

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

MINUTES
Board of Finance Meeting
Wednesday, August 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
Ron Oliveri, Selectman
Tom Corbett, Selectman
Jay Waterman, Finance Director
Ed Sbordone, Accounting Manager

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Appointments- None

Correspondence and Announcements

Joe Hart spoke of a report that he received from Tax Collector Kerrie Greening which gave a summary of unpaid taxes on each rate bill, the total amount collected on each rate bill and the total amount of uncollected taxes on each rate bill as of June 30, 2008. Such report to be attached to the minutes of this meeting.

Al Mardis noted that the BOF was inadvertently cited in a Freedom of Information claim and then was subsequently removed.

Al Mardis read an e-mail that he wrote to Board of Education members Ed Siebert and Monika Thiel in response to their e-mails regarding their concern of liabilities for BOE members for the school building contracts. There was a discussion among the BOF members regarding the role of the BOF in this issue.

Public Comment- None

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Attachments- Tax Collector's letter

Addition to agenda

Joe Hart made a motion to add item #6A "Discussion of potential conflict of interest" to the agenda. Wes Marsh seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Approval of Minutes

Joe Hart made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2008 regular meeting as presented. Jane Landers seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Discussion of potential "conflict of interest"

Members of the BOF expressed their concern with BOF member Al Mardis serving also on the Permanent Building Committee and as the chairman of the Permanent Building Committee. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding a potential "conflict of interest" of serving on two boards. Each member of the BOF gave their opinion regarding this issue. There was a discussion as to whether or not Mr. Mardis should take a leave of absence from the BOF or resign from the Permanent Building Committee. Another suggestion would be to have Mr. Mardis recuse himself from any votes regarding the PBC. First Selectman John Hodge and Selectman Ron Oliveri spoke in support of Mr. Mardis and noted that state statute does not define this situation as a "conflict of interest".

Joe Hart made a motion to grant a leave of absence from the BOF to Al Mardis until January 1, 2009. Jane Landers seconded the motion.

Joe Hart made a motion to amend the previous motion to read that the leave of absence for Mr. Mardis will run until January 1, 2009 or until Mr. Mardis resigns from the Permanent Building Committee. Jane Landers seconded the motion.

Vote to amend motion: 3-3-0 (Motion denied- Joe Hart, Jane Landers and Tom Wahlig in favor, Lucy DiRocco, Wes Marsh and Al Mardis opposed)

**Vote on original motion: 4-2-0 (Motion approved)
(Joe Hart, Jane Landers, Lucy DiRocco and Tom Wahlig in favor)
(Wes Marsh and Al Mardis opposed)**

Al Mardis left the meeting at 8:30pm and thus did not vote on the remaining motions.

Review and discussion of Capital and Nonrecurring subcommittee meeting

The Capital and Nonrecurring subcommittee met immediately prior to this meeting at 6:45pm. The committee consists of Tom Wahlig, Wes Marsh and Art Azzarito. The committee elected Tom Wahlig as the chairman. Mr. Wahlig noted that the committee had a discussion of revenue of the Capital and Nonrecurring account. The subcommittee will meet again on September 17th at 6:45pm immediately prior to the regular BOF meeting.

Discussion of Health Department Vehicle

Finance Director Jay Waterman spoke of the allowable uses of a Health Department Vehicle. The amount of the vehicle is \$16,763. The Health Department will get a grant that will subsidize the

purchase of the vehicle. Members of the BOF asked questions of Mr. Waterman regarding uses and funding for the vehicle.

Tom Wahlig made a motion to recommend to a town meeting an additional appropriation in the amount of \$9,963 from the unappropriated and unencumbered capital reserve fund to be paid back to the capital and nonrecurring fund. Joe Hart seconded the motion.

**Vote: 1-3-1 (Motion denied)
(Tom Wahlig in favor, Lucy DiRocco, Jane Landers and Wes Marsh
opposed and Joe Hart abstained)**

Review and discussion of Senior Center itemized expenses to date

Accounting Manager Ed Sbordone spoke of the itemized expenses for the Senior Center. Members of the BOF asked questions of First Selectman Hodge and Ed Sbordone. There was a discussion of the architect for the Senior Center.

Medical update

Finance Director Jay Waterman noted that the ending fund balance for the medical fund is \$2,545,384.14

Legal update

Jay Waterman noted that the legal fund has a positive balance of \$19,700 as of year end for June 30, 2008.

Public Comment-- None

Board Member Comments

Tony Sanches and Joe Hart wished Al Mardis well in all his endeavors.

A Public hearing of the communications consultant will take place on Wednesday, September 24th at 7:30 in the High School library. First Selectman Hodge asked the members of the BOF to e-mail any questions regarding this issue ahead of time so that they can prepare answers.

Jay Waterman spoke of the rise in utilities cost and is keeping a close tab on the utilities budget.

Jay Waterman announced that a meeting took place with the department heads which it was announced that a 3% temporary freeze was put on the budgets until further notice. This amounts to approximately \$220,000.

First Selectman Hodge announced that the Planning Commission has already spent their legal budget for the fiscal year 2008-2009 due to the Dunham Pond issue. Mr. Hodge asked BOF how to proceed. It was decided that the first selectman should come to the BOF before spending any extra money.

Adjournment

Lucy DiRocco made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:57pm. Wes Marsh seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion approved)