

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

MINUTES
Board of Finance Meeting
Wednesday, September 19, 2007
7:30 PM
New Fairfield High School Library

Members present:

Lucy DiRocco, Chairman
Bob Burke
Mike Cockburn
Joe Hart
Wes Marsh
Roger Wise
Art Azzarito, Alternate
Bob Carbone, Alternate (left 8:50 pm)

Other Town Officials Present:

John Hodge, First Selectman
Ron Oliveri, Selectman
Peggy Katkocin, Selectman
Jay Waterman, Finance Director
Bob Rawlings, PBC Chairman

Members absent:

Jane Landers, Alternate

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

Appointments None

Correspondence and Announcements

Joe Hart read into record the opinion from Town Counsel John F. Keating Jr. regarding the removal of the BOF Chairman.

Joe Hart made a motion to add "Discussion of legal opinion from Town Counsel John F. Keating, Jr." to the agenda for tonight's meeting. Mike Cockburn seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-3-0 (Motion denied)
(Joe Hart, Mike Cockburn and Bob Burke in favor)
(Lucy DiRocco Wes Marsh and Roger Wise opposed)

Bob Burke made a motion to seek legal opinion on behalf of the Board of Finance regarding the position of Chairman of the Board of Finance. Mike Cockburn seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-1 (Motion approved) (Joe Hart abstained)

Lucy DiRocco made a motion to add "Appointment of legal counsel" to tonight' agenda. Bob Burke seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-1-0 (Motion approved) (Joe Hart opposed)

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Lucy DiRocco made a motion to appoint BOF member Bob Burke as a liaison to seek counsel on behalf of the BOF regarding the removal of chairman. This legal opinion should not exceed \$5,000. Wes Marsh seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-1 (Motion approved) (Joe Hart abstained)

Approval of Minutes

Bob Burke made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 18, 2007 meeting as presented. Wes Marsh seconded the motion.

**Vote: 5-0-1 (Motion approved)
(Wes Marsh abstained)**

Bob Burke made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2007 special meeting as presented. Roger Wise seconded the motion.

Joe Hart made a motion to amend the previous motion to approve the minutes with an amendment that reads "Joe Hart made a motion to transfer \$90,000 from the unappropriated Cap & Non balance for the HVAC for the Squantz Pond Firehouse". Bob Burke seconded the motion

(The motion to approve the minutes and the motion to amend the original motion were never voted on)

Roger Wise made a motion to table the approval of the minutes from the August 21, 2007 Special Meeting until the October regular meeting. Wes Marsh seconded the motion.

**Vote: 5-1-0 (Motion approved)
(Joe Hart opposed)**

Bob Burke made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 28, 2007 Special Meeting as presented. Wes Marsh seconded the motion.

Joe Hart made a motion to amend the previous motion to amend the minutes of August 28th to add "and it was determined by the board that an additional vote was unnecessary" under the information on the Annex Roof. Mike Cockburn seconded the motion.

**Vote: 2-3-1 (Motion denied)
(Joe Hart, Mike Cockburn in favor)
(Bob Burke, Wes Marsh and Lucy DiRocco opposed)
(Roger Wise abstained)**

Bob Burke made a motion to table the approval of the minutes of the August 28, 2007 meeting until the board gets an opportunity to listen to the tape. Wes Marsh seconded the motion.

**Vote: 5-1-0 (Motion approved)
(Joe Hart opposed)**

Public Comment

Many members of the public including BOF member Joe Hart, BOF Alternates Bob Carbone and Art Azzarito and Selectman Peggy Katkocin gave their opinions regarding the recent BOF meetings and the legal opinion from town counsel.

Senior Center Update

Permanent Building Committee Chairman Bob Rawlings spoke of the progress of the Senior Center. Mr. Rawlings noted that the architects for the project have changed. First Selectman John Hodge spoke of the DECD Grant in the amount of \$650,000 for the Senior Center and clarified information regarding said

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grant. Members of the BOF asked questions of Mr. Rawlings and First Selectman Hodge regarding the Senior Center and grant.

Board of Finance recording secretary salary

Bob Burke made a motion to table this agenda item until the next board is voted in at the November election. Roger Wise seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-2-1 (Motion approved)
(Bob Burke, Wes Marsh and Roger Wise in favor)
(Joe Hart and Mike Cockburn opposed)
(Lucy DiRocco abstained)

Election of Clerk

Bob Burke made a motion to table this agenda items until the next board is voted in at the November election. Roger Wise seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-1 (Motion approved)
(Joe Hart abstained)

Budget Transfers: Bob Burke made a motion to make the following Intra-Departmental transfers for year-end true ups. Roger Wise seconded the motion. (Such document to be attached to the minutes of this meeting)

\$'s	Account #	Transfer to	\$'s	Account #	Transfer from
0.44	4120-105	Town Clerk salary	0.44	4120-110	Town Clerk salary
0.20	4225-110	Fire Marshall salary	0.20	4225-610	Mat/Sup-Fire Marshall
197.08	4154-105	Tax Coll. Salary	197.08	4154-610	Mat/Sup-Tax Coll.
79.96	4161-332-2	Legal-Tax	79.96	4161-332-6	Legal Planning
67.98	4161-332-7	Legal-Zoning	67.98	4161-332-6	Legal Planning
802.87	4210-130-1	Overtime	802.87	4210-332	Education & Training
38,482.40	4217-317-2	Other Resident Troopers	38,482.40	4210-110	Salaries-Police Officers
39,603.93			39,603.93		

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

BOF Policy and Procedures

There was a discussion regarding the need to give three days notice to members for special meetings. State statute requires 24 hours notice in the event of a special meeting. It was decided not to amend the BOF policy at this time.

Joe Hart made a motion to add to the BOF Policy and Procedures a statement that reads “Any time a Board of Finance member represents themselves as a member of the Board of Finance to any governmental agency; the full Board should be copied on all correspondence. By identifying themselves to these governmental agencies as Board of Finance members, it gives the appearance that they are acting in their capacity as a Board member and/or may give the impression that they are representing the Board of Finance.” 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)

Historic House Update

Finance Director Jay Waterman spoke of expenditures regarding the “Museum District”.

Sand/Salt issue

Members of the Board of Finance asked questions of First Selectman Hodge regarding Sand/Salt that were delivered to the Town of New Fairfield in the past.

Squantz Pond Firehouse

There was a discussion of the Heating and Air Conditioning system at Squantz Pond Firehouse.

Joe Hart made a motion to transfer \$90,000 from the unappropriated Cap & Non fund for the Squantz Pond Firehouse HVAC renovation. Such transfer was approved at a Town Meeting on September 4, 2007. Roger Wise seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Finance Director Update

Finance Director Jay Waterman announced that the fiscal year 2006-2007 audit has started this week. According to preliminary unaudited figures, the town is expected to return approximately \$420,000 in unexpended general fund expenditures from the operating budget. Revenues were exceeded by approximately \$619,000 for a total of approximately \$1,040,000.

Legal Update

Jay Waterman spoke of the legal budget for fiscal year end 2006-2007. Mr. Waterman spoke of the “monetary litigation recovery” and read into record an e-mail he wrote to BOF Alternate Bob Carbone regarding the “monetary litigation recovery”. (Such e-mail to be attached to the minutes of this meeting)

Recess

Joe Hart made a motion to recess the meeting for five minutes at 10:05pm. Bob Burke seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Joe Hart made a motion to reconvene the meeting at 10:10pm. Roger Wise seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Medical Update

Jay Waterman announced that they are waiting for an annual letter from Anthem that will give final claim settlement. According to the draft medical update, the ending fund balance is approximately \$2,988,000 which is approximately \$250,000 higher than last year.

Police Update

Jay Waterman spoke the police budget. Final numbers will be available next month after the transfer from tonight’s meeting is factored in.

Public comment

Many members of the public gave their opinions about recent BOF meetings.

Board member comments

Joe Hart made a motion to add to tonight’s agenda item #19A “BOF Recording Secretary Salary” and revisit the BOF secretary salary. Mike Cockburn seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-1-0 (Wes Marsh opposed)

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Board of Finance secretary salary

Joe Hart made a motion to increase the Board of Finance secretary's hourly rate to match that of the Board of Education of \$17.05/hour. Such increase to be retroactive to July 1, 2007. Mike Cockburn seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Adjournment

Wes Marsh made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:37 pm. Bob Burke seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)