

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

**MINUTES  
Board of Finance Special Meeting  
Wednesday, July 17, 2024  
7:30 PM  
Via Zoom**

<b><u>Board of Finance members present</u></b> Thora Perkins, Chairman Mark Beninson Wes Marsh Cheryl Reedy Claudia Willard Greg Williams, Alternate	<b><u>Other Town officials and Educators present:</u></b> Melissa Lindsey, First Selectman Pat Del Monaco, Selectman Tom Perkins, Selectman Terry Friedman, Town Treasurer Elisa Beckett-Flores, Registrar of Voters Samantha Mannion, BOE member Ed Sbordone, BOE member/Deputy Treasurer Paul Gouveia, Director of Technology
<b><u>Board of Finance members not present</u></b> Patrick Hearty, Alternate Peggy Katkocin, Alternate	

Quintin Flower explained the rules for a virtual meeting.

**Call To Order**- Clerk Thora Perkins called the meeting to order at 7:31pm.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Appointments**- None

**Correspondence and Announcements**

Thora Perkins reported on the following correspondence:

- The BOF received two emails from residents expressing disappointment with the budget referendums and the BOF not listening to the voters.
- Information from Finance Director Olga Melnikov was received on July 2<sup>nd</sup> and was sent to the BOF members.
- On July 3<sup>rd</sup>, Town Clerk Holly Smith sent information clarifying the process for filling a vacancy on the BOF.
- The End-of-the Year tax report was received from Tax Collector Shareen Langdon.
- First Selectman Melissa Lindsey sent correspondence to Chairman Thora Perkins inviting her to be on the committee to find a replacement for Finance Director Olga Melnikov who will be leaving shortly. BOF member Wes Marsh will also serve on this committee.
- First Selectman Melissa Lindsey asked for BOF volunteers to attend the upcoming “Listening Hours”. Thora Perkins will attend the July 20<sup>th</sup> session and asked that BOF members consider attending future sessions.

- Resumes were received from Patrick Hearty, Rick Regan, Jessica Sanchez and Greg Williams expressing interest in filling the vacant seat on the BOF.
- Town Clerk Holly Smith asked that the BOF post a special meeting on either July 20<sup>th</sup> or July 22<sup>nd</sup> to set the Mil Rate in the event that the budget passes or to rework the budget in the event that it fails. It was decided that the special meeting will be held via Zoom on Monday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 pm.
- The Registrars of Voters have requested a stipend for the extra referendums. This will be discussed at the July 24<sup>th</sup> BOF meeting.
- Town Treasurer Terry Friedman sent a document about Town investments. Thora Perkins will meet with Terry Friedman next week to review this.
- USI Insurance Representative Tom Kowalchik will be attending the July 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Finance Director Olga Melnikov sent an invoice in the amount of \$7,000 for the audit. This invoice was approved.
- Resident Jessica Sanchez sent correspondence noting that she was available for any questions from BOF members regarding her interest in filling the vacancy on the BOF.
- The agenda for the special BOF meeting of July 22<sup>nd</sup> has been sent to members via email.
- Supplemental attachments from the Finance Director may be sent before the July 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Thora Perkins thanked Town Clerk Holly Smith and BOF Recording Secretary Suzanne Kloos for putting together all the information about filling a vacancy.

**Public Comment**- None

**Vote to fill vacancy of the New Fairfield Board of Finance for the term that expiring Nov. 2025**

Four members of the public applied to for the vacant position on the BOF due to the resignation of Gary Reetz. They include Patrick Hearty, Rick Regan, Jessica Sanchez and Greg Williams. Members of the Board asked questions of Mr. Williams, Mr. Regan and Ms. Sanchez. Thora Perkins reviewed Patrick Hearty's resume in his absence.

Thora Perkins nominated Patrick Hearty to serve as a regular member of the Board of Finance. Cheryl Reedy nominated Greg Williams to serve as a regular member of the Board of Finance.

**Mark Beninson, Thora Perkins, and Claudia Willard voted in favor of Patrick Hearty  
Cheryl Reedy and Wes Marsh voted in favor of Greg Williams  
(Patrick Hearty was elected to serve in this position)**

Cheryl Reedy encouraged applicants that weren't chosen to send a resume to the BOS for consideration of the vacant alternate position.

**Public Comment**

Keith Landa cautioned the Board members about announcing that fellow Board members are on vacation and/or out of town.

**Board Member Comments**

Cheryl Reedy encouraged everyone to vote at the budget referendum this Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 8pm at the Senior Center. Absentee ballots are available at the Town Clerk's office. She reminded everyone that the BOF voted unanimously to send this budget to the taxpayers.

Mark Beninson reminded everyone to vote this Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup>.

Thora Perkins asked fellow Board members to send her any information for the July 24<sup>th</sup> regular BOF meeting as soon as possible.

**Adjournment**

Wes Marsh made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 pm. Mark Beninson seconded the motion.

**Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Received by email on 07/23/2024 @ 8:30 a.m.  
by Chrystie M. Bontempo, Asst. Town Clerk, New Fairfield