

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

MINUTES

**Board of Finance Regular Meeting
Wednesday, March 9, 2011
7:30 PM
New Fairfield Community Room**

Members present:

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

Members not present:

Brian Shea, Alternate

Other Town Officials Present:

John Hodge, First Selectman
Susan Chapman, Selectman
Jay Waterman, Finance Director
Ed Sbordone, Accounting Manager
Dr. Alicia Roy, Superintendent of Schools
Barbara Mechler, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Mariana Coelho, High School Principal
Dr. Diane Hartman Chesley, Middle School Principal
Sarah McLain, Meeting House Hill School Principal
Scott Bannon, Meeting House Hill School Ass't Principal
Wendy Seeley, Consolidated School Principal
Aimee Turner, Director of Pupil Personnel Services
Kim Hanson, BOE Chairman
Scott Akam, BOE member
Karen Chance, BOE member
Vic Flagello, BOE member
Sean Loughran, BOE member

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Appointments- None

Correspondence and Announcements- None

Public Comment- None

Approval of Minutes

Al Mardis made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2011 special meeting as presented.
Tom Wahlig seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Jane Landers made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2011 budget meeting minutes meeting as presented. Robert Klick seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Discussion of BOS requested budget

Members of the BOF asked questions of First Selectman John Hodge regarding the requested 2011/2012 budget for the town. There was a discussion of the Capital and Nonrecurring fund and money left over from finished projects. There was a discussion of the Medical Fund and possibly reducing the contingency fund.

Discussion of BOE requested budget

Members of the BOF asked questions regarding the BOE requested budget for 2011/2012. There was a discussion of salaries for teachers, paras, administrators and secretaries that also included regular salary increases and Step increases. There was a discussion of reduction in existing staff. Al Mardis volunteered to look into this further and report back to the board.

Director of Pupil Personnel Services Aimee Turner spoke about Special Education in New Fairfield Schools. It was noted that this program services ages 3-21. There are approximately 350 students out of the total 3100 students. Ms. Turner gave information to the board regarding the Incidence Rate compared to surrounding towns and spoke of state reimbursement for special education.

Members of the BOE spoke of the budget increases and debt service and GASB 45. This will be discussed further at the next BOF meeting on March 16th.

Discussion of Medical Insurance

There was a discussion of Medical Insurance for both the town and the Board of Education and sources of funding for the medical reserve fund. It was noted that it is not advisable to pay for GASB 45 or any operating expenses out of the General Fund. There was a discussion of 110% vs. 120% aggregate stop loss.

Discussion of GASB 45

There was a discussion of funding for GASB 45 and how much should be funded in a year. There was further discussion of using the general fund to fund GASB 45. Most members of the board did not think this was a good idea. Chairman Marsh noted that he spoke with Town Treasurer Phil Cammarano regarding using the general fund. Mr. Marsh noted that using the general fund for medical, GASB or operating expenses would negatively affect the bond rating.

Discussion of electronic correspondence received from public

Robert Klick gave a summary of e-mails received to the board regarding the 2011/2012 budget. There was a discussion of putting a disclaimer on the website regarding such e-mails.

Public Comment

Elaine Schlosser, Alice Daood and BOE Chairman Kim Hanson spoke about the BOE budget for 2011/2012

Future agenda items

Agenda items for the next BOF meeting include Medical Insurance, teacher contracts, electronic correspondence and disclaimer and further budget discussion

Board Member Comments

Members of the BOF spoke of the 2011-2012 budget regarding cuts and what would be the maximum percentage increase that can be sold to the taxpayers.

Adjournment

Jane Landers made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:49pm. Tom Edwards seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)