olga Melnikov spoke of the decrease in the Medical Fund over the last year. It was decided to ask the BOE and the BOS to submit plans for requests for the surplus. The BOF members asked that this information be provide before the next BOF meeting.

Claudia Willard had technical problems during the meeting. Dave Coleman was appointed to act for her until she was able to return to the meeting. She returned to the meeting at approximately 8:10pm.

Discussion of Public Comment Policy

Claudia Willard spoke of recent changes to the proposed Public Comment policy. There was a discussion about rules and regulations for Public Comment specifically the amount of time that each speaker is allowed and whether or not a speaker can speak more than once at a meeting. The board also discussed the possibility of limiting the total time for Public Comment at each meeting.

Michael Cammarota made a motion to approve the New Fairfield Board of Finance Public Comment Policy version dated November 11, 2022 with the insertion of “majority vote” on Page 2 of the policy. Mark Beninson seconded the motion. **Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)**

ONGOING UPDATES

Medical update-Olga Melnikov noted that medical reports are not yet available.

Legal update- Olga Melnikov noted that there are no major concerns with the Legal budget.

Year to date expenses review- Olga Melnikov noted that every department is within their budget. There are still some concerns with the Communications Center salaries. There was a brief discussion of diesel and utilities.

Year to date revenue update- Olga Melnikov noted that \$270,000 was received from the State as part of the Municipal Revenue Sharing Account.

Capital and Nonrecurring update- There was a discussion of Equipment Reserve Fund for the Fire Department.

Public Comment

Kim Hanson spoke of concern with the new Public Comment Policy. He further spoke of the hole in the Medical Reserve Fund and urged the BOF to put the surplus towards the fund.

Future Agenda items

- Medical Reserve Fund
- 2021-2022 Surplus
- BOE Quarterly transfer report

Board Member Comments

Thora Perkins thanked Claudia Willard and Michael Cammarota for their hard work on the Public Comment Policy.

Cheryl Reedy wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Michael Cammarota noted that he was impressed with voter turnout and thanked everyone that voted.

Adjournment

Michael Cammarota made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 pm. Mark Beninson seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Received by email on 03/27/2023 @ 12:55 p.m.
by Chrystie M. Bontempo, Asst. Town Clerk, New Fairfield