

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

MINUTES
Board of Finance Meeting
Wednesday, September 15, 2010
7:30 PM
New Fairfield Community Room

Members present:

Wes Marsh, Chairman
Jane Landers
Al Mardis
Tom Wahlig
Brian Shea, Alternate

Members not present:

Tom Edwards
Robert Klick
Tom Quigley, Alternate

Other Town Officials Present:

John Hodge, First Selectman
Susan Chapman, Selectman

Call To Order Chairman Wes Marsh called the meeting to order at 7:30pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Appointments- Tom Edwards asked that Brian Shea be appointed to a regular member in his absence.

Correspondence and Announcements

Chairman Wes Marsh spoke of an advertisement that he received regarding the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities convention to be held in October.

Chairman Wes Marsh spoke of a letter he received from a resident noting that he believed that BOF member Tom Edwards had a “conflict of interest” by serving on the Board of Finance, Parks and Recreation Commission and the Permanent Building Committee. First Selectman John Hodge read into record the state statute that read that the only “conflict of interest” involved with a BOF position is if they held a town salaried position. It was the consensus of the board members that there is no “conflict of interest”.

Public Comment- None

Approval of Minutes

Jane Landers made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2010 regular meeting as presented. Al Mardis seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion approved)

Al Mardis made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 30, 2010 special meeting as presented. Tom Wahlig seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion approved)

Budget Transfer

Al Mardis made a motion to make the following Inter-Departmental transfer in the amount of \$22,744.33. Jane Landers seconded the motion. (Such document to be attached to the minutes of this meeting)

Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion approved)

\$'s	To Account #		\$'s	From Account #	
\$2,818.80	4215-110	Comm. Center-Salaries	\$22,744.33	4160-140	Unclass. P & B Salary Adj.
\$5,711.47	4210-110	Police-Salaries-Officers			
\$14,214.06	4310-110	Public Works-Salaries			
\$22,744.33			\$22,744.33		

Tom Wahlig made a motion to make the following Inter-Departmental transfer in the amount of \$10,000.00. Al Mardis seconded the motion. (Such document to be attached to the minutes of this meeting)

Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion approved)

\$'s	To Account #		\$'s	From Account #	
\$10,000.00	4440-350-12	Social Services.-Building Bridges	\$10,000.00	4195-620-5	Utilities-Fuel Oil
\$10,000.00			\$10,000.00		

Budget Surplus

There was a discussion among the BOF members of the best way to utilize approximately \$888,000 of budget surplus for the 2009/2010 fiscal year. It was already decided and approved at a Town Meeting that \$250,000 will be used for the bridges on Williams Road, Old Farm and Smoke Hill Drive. There was a lengthy discussion as to what to do with the rest of the surplus. Board member Al Mardis spoke of GASB 45 and the need to put money away for 2010/2011 as well as to cover the 2008/2009 liability. First Selectman John Hodge spoke of possibly using some of the surplus towards fixing roads in town.

Al Mardis made a motion to put \$200,000 from the 2009/2010 budget surplus into GASB 45 for the year 2010/2011. Jane Landers seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion approved)

Tom Wahlig made a motion to put \$73,100 into GASB 45 to cover the 2008/2009 liability. Jane Landers seconded the motion.

Brian Shea made a motion to amend the previous motion to make a \$23,700 payment. Al Mardis seconded the motion.

Vote to amend motion: 2-3-0 (Al Mardis and Brian Shea in favor)

(Jane Landers, Wes Marsh and Tom Wahlig opposed)

Amendment defeated

Jane Landers made a motion to amend the original motion to add “represented three payments of \$23,700”. Tom Wahlig seconded the motion.

Vote to amend motion: 5-0-0 (Motion approved)

Vote on original motion as amended: 5-0-0 (Motion approved)

Al Mardis made a motion that the Board of Finance establish a policy that the GASB 45 liability in the amount of \$474,000 established for 08/09 be amortized for a period of twenty years. Tom Wahlig seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion approved)

Al Mardis made a motion to appropriate \$140,000 out of the 2009/2010 budget surplus for roads. Wes Marsh seconded the motion.

Brian Shea made a motion to amend the previous motion to appropriate \$74,500 of the budget surplus towards roads and to put the remaining balance of surplus towards the medical reserve fund. Jane Landers seconded the motion.

Vote to amend motion: 4-1-0 (Motion approved-Al Mardis opposed)

Vote on original motion as amended: 5-0-0 (Motion approved)

Brian Shea made a motion that the BOF recommend to a Town Meeting for approval the aforementioned appropriations for the budget surplus to be broken down as follows:

\$200,000- GASB 45

\$74,500- Town Roads

\$73,100- 3 years liability for 2008/2009 GASB 45

Remainder in the medical reserve fund.

Al Mardis seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion approved)

BOE Budget Transfer-Discussion

There was a discussion of budget transfers regarding the Board of Education budget. There was a discussion of total encumbrances for the year. It was decided that Chairman Wes Marsh will ask that the

BOF members get notice of the BOE finance subcommittee meetings so that a liaison can attend if possible.

Town Auditor Discussion

There was a discussion of the current auditor of the town and if their contract should be renewed. It was noted that changes in auditors are usually done in February or March. It was decided that the BOF Audit subcommittee look into this further.

ONGOING UPDATES

Medical Update- no new report since last month's meeting

Legal Update- The available balance as of August 31st is \$94,003

Year to date expenses review- The board reviewed the expenses by department to date

Current year revenue update- The board reviewed the revenues to date

Cap/Non report review- Chairman Wes Marsh thanked the Finance Department for providing the board with a detailed report regarding Capital and Nonrecurring projects. The three largest projects were Bridges and Drains, Emergency Communications Tower and Muskett Ridge. Mr. Marsh spoke specifically about the Bridge project.

Public Comment- None

Future Agenda Items

Items for future agendas are the school building project, the New Fairfield Town Library project and the progress of the Pension Ordinance and the Pension Fund.

Board member comments

Members of the board congratulated Wes Marsh on a job well done as chairman so far.

Adjournment

Al Mardis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:58pm. Brian Shea seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion approved)

September 12, 2010

Wes,

I would appreciate your reading my statement below regarding a BOF member who is in Conflict of Interest into the record during Correspondence and Announcements portion of the next BOF Meeting.

Thank you,

Doug Thielen

TOM EDWARDS IS IN CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Mr. Edwards is a member of both the Permanent Building Committee and the Parks & Recreation Commission. As such, he cannot be seated as a member of the Board of Finance [BOF] because being a voting member of the BOF constitutes a conflict of interest to his sworn fiscal responsibility.

The two aforementioned organizations continually request major appropriations and approvals from the BOF and, at minimum, Mr. Edwards needs to recuse himself on all of those occasions. Nor should he be permitted to argue the merits of a proposed approval since he is inherently biased by being a regular/permanent member of one of the two boards that periodically request monetary approvals from the BOF. The best and cleanest way to eliminate any conflict of interest is to ask Mr. Edwards to either resign his positions on both the other two committees on which he serves or resign his position on the BOF.

If you will kindly check with the Secretary of the State, Mr. Edwards' conflict of interest will be confirmed.

Doug Thielen

TOWN OF NEW FAIRFIELD
FISCAL 2010-2011
Inter-Department Transfer

<u>\$'S</u>	<u>TRANSFER TO:</u>	<u>\$'S</u>	<u>TRANSFER FROM:</u>	<u>REASON:</u>
10,000.00	4440-350-12 Social Serv.-Building Bridges	10,000.00	4195-620-5 Utilities - Fuel Oil	To provide funding for Building Bridges
10,000.00		10,000.00		

*Approved at the BOS meeting on 9/7/2010
 To be submitted at the BOF meeting on 9/15/2010*

**TOWN OF NEW FAIRFIELD
FISCAL 2010-2011
Inter-Department Transfer**

<u>\$'S</u>	<u>TRANSFER TO:</u>	<u>\$'S</u>	<u>TRANSFER FROM:</u>	<u>REASON:</u>
2,818.80	4215-110 Comm. Center - Salaries	22,744.33	4160-140 Unclass. P&B - Salary Adj.	Due to the finalization of salary increases for various unions
5,711.47	4210-110 Police - Salaries-Officers			
14,214.06	4310-110 Public Works - Salaries			
22,744.33		22,744.33		

*Approved at the BOS meeting on 8/30/10
To be submitted at the BOF meeting on 9/15/10*