

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

MINUTES

Board of Finance Budget Workshop
Saturday, March 1, 2014
9:00 AM
Community Room at 33 Route 37

Members present:

Wes Marsh, Chairman
Don Blackwell
Michael Cammarota
John Hodge
Jane Landers
Steve Brown, Alternate
Cheryl Reedy, Alternate
Brian Shea, Alternate

Members not present:

Tom Edwards

Other Town Officials Present:

Morning Session

Dr. Alicia Roy, Superintendent of Schools
Barbara Mechler, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Craig McClain, Business Manager
Evelyn Abraham, Finance Director
Mariana Coelho, High School Principal
Scott Rohwedder, High School Assistant Principal
Michael Chapleau, High School Assistant Principal
Christine Baldelli, Middle School Principal
Cheryl Milo, Middle School Assistant Principal
Sarah McLain, Meeting House Hill School Principal
James Mandracchia, MHHS Assistant Principal
Wendy Seeley, Consolidated School Principal
Lynn Fichtel, Consolidated School Assistant Principal
Phil Ross, Director of Buildings and Grounds
Aimee Turner, Director of Pupil Personnel Services
Sonia Raquel, Director of Public Personnel Services
Aaron Herold, Director of Technology
Mary Stolle, Athletic Director
Scott Akam, BOE Chairman
Kevin Hearty, BOE Member
Sean Loughran, BOE Member
Linda Norris, BOE Member
Amy Tozzo, BOE Member

Afternoon Session

Susan Chapman, First Selectman
Mike Gill, Selectman
Evelyn Abraham, Finance Director
Ed Sbordone, Accounting Manager
Sean Loughran, BOE Member & Parks & Rec Chairman

Call To Order Chairman Wes Marsh called the meeting to order at 9:00am

Pledge of Allegiance

Appointments- None

Presentation of Board of Education Requested Budget 2014/2015

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Alicia Roy presented the Board of Education requested budget for 2014/2015 and gave a power point presentation. The total BOE's requested budget for 2014/2015 equals \$40,860,042 for a 2.54% increase over the 2013/2014 budget. The total for the BOE's recommended operating budget is \$31,576,886 which represents a 2.74% increase or \$841,617 above the current fiscal year.

Dr. Roy spoke of the District Goal and noted the many awards and distinctions received by students of all grade levels. She introduced Mary Stolle as the new Athletic Director and Aaron Herold as the new Director of Technology and noted that they were both valuable additions to the staff.

The Power Point presentation included a summary of priorities within the district and some state unfunded mandates and how they affect the budget. Common Core State Standards were discussed and noted that the goal of CCSS is to educate the whole student and ensure that students are successful beyond high school. Dr. Roy spoke of programs that offer social support such as PBIS and Academic Rallies.

Dr. Roy spoke of staff reorganization and noted that 1.4 positions will be affected.

Health Insurance policies have been changed to HSA (Health Savings Accounts) for teachers, administrators and non-union personnel. This change has realized a cumulative taxpayer savings of over \$600,000 in two years.

Dr. Roy thanked the Administrators, staff and the entire Board of Education for help with compiling this budget. A copy of the BOE requested budget and power point presentation can be found at www.newfairfieldschools.org

Public Comment on the BOE requested budget 2014/2015

Resident Adrian Bing-Zaremba spoke of the Board of Education budget and encouraged all taxpayers to support the education budget.

Discussion of Board of Education Requested Budget 2014/2015

The Board of Finance asked questions of Dr. Roy regarding the proposed budget. There was a discussion of the number of Sherman students attending New Fairfield high school and the revenue that it generates.

The BOF asked about the security grant that was received in the amount of \$157,000. It was noted that this was a matching grant and that approximately \$228,000 must be spent in order to receive this grant.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding Attrition and the best number to budget for this. Dr. Roy noted that some of the money budgeted for Attrition is already figured in the budget through the reorganization of staff. To date, two administrators plan to retire this year. It is not known

how many teachers will retire. Teachers will be able to keep their health insurance through the summer if they notify the district of their intent to retire by May 1st.

The BOF asked the Superintendent and the Business Manager to bring figures of the number of special education students enrolled and what has been spent on legal so far.

The BOF members thanked the Superintendent and her staff as well as the Board of Education for all their hard work with this budget.

Recess

The board went into recess at 11:20am.

The board came back from recess at 1:00pm.

Presentation of the Board of Selectmen Requested Budget 2014/2015

First Selectman Susan Chapman presented the Board of Selectmen's requested budget for 2014/2015 and gave a power point presentation. The total BOS's requested budget for 2014/2015 equals \$10,458,078 for a 2.71% increase over the 2013/2014 budget. This represents a dollar increase of \$276,260.00. The total requested for the operating budget is \$9,046,599.00. Money requested for the contribution to the Capital and Nonrecurring fund equals \$296,793.00. Municipal Debt Service for 2014/2015 is \$161,537 and Municipal Medical Insurance equals \$953,149.00

A copy of this power point presentation is available at www.newfairfield.org

Public Comment on the BOS requested budget 2014/2015

Resident Adrian Bing-Zaremba thanked the Board of Finance for being fiscally prudent and encouraged all taxpayers to support this budget.

Discussion of Board of Selectmen Requested Budget 2014/2015

It was noted that there is a state mandate requiring new police radios. There was a discussion of the Police Department and the State Trooper salaries and overtime. The BOF asked the selectmen for a projection of the police budget throughout 2013-2014.

Other topics discussed were the purchase of new cots for the shelter, fire department capital, and road repair.

It was suggested that the town consider the HSA Medical Insurance plan during contract negotiations.

First Selectman Chapman thanked the entire Finance Department for their help with this budget.

The next meeting of the Board of Finance will be held on Wednesday, March 5th at 7:30pm in the Community Room at 33 Route 37.

Adjournment

Don Blackwell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:10pm. John Hodge seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)