

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

MINUTES
Board of Finance Meeting
Wednesday, December 16, 2009
7:30 PM
New Fairfield Community Room

Members present:

Tom Wahlig, Chairman
Tom Edwards
Robert Klick
Jane Landers
Al Mardis
Wes Marsh
Tom Quigley, Alternate
Jennifer Rogowski, Alternate
Brian Shea, Alternate

Other Town Officials Present:

John Hodge, First Selectman
Susan Chapman, Selectman
Jay Waterman, Finance Director
Ed Sbordone, Accounting Manager
Sean Loughran, Parks and Rec Chairman

Call To Order Chairman Tom Wahlig called the meeting to order at 7:30pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Appointments- None

Correspondence and Announcements

Chairman Tom Wahlig thanked Ray Juskiewicz for his help with the presentation at the November BOF meeting.

Chairman Tom Wahlig spoke of a presentation at tonight's meeting from Kevin Maloney from Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM). Mr. Wahlig thanked Monika Thiel for her help in setting up this presentation.

Chairman Tom Wahlig spoke of the new format for the BOF agenda.

Chairman Tom Wahlig asked the board members to let him know if anyone was interested in getting a tour of the schools prior to the budget proceedings.

Tom Wahlig spoke of the Policy and Procedures Committee and noted that they were waiting for a document that contained previous policies.

Addition to Agenda

Tom Wahlig made a motion to add item 9C "GASB 45 Update" to tonight's agenda. Jane Landers seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Tom Wahlig made a motion to add item 11D "Discussion of Town Pension Committee" to tonight's agenda. Wes Marsh seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Al Mardis made a motion to add item 10B "Update on Revenues" to tonight's agenda. Jane Landers seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Approval of Minutes

Tom Wahlig made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2009 meeting as presented. Al Mardis seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Public Comment- None

Board Member Comments

Tom Quigley asked for more detailed information in the minutes pertaining to "discussions"

Presentation-Connecticut Conference of Municipalities

Kevin Maloney from the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities spoke to the board about the benefits of New Fairfield becoming a member of CCM. Mr. Maloney noted that New Fairfield was a member of CCM at one time. CCM currently represents approximately 140 of the 169 towns in Connecticut. The purpose of CCM is to provide help to the town when dealing with unfunded mandates and also to give them help with making decisions and help with cutting rates for certain programs as well as help with municipal budgeting. The dues for this program are approximately \$8500 year. Members of the BOF asked questions of Mr. Maloney regarding CCM.

REPORTS

Medical Update- Finance Director Jay Waterman noted that the ending balance for the Medical Fund is approximately \$2.3 million which is slightly less than last month.

Legal Update- Finance Director Jay Waterman noted that the Legal budget through October 2009 has a balance of approximately \$66,500.

GASP 45 Update- Al Mardis spoke of a new requirement for medical costs for retired employees. Mr. Mardis met with the auditors regarding this. There was a discussion of the liability for this if money is not set aside. Mr. Mardis noted that the actuary, auditor and treasurer all recommended

setting money aside for this but noted that the decision is that of the BOF. There was a discussion of unfunded mandates. It was decided that this would be discussed further at the January BOF meeting.

OPEN BUSINESS

Adjustments to the 2008/2009 budget of \$19,000

Tom Wahlig noted that there was an extra assignment for the New Fairfield Police which increased the budget for 2008/2009 but there was extra revenue to offset this and it was a net zero expense to the taxpayers.

Restriction placed on Contingency line

There was a discussion of the contingency fund for the Town of New Fairfield. Chairman Wahlig noted that he spoke with First Selectman John Hodge regarding this account. It was noted that both the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen must approve taking money out of this account. There was a discussion of the statute regarding the contingency fund.

Update on Revenues

There was a discussion regarding money that may be cut from the state budget. Finance Director Jay Waterman noted that the Finance Department was working on a plan to absorb any cuts. Mr. Waterman noted that the Real Estate Conveyance Tax line was doing well. Mr. Waterman also spoke of expenditures and areas that are under budget.

NEW BUSINESS

Summary of legal fees surrounding the mediation case

Tom Wahlig asked that the board get a total of all expenses regarding the mediation case. Jay Waterman noted that to date the total of expenses is \$143,643.62. Mr. Waterman noted that this has all been paid.

Discussion of Park and Recreation Fund

There was a discussion of the pros and cons of moving the salary line for the Parks and Rec line. Parks and Rec Chairman Sean Loughran spoke of the timeline of the year for Parks and Rec and noted that the bulk of the revenues for Parks and Rec are received in the summer. It was decided that this will be looked at further during the budget process.

Discussion of laws surrounding a budget line going negative

There was a lengthy discussion of the procedure for a budget line going negative without BOF approval. The discussion included whether or not the board should get an opinion from Town Counsel regarding state statute. Tom Quigley noted that he has done significant research on this subject. There was a discussion of what should be done in an emergency. Jane Landers requested a copy of the Town Attorney's retainer agreement.

Tom Wahlig made a motion to hire Town Counsel for the Town of New Fairfield to research state statute to find out if there state law that allows or prevents any board of the town from exceeding line item/allocation without Board of Finance approval. Jane Landers seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-1-0 (Motion approved-Wes Marsh opposed)

Discussion of Town Pension Committee

Town Treasurer Phil Cammarano has put together a Town Pension Committee and asked that a member of the BOF be on this board. Al Marids volunteered to be on this subcommittee.

Public Comment

Ron Oliveri spoke of transfers and unexpended balances and suggested that the board research further before approaching an attorney.

First Selectman John Hodge noted that there has only been one overrun during his four year tenure as First Selectman. Mr. Hodge also noted that New Fairfield formerly belonged to CCM but dropped it two years ago.

Board Member Comments

Many members of the board gave their opinion regarding Connecticut Conference of Municipalities. All the board members wished everyone "Happy Holidays"

Future Board Agenda Items

Tom Wahlig noted that he would like to get a report on Town Properties including input from Permanent Building Committee.

Al Mardis noted that he would like to add "Discussion and Approval of Audit".

Adjournment

Al Mardis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:45pm. Tom Edwards seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)