

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

**MINUTES**

**Board of Finance Public Hearing**  
**Wednesday, September 24, 2008**  
**7:30 PM**  
**New Fairfield High School Library**

***Members present:***

Joe Hart, Chairman  
Lucy DiRocco (left 10:10)  
Jane Landers  
Wes Marsh  
Tom Wahlig  
Brian Shea, Alternate

***Other Town Officials Present:***

John Hodge, First Selectman  
Ron Oliveri, Selectman  
Jay Waterman, Finance Director  
Ed Sbordone, Accounting Manager  
Ed McCue, Fire Chief  
Various members of the Fire Dept.

***Members not present:***

Art Azzarito, Alternate  
Tony Sanches, Alternate

***Leave of absence***

Al Mardis

**Call To Order** Chairman Joe Hart called the public hearing to order at 7:30 pm

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Presentation by selectmen/consultants regarding Emergency Radio System**

Board of Finance Chairman Joe Hart announced that the purpose of this public hearing is to give the selectmen and the consultants a chance to explain the proposed emergency radio system and for the public and the BOF members to ask questions regarding the system.

First Selectman John Hodge spoke of the need for an upgraded emergency radio system and noted that all three selectmen endorse recommending the proposed emergency radio system to a Town Meeting. Mr. Hodge played a tape with examples of the poor quality of the communication in town.

Fire Chief Ed McCue gave a presentation demonstrating the current communication system problems.

Consultants Andy Ely and Jeff Jacobson from Pier Con Solutions explained the proposed emergency radio system and their recommendations for enhancements to this system. It was noted that the financial impact to the town can be minimized by using the existing analog radios.

It was noted that the proposed system would give 95% reliability and there was a discussion about coverage areas and terrain in town.

**BOF Questions/comments**

Members of the Board of Finance asked questions for Mr. Ely, Mr. Jacobson and Chief McCue. Specific questions asked were regarding the warranties for the systems and the operating costs.

**Public Comment**

Many members of the public including members of the fire department spoke in support of the need for this proposed emergency system.

Roger Wise read an e-mail from resident Ron Graiff outlining his concerns regarding the radio communication system.

First Selectman Hodge noted that the BOS will recommend this issue to a Town Meeting and then presumably to a referendum vote. Mr. Hodge asked the BOF for their endorsement with this project. Board of Finance Chairman Joe Hart asked the Board of Selectman to provide them with current coverage maps and 5-year operating costs for the proposed system and noted that this item will be on the agenda for the next BOF meeting.

Chairman Hart thanked the Pier Con Solution consultants Andy Ely and Jeff Jacobson as well as the BOS and the Fire Dept. for their presentation.

**Adjournment**

Wes Marsh made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 pm. Tom Wahlig seconded the motion.

**Vote: 4-0-0 (Motion approved)**