

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

MINUTES
Board of Finance Meeting
Wednesday, February 20, 2008
7:30 PM
New Fairfield High School Library

Members present:

Joe Hart, Chairman
Lucy DiRocco
Jane Landers
Al Mardis
Wes Marsh
Tom Wahlig
Art Azzarito, Alternate
Tony Sanches, Alternate
Brian Shea, Alternate

Other Town Officials Present:

John Hodge, First Selectman (arrived 8:45pm)
Dr. Joseph Castagnola, Superintendent of Schools
John Boccuzzi, Ass't Superintendent of Schools
Jay Waterman, Finance Director
Phil Ross, Director of Buildings and Grounds
Mike Santogatta, Director of Management Services
Karen Chance, BOE Member
Ken Chapman, BOE Member
Vic Flagello, BOE Member
Ron Lyons, BOE Member

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Appointments- None

Correspondence and Announcements

Finance Director Jay Waterman announced that since the town has been with the current auditors for three years it is time to put it out to bid. Bids are due in to the town by February 27th. It was decided that potential candidates should be presented to the Board of Finance.

Chairman Joe Hart distributed e-mails that he received from Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joseph Castagnola and Board of Education Chairman Kim Hanson regarding the Capital and Nonrecurring items for the Board of Education.

Public Comment

Resident Rudy Bahrens spoke of the education system in New Fairfield.

Assistant Superintendent of Schools John Boccuzzi spoke of the cost per pupil in the New Fairfield schools.

Board of Education member Vic Flagello spoke of the education budget for fiscal year 2008-2009 in New Fairfield and asked the Board of Finance to look at the budget carefully.

Resident Mary Bahrens spoke of errors in last week's Citizen News regarding articles about the budget.

Approval of Minutes

January 30, 2008- Regular Meeting- Joe Hart made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 30, 2008 regular meeting as presented. Jane Landers seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

There was a discussion among board members about possibly having someone from the Freedom of Information Commission come to meeting to give a workshop on Freedom of Information rules. Jane Landers will call the Freedom of Information Commission to schedule.

Board of Education Capital and Nonrecurring report

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joseph Castagnola and Director of Buildings and Grounds Phil Ross spoke of the Capital and Nonrecurring projects for the schools. A list of priorities and approximate costs was given. The 2008/2009 proposed budget for the Board of Education has \$140,000 for capital projects and maintenance. There was a discussion of maintenance and increasing the maintenance budget.

There was a lengthy discussion of the cost of maintenance or if it would be more effective to put the money towards debt service for a building project. This discussion included possibly having a joint meeting between the Board of Finance and the Board of Education. Members of the Board of Finance asked questions regarding the building projects. Board of Education members that were in attendance also participated in this discussion. It was the consensus of the Board of Finance that the Board of Education put together and bring forward a building project.

Old Business

- a. **Transfers-** None

New Business

- a. **Treasurer's report-** Town Treasurer Phil Cammarano could not attend the meeting, but asked BOF members to e-mail him with specific questions.
- b. **Year-to-date Financial review-** Jay Waterman spoke of the gas and diesel line
- c. **Items for March meeting-** The regular monthly meeting of the BOF will be held on March 19th. Items for the March meeting include medical, legal and transfers.
Upcoming meetings:
March 1st- Public Hearing and Budget Presentations for BOE and BOS
March 12th- BOE Budget review
March 19th- Regular Meeting and BOS Budget review
March 26th- Budget review and follow up
April 2nd- Budget review and follow up and medical update with Steve Rinaldi
April 9th- Budget Mark up

Appoint Procedures Committee

Chairman Joe Hart appointed Wes Marsh, Lucy DiRocco and Brian Shea to the Procedures Committee.

Public Comment/questions- None

Board member comments- Lucy DiRocco spoke of the fact that this meeting was not televised and asked if backup could be provided when necessary.

Adjournment

Al Mardis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15pm. Tom Wahlig seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)