

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

MINUTES

**Board of Finance Regular Meeting
Wednesday, March 19, 2014
7:30 PM
New Fairfield Community Room**

Members present:

Wes Marsh, Chairman
Don Blackwell
Michael Cammarota
Tom Edwards
John Hodge
Jane Landers
Cheryl Reedy, Alternate

Members not present:

Steve Brown, Alternate
Brian Shea, Alternate

Other Town Officials Present:

Susan Chapman, First Selectman
Kim Hanson, Selectman
Evelyn Abraham, Finance Director
Dr. Alicia Roy, Superintendent of Schools
Barbara Mechler, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Mariana Coelho, High School Principal
Wendy Seeley, Consolidated School Principal
Craig McClain, Business Manager
Scott Akam, BOE Chairman
Susan Starr, BOE Member
Steve Rinaldi, Everett James, Inc.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Appointments-None

Correspondence and Announcements- None

Public comment- None

Approval of Minutes

Don Blackwell made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2014 regular meeting as presented. John Hodge seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Wes Marsh made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2014 regular meeting as presented. John Hodge seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Budget Transfers

Wes Marsh made a motion to approve the following Inter-Departmental transfer in the amount of \$30,000.00. (Such document to be attached to the minutes of this meeting)

John Hodge seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

\$	Transfer To		\$	Transfer From	
\$30,000.00	4310-610-3	PW-Snow Material and Supplies	\$10,000.00	4153-339	Assessor-Revaluation
			\$10,000.00	4163-520	General Ins. Prop & Casualty
			\$10,000.00	4160-260	Unclass. P & B Workers Comp.
\$30,000.00			\$30,000.00		

Discussion and presentation of the Medical plans for the fiscal year 2014-2015

Steve Rinaldi from the firm of Everett James, Inc. spoke of the Medical plan for the 2014-2015 fiscal year including a review of the current year and an overview of Healthcare reform. It was noted that projected premiums for the current year have decreased and claims dropped once the HSA started.

Mr. Rinaldi spoke of many scenarios for next year including changing of the Aggregate Stop Loss and Individual Stop Loss. There was a discussion of whether or not prescription drug plans should be included in these scenarios. A cost of approximately \$22,000 needs to be added to the plan to add a prescription plan.

Mr. Rinaldi will provide the board with a price for 110% Aggregate Stop Loss with \$200,000 Individual Stop Loss with or without a prescription plan. It was noted that the town would need to notify Anthem at least 30 days prior if they want to change the plan.

There was a discussion of Obamacare and Health Care reform. Mr. Rinaldi noted that quality health insurance must be made available to all employees working at least 30 hours a week. He gave a description of the penalties for companies who fail to comply with Health Care reform.

The BOF spoke of the possibility of an Eligibility Audit to make sure all covered employees are eligible for the coverage. It was decided to discuss this further at a future meeting.

BOF Chairman Wes Marsh noted that the reduction in medical would bring the proposed Mil Rate increase to 1.72% instead of 1.99% assuming no other changes are made.

Discussion of the Plan of Conservation and Development from the Planning Commission

Chairman Wes Marsh spoke of the Plan of Conservation and Development which is done by the Planning Commission every ten years and submitted to the State. The draft of the 2014 POCD is currently available on the website. The board discussed the aspects of this draft including the survey given to town residents. It was decided to ask the Planning Commission to attend the April 16th BOF meeting to present the Plan of Conservation and Development.

Discussion of the 2014-2015 Town and Education requested budgets

Town Budget-Wes Marsh noted that the BOS budget was reduced due to a decrease in the Resident State Trooper program. There was a brief discussion of the Saw Mill bridge project in the amount of \$180,000 in the Capital and Nonrecurring fund. Since this is a two-year project, \$100,000 of that amount can be moved to operations to fund the road project or take it out of the budget completely and complete the road project with budget surplus. It was decided to use the \$100,000 for road repair. First Selectman Susan Chapman will get a written estimate of the road repair project.

Education Budget- Wes Marsh noted that the transportation line was increased due to gas prices. GASB 45 went down significantly. \$55,000 will be kept in Cap and Non for the locker replacement fund.

It was noted that the number of Sherman students is currently approximately 60. There was a brief discussion of attrition and surplus.

Business Manager Craig McClain spoke of energy accounts and special education excess cost.

The board decided to have the final Mark Up meeting one week early on Wednesday, March 26th instead of Wednesday, April 2nd.

ONGOING UPDATES

Medical update- It is estimated that the Medical Reserve fund will end the year at approximately \$1.5 million.

Legal update- There is a change in legal labor expenses

Year to date expenses review- no questions

Current year revenue update- Property taxes received to date is approximately 98.70%

Capital and Nonrecurring- There was a brief discussion of the Police Dept oil spill and the radio project.

First Selectman Susan Chapman noted that the library renovation project made it through the state bonding commission and the town is waiting to sign the contract.

The East Lake Brook bridge project had the bid opening today.

Public Comment- First Selectman Susan Chapman spoke of the possibility of having the town budget vote on Saturday, April 26th.

Selectman Kim Hanson spoke of the Plan of Conservation of Development and suggested that the town think of creative ways to attract younger families to town.

Future agenda items

Planning Commission at the April 16th meeting.

Discussion of the Elderly Tax Credit.

Board member comments

BOF members thanked members of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Education for put forth reasonable budgets.

John Hodge thanked the BOE members for their explanation of their security measures during an Executive Session that was held immediately prior to this meeting.

Adjournment

John Hodge made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 pm. Don Blackwell seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)