

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

MINUTES

Board of Finance Regular Meeting

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

7:30 PM

via Zoom

<u>Board of Finance members present:</u> Wes Marsh, Chairman Mark Beninson Thora Perkins Cheryl Reedy Claudia Willard Peggy Katkocin, Alternate Rick Regan, Alternate Greg Williams, Alternate	<u>Other Town officials and Educators present:</u> Pat Del Monaco, First Selectman Khris Hall, Selectman Lori-Ann Beninson, Selectman Olga Melnikov, Finance Director Terry Friedman, Town Treasurer Shareen Langdon, Tax Collector Elisa Beckett-Flores, Registrar of Voters Amy Johnson, BOE member Ed Sbordone, BOE member
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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

Cheryl Reedy made a motion to elevate Alternate Peggy Katkocin to serve as a regular member for the purpose of this meeting. Wes Marsh seconded the motion. **Vote: 2-3-0 (Motion denied- Cheryl Reedy and Wes Marsh in favor, Mark Beninson, Thora Perkins and Claudia Willard opposed)**

There was a discussion of the procedure for filing vacancies with alternate positions.

Correspondence and Announcements

Wes Marsh announced the following:

- He received notification from Director of Technology Paul Gouveia that all BOF members will receive their own email addresses.
- Spoke of the results of the November 7th election. Doug Jendras was elected as a new full member of the BOF. Wes Marsh and Claudia Willard were reelected as full members. Greg Williams was reelected as an alternate member. Peggy Katkocin was elected as an alternate member and the BOS appointed Rick Regan to serve as an alternate member to fill the alternate vacancy.

Addition to the Agenda

Wes Marsh made a motion to add agenda item #8A “Discuss and Possibly vote on Additional Appropriations as recommended by the BOS at their November 14, 2023 meeting.” Cheryl Reedy seconded the motion. **Vote: 2-3-0 (Motion denied- Cheryl Reedy and Wes Marsh in favor, Mark Beninson, Thora Perkins and Claudia Willard opposed)**

Claudia Willard questioned the appointment of Rick Regan as an alternate member due to the requirement of minority representation. Mr. Regan noted that he is currently unaffiliated with any political party.

Vote to Table Agenda items

The Board discussed tabling certain items on the agenda until a future meeting.

Wes Marsh made a motion to add agenda item #8A “Discuss and Possibly vote on an Additional Appropriation (Town Meeting NOT Required) of \$20,000 from the General Fund (interest income) from Bank Fees expenditures.” Cheryl Reedy seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Claudia Willard made a motion to table agenda items 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 until a future meeting. Thora Perkins seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-2-0 (Motion approved- Mark Beninson, Thora Perkins and Claudia Willard in favor. Cheryl Reedy and Wes Marsh opposed)**

Additional Appropriation

Wes Marsh made a motion to approve an Additional Appropriation (Town Meeting NOT Required) of \$19,999 from the General Fund (interest income) for Bank Fees expenditures. Mark Beninson seconded the motion. **Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Town Treasurer Terry Friedman explained how the Town can earn more interest income by paying the bank fees directly to the bank instead of using a reserve as is the current practice. This would allow money currently in the reserve fund to earn a higher interest rate.

Discussion of Planning Commission’s POCD Listening Session responses from the BOF

Wes Marsh noted that the Planning Commission will hold a “Listening Session” on Monday, November 27th at 7:00pm to hear feedback from Boards and Commissions regarding the Plan of Conservation and Development. The BOF discussed topics that they would like to address at this meeting. They include: sustainability, grant writers, assessments of property taxes near lakes in town and a capital plan with the three major boards working together.

Adjournment

Claudia Willard made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 pm. Thora Perkins seconded the motion. **Vote: 3-2-0 (Motion approved- Mark Beninson, Thora Perkins and Claudia Willard in favor. Cheryl Reedy and Wes Marsh opposed)**