

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

MINUTES
Board of Finance Regular Meeting
Wednesday, March 23, 2011
7:30 PM
New Fairfield Community Room

Members present:

Wes Marsh, Chairman
Tom Edwards (arrived 7:35)
Jane Landers
Al Mardis
Tom Wahlig
Norma Gyle, Alternate
Tom Quigley, Alternate
Brian Shea, Alternate

Members not present:

Robert Klick

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
Craig McClain, Director of Management Services
Mariana Coelho, High School Principal
Dr. Diane Hartman Chesley, Middle School Principal
Christine Baldelli, Assistant Middle School Principal
Sarah McLain, Meeting House Hill School Principal
Scott Bannon, Meeting House Hill School Ass't Principal
Lynn Fichtel, Consolidated School Assistant Principal
Aimee Turner, Director of Pupil Personnel Services
Phil Ross, Director of Buildings and Grounds
Kim Hanson, BOE Chairman
Scott Akam, BOE member
Karen Chance, BOE member
Vic Flagello, BOE member
Sean Loughran, BOE member
Ron Lyons, BOE member

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Appointments

Wes Marsh noted that Robert Klick will not be in attendance and asked that Tom Quigley be appointed in his place

Correspondence and Announcements- None

Public Comment- None

Approval of Minutes

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

Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion approved-Tom Edwards arrived at 7:35pm and did not vote on this motion)

Budget Transfers

Finance Director Jay Waterman noted that additional money was needed for Public Works overtime and Snow Materials and supplies. He noted that the town will be receiving approximately \$33,000 from FEMA as a reimbursement for the snow storm on January 12th.

Jane Landers made a motion to make the following Inter-Departmental transfer. Al Mardis seconded the motion. (Such document to be attached to the minutes of this meeting)

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

\$'s	To Account #		\$'s	From Account #	
\$9,000.00	4310-130	Public Works-Overtime	\$9,000.00	4163-520	General Insurance-P & C
\$25,000.00	4310-610-3	Public Works-Snow M&S	\$20,000.00	4195-620-5	Utilities-Town Prop. Fuel Oil
			\$5,000.00	4190-345	Human Resources-Bus. Serv.
\$34,000.00			\$34,000.00		

Discussion of Medical Insurance for 2011-2012 budget

Chairman Wes Marsh noted that he and Finance Director Jay Waterman spoke with Steve Rinaldi from the firm of Everett James, Inc. regarding the medical plan for the town and the BOE. There was a discussion of 110% Aggregate Stop Loss vs. 120% Aggregate Stop Loss and it was noted that the town never got as high as 120% and only hit 100% once in the last nine years. There was a discussion among the board regarding the pros and cons of 110% vs. 120% and the consensus of the board was that 120% would be a better option. There was a discussion of savings of premiums by going with the 120% ASL.

The board also discussed the possibility of not funding the medical fund by the full amount for 2011-2012 and discussed possibly putting \$300,000 into the reserve fund instead of \$600,000 for 2011-2012. It was noted that many surrounding towns do not fully fund the medical reserve fund. There was a discussion on what to do if the reserve fund was used up. There was a discussion of using the general fund in an emergency and how this would affect the town's AAA rating.

There was a discussion of not funding the medical fund 100% and how that would affect the tax increase for 2011-2012. The board spoke of proposing a budget increase of less than 3% for 2011-2012. BOE Chairman Kim Hanson noted that the BOE voted on March 17th to cut an additional \$116,335 from their proposed budget.

Discussion of use of General Fund to possibly fund a portion of the 2011-2012 budget

Chairman Wes Marsh spoke of the General Fund and noted that as a general rule it should be between 10-12% of the town's total expenditures. New Fairfield's General Fund is currently approximately 17% of the total expenditures. It was noted that the town's AAA rating will go down if it dips into the General Fund. It was a consensus of the board not to use the General Fund for expenses.

Fiscal year 2011-2012 Budget discussion

There was a discussion among the board members regarding factors that affect the 2011-2012 budget and ways to cut the budget further. There was a discussion of the tax increase and what number could be passed by the taxpayers. There was a discussion of 2.88% or 2.95% increase. Chairman Wes Marsh spoke of factors that affect the budget. They include taking \$200,000 from the BOE, fully funding the Medical Reserve fund, getting \$100,000 additional revenue from the town and getting \$125,000 from the BOE to fund GASB through budget surpluses from 2010-2011.

Change in date for Final Mark up

Wes Marsh made a motion to move the final mark up of the 2011-2012 budget from Wednesday, April 6th to Wednesday, March 30th. Jane Landers seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Electronic correspondence received from the public

Chairman Wes Marsh read an e-mail that was received regarding the budget. It was suggested that the chairman read the names of whoever sends the e-mails even if it is not read at the meeting.

ONGOING UPDATES

Medical update- Finance Director Jay Waterman noted that the ending fund balance is up from last month. Projections for the end of the year is currently at \$1,552,000.

Legal update- The available balance as of March 14, 2011 is \$23,837

Year to date expenses review- A transfer was made for Public Works for overtime and snow materials and supplies.

Current year revenue update- Finance Director Jay Waterman noted that the property tax collection rate as of February is 97.6%. This is exactly the same as last year.

Capital and Nonrecurring report review- Jay Waterman went over the Cap & Non report thru February 28th. There was a discussion of Town Properties Capital and the need to update the library. There was a discussion of whether of not to increase this account for next year.

Public Comment

First Selectman John Hodge spoke of the proposed budget for 2011-2012 and specifically the Medical Reserve Fund.

BOE Chairman Kim Hanson spoke of the proposed budget and noted that the BOE will not be meeting before the final mark-up and will not make any more cuts to their proposed budget until they get a final number from the BOF.

Meeting House Hill School Principal Sarah McLain spoke of the BOE budget and the building project at MHHS.

BOE member Vic Flagello spoke of the proposed BOE budget.

Future Agenda Items- The budget mark-up has been changed from April 6th to March 30th

Board member comments

Members of the board spoke of the proposed budget. Many members of the board spoke of putting out a budget that has a less than 3% increase. Members spoke of additional cuts.

Adjournment

Al Mardis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:33pm. Tom Wahlig seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)