

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

**MINUTES**  
**Board of Finance Regular Meeting**  
**Wednesday, July 15, 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  
Jay Waterman, Finance Director  
Ed Sbordone, Accounting Manager  
Ed McCue, Fire Chief  
Various members of the Fire Dept.

**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 spoke of an e-mail that he received regarding a contract for the video recorder Ray Juskiewicz. Mr. Hart asked to that the board be kept updated on this.

Lucy DiRocco announced that former BOF member Barbara Rogers passed away.

Jane Landers read an e-mail from Permanent Building Committee chairman Pete Viola asking that BOF members attend the PBC meetings if they would like to get more information regarding the school building project. Chairman Hart noted that he will contact Mr. Viola regarding this e-mail.

Lucy DiRocco asked about bond counsel attending BOF meetings. There was a discussion about also having the Town Treasurer attend BOF meetings. Brian Shea will get in touch with the treasurer to inquire about this.

### **Public Comment**

Library Board Chairman Sarah Marsh spoke of the library budget and asked that funds that were frozen and eventually cut for the 2008-2009 be restored to the library budget. There was a discussion among the board members about the process of restoring funds.

Residents Jim Stead and Jean Flynn spoke in support of the proposed Emergency Radio system project.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Joe Hart made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2009 regular meeting as presented. Tom Wahlig seconded the motion.

**Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Joe Hart made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 30, 2009 special meeting with the following amendment: Change the statement “Lucy DiRocco hung up after the vote and did not participate in the rest of the meeting” to “Chairman Joe Hart’s phone battery went dead and thus Lucy DiRocco was unable to participate in the rest of the meeting.” Jane Landers seconded the motion.

**Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)**

**BOF Subcommittee reports-** None

### **Emergency Radio Communications system**

Fire Chief Ed McCue spoke of the RFPs for the Emergency Radio Communication system. Chief McCue noted that two qualified bids came back and spoke of the two of them. BOF members asked questions regarding the difference of the two vendors. There was a discussion of approval for the project and whether the vote should go to a referendum. It was requested that the Fire Department check references for these vendors. There was also a discussion of the funding source for the project

Art Azzarito requested that two members of the BOF serve on the committee to assist the Fire Department in the Fire Department Reserve fund. Art Azzarito and Jane Landers volunteered to be on this committee.

Joe Hart made a motion that the when the Emergency Radio Communication system proposal comes through that it should be funded through the Capital and Nonrecurring account. Jane Landers seconded the motion.

After a discussion, Lucy DiRocco made a motion to call the question regarding the previous motion. Jane Landers seconded the motion.

**Vote to call the question: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)**

**Vote on original motion after question was called: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)**

### **Project update**

Lucy DiRocco spoke of the proposed bathroom project at Rebel Turf. There was a discussion of the Board of Education allocating \$50,000 from their surplus from 2008-2009. There was a discussion of taking money out of the General Fund and also what authority the BOE has to spend the surplus. Finance Director Jay Waterman will look into the procedure for the BOE to allocate money and will get the information in writing. There was a lengthy discussion of the bathroom project and whether it should go to a referendum or not.

Tom Wahlig presented the board with a list of potential town projects. He noted that this is an unofficial list but will be updated as necessary. (Such document to be attached to the minutes of this meeting)

### **Budget Transfers**

Finance Director Jay Waterman presented the board with a summary of transfers for the fiscal year 2008-2009.

There was a discussion of an overrun for a legal bill that was paid. There was a legal opinion from Town Counsel regarding this bill. It was decided that this item should be on the agenda for the next regular BOF meeting of August 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **ONGOING UPDATES**

#### **Medical update**

Jay Waterman gave the medical update through May 31<sup>st</sup>. The fund still has a strong fund balance through May. Claims are approximately 8% below last year.

#### **School building project update**

Joe Hart will call PBC Chairman Pete Viola regarding the school building project

#### **Senior Community Center update**

Lucy DiRocco spoke of the Senior Center and asked about the distinction between the Senior Center and the Community Room. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the Community Room in the Senior Center. Selectman Ron Oliveri spoke of the Senior Center project.

#### **Legal update**

Jay Waterman noted that the final update for June 30<sup>th</sup> will be available soon.

#### **Year to date expenses review**

Jay Waterman noted that the Finance Department is still working on year-end numbers.

#### **Cap/Non report review**

Tom Wahlig noted that the unallocated Cap & Non fund is approximately \$1.39 million.

#### **Revenue update**

Jay Waterman noted that revenues were higher than budget by approximately \$452,000. Not all information is in for the end-of-year.

Chairman Joe Hart read into the record a letter from the Tax Collector regarding the tax collection rate. (Such letter to be attached to the minutes of this meeting). Mr. Hart thanked Tax Collector Kerrie Greening and her staff for an excellent tax collection rate.

**Public Comment**- None

**Future Agenda items**

Tom Wahlig asked that there be a discussion of the Park & Rec fund and Capital and Nonrecurring fund on a future agenda

Art Azzarito asked that there be an official nomination and appointment of BOF members on the Fire Department Reserve Fund committee on a future agenda.

**Board member comments**

Tom Wahlig spoke of comment in the first selectman's column noting that was a 15% tax decrease but noted that the Mil Rate has remained the same.

**Adjournment**

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

**Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)**