

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

MINUTES

Board of Finance Meeting
Wednesday, October 17, 2007
7:30 PM
New Fairfield High School Library

Members present:

Lucy DiRocco, Chairman
Bob Burke
Joe Hart
Wes Marsh
Roger Wise
Art Azzarito, Alternate
Jane Landers, Alternate

Other Town Officials Present:

John Hodge, First Selectman
Peggy Katkocin, Selectman
Jay Waterman, Finance Director

Members absent:

Mike Cockburn
Bob Carbone, Alternate

Call To Order Chairman Lucy DiRocco called the meeting to order at 7:30pm

Approval of Minutes

August 21, 2007- Special Meeting- Bob Burke made a motion to approve the minutes of August 21, 2007 as presented. Wes Marsh seconded the motion.

Joe Hart made a motion to amend the previous motion to have the minutes reflect that Mr. Hart made a motion to transfer \$90,000 from the unappropriated Capital and Nonrecurring fund balance for the HVAC system at the Squantz Pond Firehouse. There was no second to the original motion at the August 21, 2007 meeting. Bob Burke seconded the motion to amend the minutes of August 21, 2007.

Vote to amend: 5-0-0 (Motion approved)

Vote on motion as amended: 5-0-0 (Motion approved)

August 28, 2007-Special Meeting- Lucy DiRocco made a motion to approve the minutes of August 28, 2007 with the following amendment: The minutes will reflect that Mr. Hart was given the opportunity to go into executive session but desired to have the discussion in a public forum. Therefore there was no executive session. Wes Marsh seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion approved)

September 19, 2007- Regular Meeting- Wes Marsh made a motion to accept the minutes of September 19, 2007 as presented. Bob Burke seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion approved)

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Transfers-2 pages

October 10, 2007-Special Meeting- Bob Burke made a motion to accept the minutes of October 10, 2007 as presented. Roger Wise seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion approved)

Correspondence and Announcements

Lucy DiRocco announced that there has been some correspondence between her and the first selectman regarding the meeting of October 10, 2007. Mrs. DiRocco further announced that a sergeant of arms, Officer Lange is present for this meeting. Mrs. DiRocco read the state statute regarding video taping or photography at public meetings.

Joe Hart read into record a request he made to Lucy DiRocco and Robert Burke asking for the work product and time records for the firm of Kepple, Morgan & Avena regarding their legal opinion issued on October 10, 2007 resulting in an invoice of \$1,443 for 7.8 hours of work. Mr. Hart further requested any and all information concerning any law firm, attorney or paralegal contacted by Lucy DiRocco or Robert Burke in the process of seeking this opinion. Bob Burke stated that he would give this information to Mr. Hart by Monday, October 22nd.

Public comment/questions

Kim Hanson spoke of an incident between him and BOF Alternate Robert Carbone at the October 10, 2007 special BOF meeting.

Al Mardis spoke of the incident of October 10, 2007

Tom Corbett spoke of FOI rules regarding the incident of October 10, 2007

Appointments

Bob Burke made a motion to elevate Alternate Art Azzarito to a regular member for purposes of this meeting to fill in for Mike Cockburn. Wes Marsh seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion approved)

Mr. Azzarito declined the nomination

Joe Hart made a motion to elevate Alternate Jane Landers to a regular member for purposes of this meeting to fill in for Mike Cockburn. Bob Burke seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion approved)

OLD BUSINESS

Police update

Finance Director Jay Waterman spoke of a net savings of \$62,712 for the Police Department for the fiscal year '06-'07. A discussion ensued among the members of the BOF regarding the budget surplus for the Police Department.

Medical update

Jay Waterman spoke of the medical update for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007. The ending fund balance for the medical fund is approximately \$3,002,038.99.

Legal update

Lucy DiRocco asked about the “Taxation and Assessment” line on the legal report. Per Jay Waterman, most of the expenses were due to the Candlewood Isle revaluation.

Update on Senior Center

Lucy DiRocco announced that she spoke with the Permanent Building Committee Chairman Bob Rawlings and stated that there is nothing new to report regarding the Senior Center. The PBC is currently working on plans.

Transfers

Bob Burke made motion to recommend to a Town Meeting an additional appropriation in the amount of \$75,445.00 for the following accounts. (Such document to be attached to the minutes of this meeting). Roger Wise seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

\$'s	Account #	Transfer to	\$'s	Account #	Transfer from
37,538.00	4310-452	Public Works Town Aid	37,538.00	3300-001	Town Aid Revenue
29907.00	4310-610-2	Public Works Hwy & Streets	37,907.00	3300-020	FEMA Revenue
8,000	4310-130	Public Works Overtime			
75,445.00			75,445.00		

Roger Wise made a motion to make an Inter-Departmental transfer in the amount of \$24,015.33 from the following accounts. Bob Burke seconded the motion. (Such document to be attached to the minutes of this meeting)

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

\$'s	Transfer to Account #		\$'s	Transfer from Account #	
24,015.33	4900-304	Fire Reserve	246.36	4220-110	Salaries
			146.00	4220-290	Physicals
			4,599.96	4220-338	Ambulance-Para-EMT
			410.55	4220-430	Building Supplies/Repairs
			1,616.32	4220-430-1	Fire Co.'s Maint. & Repairs
			9,294.22	4220-610	Dept. materials/supplies
			4,053.25	4220-610-1	Fire Co.'s-supplies/equip
			30.58	4220-610-5	Portable equip.
			2,406.52	4220-620-2	Squantz utilities
			1,211.57	4220-740-2	Dry Hydrants
24,015.33			24,015.33		

NEW BUSINESS

Budget surplus

Finance Director Jay Waterman spoke of the budget surplus for the year ending June 30, 2007. A discussion ensued among the members of the BOF as to what to do with the surplus. A suggestion was made to hold a town meeting to get input from taxpayers. There was a discussion of the purpose of the Capital and Nonrecurring fund.

Opinion from Town Counsel regarding Squantz Pond petition

Lucy DiRocco announced that this opinion has not yet been received.

Public comment/questions

Ralph Langham gave his support for Kim Hanson regarding the controversy at the October 10th BOF meeting.

Marty Andrews spoke of the purpose of public comment

Art Azzarito and Kim Hanson also spoke of the October 10th BOF meeting.

Board Member Comments

Joe Hart spoke of the validity of the opinion from Attorney Kepple since he found “no evidence that said appointment is for a fixed period.” Mr. Hart read the State Statue Sec. 7-342 showing that the chairman is elected for a fixed period of time.

Jane Landers spoke of Attorney Kepple’s opinon.

Outgoing members of the BOF thanked fellow board members and spoke of the future of the BOF.

Adjournment

Lucy DiRocco made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:59pm. Bob Burke seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)