

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

MINUTES
Board of Finance Special Meeting
Wednesday, February 16, 2011
7:30 PM
New Fairfield Community Room

Members present:

Wes Marsh, Chairman
Tom Edwards
Robert Klick
Al Mardis
Tom Wahlig
Tom Quigley, Alternate
Brian Shea, Alternate

Other Town Officials Present:

Jay Waterman, Finance Director

Members not present:

Jane Landers

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Appointments- Chairman Wes Marsh noted that Jane Landers asked that Tom Quigley be appointed to a full member in her absence

Correspondence and Announcements- None

Public Comment- None

Approval of Minutes

Robert Klick made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 29, 2011 regular meeting as presented. Al Mardis seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Budget Public Hearing- March 5th

The BOF will hold a Public Hearing for the presentation of the BOS and BOE requested budgets for 2011/2012. It noted that the video could not be shown on Channel 17 if it is filmed at the high school, therefore there was a discussion of changing the venue to the Community Room instead of the High School as originally scheduled. There was a discussion about having the BOS present in the morning and the BOE present in the afternoon.

Wes Marsh made a motion to change the location of the BOF Budget Public Hearing to be held on Saturday, March 5, 2011 to the Community Room instead of the High School Library and to have the BOS present in the morning (9am to 12 noon) and the BOE present in the afternoon (1pm to 4pm). Tom Edwards seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Discussion on how to increase public accessibility and feedback

There was a discussion at the last BOF meeting about how to increase public accessibility and feedback and allowing the public to give their opinions. There was a suggestion of allowing the public to send e-mails as public comments. There was also a suggestion of having a phone available for the public to call in their comments. Robert Klick did some research about the current town website. Currently the board secretary has access to the e-mails sent and will distribute them to the chairman. There was a discussion about giving access to the entire board and whether or not this was permissible under FOI regulations. It was decided that Robert Klick will look into the matter further and Board Secretary Suzanne Kloos will check with FOI regarding the legality. It was decided not to have live calling at this time.

Fiscal year 2011-2012 budget planning

Chairman Wes Marsh provided the board with Town of New Fairfield Summary Budget Worksheet for fiscal year 2011-2012. Such form showed the total operational budget, medical, debt service, GASB 45 and Capital and Nonrecurring for both the town and the Board of Education. It was noted that for every \$500,000 increase to the budget, it will increase the overall budget by 1%. Mr. Marsh noted that the dollar increase of Medical, Debt Service and GASB 45 gives a 3.39% increase to the budget before the operational part of the budget. The town has approved a budget with a 0% increase. There was lengthy discussion regarding the Medical Fund and aggregate stop loss with 110 Aggregate Stop Loss vs. 120 Aggregate Stop Loss. Wes Marsh will get numbers from Steve Rinaldi from Everett James, Inc. in March. There was a discussion of taking money out of the Town's General Fund to fund the Medical Fund. Wes Marsh will check with Town Treasurer Phil Cammarano to see what the effect of taking money out of the General Fund would be. The budget books will be available at the end of February.

Town Building Report

Wes Marsh noted that he spoke with the Director of Buildings and Grounds Steve Merullo and he will provide the board with a Town Building Report by the March 5, 2011 budget meeting.

Status of Town Grants

Wes Marsh gave a listing of town grants. There was a discussion about which grants will continue and how the budget will be affected by grants that expire.

ONGOING UPDATES

Medical update- No report

Legal update- There was a question about Labor Legal fees and transfers

Year to date expenses review- Finance Director Jay Waterman went over the year to date expenses for the town

Current year revenue update- Finance Director Jay Waterman noted that there is a 95.45% collection rate for the month of January. This is about 1% higher than last year at this time. Mr. Waterman spoke of some revenue lines that are anticipated being higher than budget. It was noted that interest income will be less than in previous years.

Capital and Non-recurring review

Jay Waterman spoke of current Capital and Non-recurring projects for the town. There was a discussion of the radio communications project.

Public Comment- None

Future agenda items- The board spoke of the budget public hearing on March 5th. There was also a discussion of filling the alternate vacancy on the board.

Board member comments

The board discussed getting ready for the Public Hearing on March 5th.

Adjournment

Al Mardis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:21pm. Robert Klick seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)