

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

MINUTES
Board of Finance Meeting
Saturday, March 5, 2011
9:00 AM
Community Room

Members present:

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

Other Town Officials Present:

Morning Session

John Hodge, First Selectman
Susan Chapman, Selectman
Monika Thiel, Selectman
Jay Waterman, Finance Director
Ed Sbordone, Accounting Manager
Craig McClain, Director of Management Services

Afternoon Session

Dr. Alicia Roy, Superintendent of Schools
Barbara Mechler, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Craig McClain, Director of Management Services
Mariana Coelho, High School Principal
Scott Rohwedder, High School Assistant Principal
Dr. Diane Hartman Chesley, Middle School Principal
Christine Baldelli, Middle School Assistant Principal
Phil Ross, Buildings and Grounds Director
Sarah McLain, Meeting House Hill School Principal
Scott Bannon, Meeting House Hill School Assistant Principal
Wendy Seeley, Consolidated School Principal
Lynn Fichtel, Consolidated School Assistant Principal
Aimee Turner, Director of Pupil Personnel Services
Jay Waterman, Finance Director
Ed Sbordone, Accounting Manager
Susan Chapman, Selectman
Scott Akam, BOE member
Karen Chance, BOE member
Ken Chapman, BOE member
Vic Flagello, BOE member
Kevin Hearty, BOE member
Sean Loughran, BOE member
Ron Lyons, BOE member
Various teachers and paraprofessionals

Call To Order Chairman Wes Marsh called the meeting to order at 9:00am

Pledge of Allegiance

Appointments None

Presentation of Board of Selectmen Requested Budget 2011/2012

First Selectman John Hodge presented the Board of Selectmen's requested budget for 2011/2012 and gave a power point presentation. The total BOS's requested budget for 2011/2012 equals \$8,336,337 for a .17% decrease over the 2010/2011 budget. A copy of this power point presentation is available at www.newfairfield.org

Mr. Hodge spoke of the municipal operating budget and factors that affect the budget including GASB 45 and Health Insurance as well as revenues of interest income and conveyance taxes. The presentation included the road maintenance program for the Town of New Fairfield and proposed capital projects to be paid from 2010/2011 surplus if available. A list of town grants and donations was provided. There was a comparison of the requested budget to previous years' budgets and a comparison of the difference in the Grand List from 2010 to 2011.

Mr. Hodge presented a list of capital improvements and noted that \$1,991,722.14 worth of capital project have been completed in New Fairfield during the last five years. The presentation included a listing of building repairs to various town buildings and a list of future capital projects.

Mr. Hodge thanked the entire Finance Department for all their hard work in putting this budget together and further thanked the Department Heads for being prudent with their budgets.

Public Comment on the BOS requested budget 2011/2012

Rudy Bahrens and Mary Bahrens spoke of the budget and the state of the economy. Mr. Bahrens thanked First Selectman Hodge for bringing forward a reasonable budget.

Discussion of Board of Selectmen Requested Budget 2011/2012

Members of the BOF asked questions of First Selectman Hodge and Finance Director Jay Waterman regarding the 2011/2012 proposed budget. Main topics of discussion were the police department overtime, police cars and the road maintenance budget. There was a discussion of the capital projects in town and grants and donations associated with these. There was a discussion of the decline in revenue due to interest income and conveyance tax. There was a discussion of the Health Insurance and GASB 45.

Mr. Hodge gave a list of priorities for a budget surplus that included completing the road maintenance program for \$275,000, a new plow truck for \$150,000, Indian Hill Bridge for \$90,000 and a new police car in the amount of \$40,000.

Members of the BOF thanked the entire Board of Selectman as well as the Finance Department for all their hard work with this budget.

The BOF will review this budget further at the next scheduled meeting of Wednesday, March 9th.

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Recess

Jane Landers made a motion to go into recess at 11:12am. Al Mardis seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

The board came back from recess at 1:00pm.

Presentation of the Board of Education Requested Budget 2011/2012

BOE Secretary Vic Flagello spoke briefly about the BOE requested budget.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Alicia Roy presented the Board of Education requested budget for 2011/2012 and gave a power point presentation. The total BOE's requested budget for 2011/2012 equals \$38,309,137 for a 4.91% increase over the 2010/2011 budget. Dr. Roy noted that the bulk of the increase was due to debt service, health insurance and GASB 45. The increase of the requested operating budget is 1.41% which is a dollar amount of \$414,914. Dr. Roy spoke of the Mission Statement and District Goal for New Fairfield and listed many awards and distinctions received by students of all grade levels. Dr. Roy spoke of grants and donations including ARRA grants and how they affect the current budget. There was a power point slide regarding salary obligations and the reduction in staff for the coming year. Other factors that affect the requested budget include fixed operating costs, Health Insurance and GASB 45. A copy of the BOE requested budget and power point presentation can be found at www.newfairfieldschools.org

Public Comment on the BOE requested budget 2011/2012

Many members of the public including parents, teachers and administrators spoke about the requested budget. Main topics included the need for full-day kindergarten and potential cuts to the requested budget.

Discussion of Board of Education Requested Budget 2011/2012

Members of the BOF asked questions regarding the requested budget of Dr. Roy and Director of Management Services Craig McClain. Main topics of discussion included salaries and reduction in staff as well as health insurance and retirement benefits. There were some questions about full-day kindergarten. There was a question about the special education program. Director of Pupil Personnel Services Aimee Turner will supply the board with information regarding special education and the number of students currently enrolled and how this compares to surrounding towns. The cost of transportation for special education students will also be supplied. There was a discussion of the capital and nonrecurring budget for the schools and it was noted that it is requested that this be increased to \$143,000 for the upcoming year. There was a question about custodians and overtime especially regarding snow removal. Director of Buildings and Grounds Phil Ross will look into this further. There was a question of the funding of pensions for employees.

The BOF will review this budget further at the next scheduled meeting of Wednesday, March 9th.

Adjournment

Al Mardis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:53pm. Tom Wahlig seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

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