

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

MINUTES
Board of Finance Meeting
Wednesday, May 20, 2009
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
Brian Shea, Alternate

Members not present:

Tony Sanches, Alternate

Other Town Officials Present:

John Hodge, First Selectman
Ron Oliveri, Selectman
Tom Corbett, Selectman
Jay Waterman, Finance Director
Ed Sbordone, Accounting Manager
Kim Hanson, BOE Chairman
Mike Gil, Fire Department
Pete Benzinger, Fire Department

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Appointments- None

Correspondence and Announcements

Chairman Joe Hart noted that he received a fax from First Selectman John Hodge regarding the weevil project.

Chairman Joe Hart noted that he received an e-mail from resident Michael Keenan regarding the weevil project.

Public Comment

Fire fighters Mike Gil and Peter Benzinger noted that they are available to answer any questions regarding the Fire department in Chief Ed McCue's absence.

Several members of the public spoke in favor of the milfoil project and asked the Board of Finance to reconsider their prior decision not to fund the project.

Approval of Minutes

Joe Hart made a motion to approve the minutes of April 6, 2009 as presented. Al Mardis seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Joe Hart made a motion to approve the minutes of April 22, 2009 as presented. Al Mardis seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Joe Hart made a motion to approve the minutes of May 12, 2009 as presented. Wes Marsh seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Addition to Agenda

Al Mardis made a motion to add item #13.1 “Discuss and possibly vote on the milfoil weevil project” to the agenda. Tom Wahlig seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Discuss and vote to set Mill Rate for the Town of New Fairfield for 2009/2010

Chairman Joe Hart thanked everyone involved with the successful budget referendum. Mr. Hart thanked Town Treasurer Phil Cammarano for a higher than expected income. Mr. Hart also thanked the Board of Selectmen, all the department heads and the Board of Education for keeping the expenses lower than expected.

Chairman Hart noted that an excess of \$2,400,000 was returned in total to the General Fund in the last four years. Mr. Hart proposed returning 50% of this excess or approximately \$1,200,000 to the taxpayers. There was a lengthy discussion of the role of the BOF and if they have the authority to change the Mill Rate as voted. It was suggested getting a legal opinion regarding tax bills. First Selectman John Hodge noted that money cannot be taken out of the General Fund without a Town Meeting.

Joe Hart made a motion to authorize Jane Landers and Art Azzarito to obtain legal clarification regarding tax bills for 2009/2010. Tom Wahlig seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Joe Hart made a motion to table the approval of setting the Mill Rate for 2009/2010. Al Mardis seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

It was decided that the Board of Finance will hold a special meeting on Thursday, May 28th at 7:00pm to set the Mill Rate.

Approval of suspense list for Tax Collector for the Town of New Fairfield

Joe Hart made a motion to approve the suspense list of the Tax Collector for a total amount of \$48,126.29. Al Mardis seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

BOF SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Audit Subcommittee

Audit subcommittee chairman Al Mardis noted that the audit subcommittee met immediately prior to this meeting and suggested that the board execute an engagement letter from McGladrey and Pullen.

Al Mardis made a motion to have the board authorize the Chairman of the Board of Finance execute an engagement letter from the audit firm of McGladrey & Pullen for the fiscal year 2009/2010. Tom Wahlig seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Policy and Procedures subcommittee

Policy and procedures subcommittee chairman Jane Landers noted that the policy subcommittee met immediately prior to this meeting. The committee amended a prior list of policy and procedures that will be given to the BOF members at the next regular meeting. The committee will meet again before the June regular meeting at 7:00pm.

Capital and Nonrecurring subcommittee

Tom Wahlig noted that the Capital and Nonrecurring subcommittee will meet in the near future. Mr. Wahlig asked alternate Brian Shea to join the subcommittee.

OPEN BUSINESS

Fire Department Reserve Fund

BOF Alternate Art Azzarito suggested forming a committee to discuss abolishing the existing Fire Department reserve fund and designate capital so that the Fire Department doesn't have to raise 25% for the apparatus fund.

Jane Landers asked that the Fire Department members come to future meetings to explain how the Fire Department works.

Joe Hart made a motion to authorize Art Azzarito to investigate and explore information regarding the Fire Department Reserve Fund. Wes Marsh seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of process of internal borrowing

There was a discussion of the process of internal borrowing for the town. Jane Landers suggested getting a legal opinion from Bond Counsel Frank D'Ercole.

Transfer detail

There was a discussion about transfers. The board requested that future transfers have a line item that shows what other transfers have been done for that line item. Also a year-to-date report of all transfers will be provided

Budget Transfers

Al Mardis made a motion to make the following Intra-Departmental transfer. TomWahlig seconded the motion. (Such document to be attached to the minutes of this meeting)

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

\$'s	To Account #		\$'s	From Account #	
\$10,000.00	4161-332-3	Prof. Services-Legal Labor	\$ 5,000.00	4161-332-5	Prof. Services-Legal Health
			\$ 5,000.00	4161-332-8	Prof. Services-Legal ZBA
\$10,000.00			\$ 10,000.00		

Tom Wahlig made a motion to make the following Inter-Departmental transfer. Wes Marsh seconded the motion. (Such document to be attached to the minutes of this meeting)

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

\$'s	To Account #		\$'s	From Account #	
\$1,000.00	1-4450-620	Senior Center Utilities	\$ 1,000.00	1-4195-620-5	Town Properties-Fuel Oil
\$1,000.00			\$ 1,000.00		

ONGOING UPDATES

Medical update

Finance Director Jay Waterman noted that the medical fund has a balance of \$2,653,818.41. Chairman Joe Hart suggested that Steve Rinaldi from Everett James, Inc. come to a meeting in the near future.

Town list of projects update

There was a discussion of having a twenty-year projection for town projects

School building projects

The school building project passed at the referendum on May 16th

Senior Center update

First Selectman Hodge noted that the new Senior Center should be done by June 15th with an opening day of July 1st.

Legal update

There was a discussion of legal transfers

Year to date expenses review

Everything seems on track for the year

Cap & Non report- None

Milfoil weevil project

There was a lengthy discussion among the BOF members regarding a request to appropriate \$15,000. Each member of the board gave their opinions regarding the project. First Selectman John Hodge read a letter into record that he previously sent to the BOF chairman.

Tom Wahlig made a motion to appropriate \$15,000 for the weevil milfoil project. Al Mardis seconded the motion.

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

Public comment

Many members of the public gave their opinion regarding the weevil project

Future agenda items

There was a discussion of items to be put on future agendas. It was decided that there will be a discussion of revised policies and procedures. Other future agenda items include opinion from

counsel regarding tax refunds, a list of town future projects and the accreditation of the High school.

Board member comments

Members of the board spoke of their opinions regarding current projects.

Adjournment

Joe Hart made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:15pm. Al Mardis seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)