

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

MINUTES
Board of Finance Special Meeting
Tuesday, August 28, 2007
7:30 PM
New Fairfield High School Library

Members present:

Joe Hart, Chairman
Bob Burke
Mike Cockburn
Lucy DiRocco
Wes Marsh
Roger Wise
Art Azzarito, Alternate
Bob Carbone, Alternate (left 8:10pm)
Jane Landers, Alternate

Other Town Officials Present:

John Hodge, First Selectman
Ron Oliveri, Selectman
Jay Waterman, Finance Director

Call To Order Chairman Joe Hart called the meeting to order at 7:30pm

Appointments- None

Executive Session-Personnel Matters - Wes Marsh made a motion to move item #4 (Executive Session-Personnel Matters) to item #1A. Lucy DiRocco seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-2-0 (Motion approved)
(Bob Burke, Lucy DiRocco, Wes Marsh and Roger Wise approved)
(Mike Cockburn and Joe Hart opposed)

Roger Wise made a motion to remove Joe Hart as Chairman of the Board of Finance. Lucy DiRocco seconded the motion.

After a lengthy discussion, Roger Wise made a motion to call the question regarding the above motion. Lucy DiRocco seconded the motion.

Vote: 1-5-0 (Motion denied)
(Roger Wise in favor)
(Bob Burke, Mike Cockburn, Lucy DiRocco, Joe Hart and Wes Marsh opposed)

After more discussion concerning the above motion, Lucy DiRocco made a motion to call the question. Roger Wise seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-2-0 (Motion approved)
(Bob Burke, Lucy DiRocco, Wes Marsh and Roger Wise approved)
(Mike Cockburn and Joe Hart opposed)

Vote on Mr. Wise's original motion after the question was called.

Vote: 4-2-0 (Motion approved)
(Bob Burke, Lucy DiRocco, Wes Marsh and Roger Wise approved)
(Mike Cockburn and Joe Hart opposed)

Roger Wise made a motion to have the Clerk of the Board act as temporary chair for tonight's meeting. Bob Burke seconded the motion. There was a discussion as to the original vote of May 16, 2007 and if a clerk was technically elected at that meeting.

Joe Hart made a motion to nominate Bob Burke as temporary chair for tonight's meeting. Wes Marsh made a motion to nominate Lucy DiRocco as temporary chair for tonight's meeting.

Vote: (Bob Burke, Mike Cockburn and Joe Hart voted for Bob Burke)
Vote: (Lucy DiRocco, Wes Marsh and Roger Wise voted for Lucy DiRocco)
Vote: 3-3-0 (tied)

Joe Hart made a motion to nominate Bob Burke as temporary chair for tonight's meeting. Wes Marsh made a motion to nominate Lucy DiRocco as temporary chair for tonight's meeting.

Vote: (Mike Cockburn and Joe Hart voted for Bob Burke)
Vote: (Bob Burke, Lucy DiRocco, Wes Marsh and Roger Wise voted for Lucy DiRocco)
Vote: 4-2-0 (In favor of Lucy DiRocco)

First Selectman John Hodge spoke about the petition regarding the HVAC system at the Squantz Pond Firehouse. Mr. Hodge referred to previous petitions that were signed by Board of Finance members.

Review of special meeting as per Section 7-342

Joe Hart read into record an e-mail that he sent to all the regular and alternate board members on August 28, 2007 requesting any and all correspondence between any Board of Finance members for the last 31 days. Mr. Hart requested this correspondence under the Freedom of Information Act. (Such e-mail to be attached to the minutes of this meeting)

Roger Wise provided the board with information regarding which members called for the special meeting of August 28th.

Discuss and vote to elect board chairman

Joe Hart made a motion to table this item until the legality of removal of the original chairman can be determined. Mike Cockburn seconded the motion.

Vote: 2-4-0 (Motion denied)
(Joe Hart and Mike Cockburn in favor)
(Bob Burke, Lucy DiRocco, Wes Marsh and Roger Wise opposed)

Wes Marsh made a motion to nominate Lucy DiRocco as Chairman of the Board of Finance.

Mike Cockburn made a motion to nominate Bob Burke as Chairman of the Board of Finance.

Bob Burke declined the nomination.

Vote for Lucy DiRocco: 4-2-0 (Motion approved)
(Bob Burke, Lucy DiRocco, Wes Marsh and Roger Wise in favor)
(Joe Hart and Mike Cockburn opposed)

Discussion of Annex Roof

This item was voted on by the BOF at the last special meeting of August 21, 2007.

Discussion of obtaining legal counsel regarding Squantz Pond Petition for Town Meeting

It was decided that since the Squantz Pond Firehouse HVAC system project requires an appropriation and not bonding and this project would have to come back to the BOF for approval, that legal counsel was not necessary.

Discuss and vote on Board of Finance Policies and Procedures

Art Azzarito read into record a proposed "Policy and procedures for the New Fairfield Board of Finance". Such proposal includes rules and regulations that the BOF must abide by and a proposed agenda for future meetings. (Such proposal to be attached to the minutes of this meeting)

Bob Burke made a motion to accept the proposed policy and procedures for the New Fairfield Board of Finance. Wes Marsh seconded the motion.

Bob Burke made a motion to amend the previous motion to change item #5 to read "24 hours" instead of "three business days". Wes Marsh seconded the motion.

Vote to amend motion: 5-1-0

**(Bob Burke, Mike Cockburn, Lucy DiRocco, Wes Marsh and Roger Wise in favor)
(Joe Hart opposed)**

Vote on Mr. Burke's motion as amended: 5-0-1

**Bob Burke, Lucy DiRocco, Wes Marsh and Roger Wise opposed)
(Joe Hart abstained)**

September Agenda items

The following items were requested by board members to be put on the September regular meeting agenda: Review of the legal opinion removing Joe Hart as chairman, Discussion of contingency fund for sand/salt, update on Senior Center and Historical Homes including grants, a quarterly report from the Finance Director that includes a detail of Public Works, a transfer to increase the BOF recording secretary's salary to match the highest paid hourly rate that she receives from other boards.

Schedule of Special Meeting

No special meeting was scheduled at this time.

Public Comment

Many members of the public including Selectman Ron Oliveri expressed their concern over the context of this meeting and voiced their support for Mr. Hart.

Adjournment

Bob Burke made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:42pm. Roger Wise seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)