

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

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

Members present:

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

Other Town Officials Present:

Susan Chapman, Selectman
Jay Waterman, Finance Director
Ed Sbordone, Accounting Manager
Dr. Alicia Roy, Superintendent of Schools
Barbara Mechler, Superintendent of Schools
Craig McClain, Director of Management Services
Mariana Coelho, High School Principal
Dr. Diane Hartman Chesley, Middle School Principal
Sarah McLain, Meeting House Hill School Principal
Wendy Seeley, Consolidated School Principal
Lynn Fichtel, Consolidated School Assistant Principal
Scott Rohwedder, High School Assistant Principal
Mike Chapleau, High 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

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

Selectman Susan Chapman spoke on behalf of herself and First Selectman John Hodge and asked the BOF to seriously consider fully funding the Town's Medical Fund and going with a 110% Aggregate Stop Loss.

Approval of Minutes

Jane Landers made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2011 regular meeting as presented. Tom Wahlig seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-1 (Motion approved-Robert Klick abstained)

Discussion of the Medical Plan and Medical Reserve Funding for 2011/2012

There was a discussion among the board members regarding the aggregate stop loss for the medical plan for 2011-2012. Members of the board were polled to see if they preferred 110% ASL or 120% ASL. Most of the members preferred the 120% ASL. The board discussed whether or not the medical fund should be fully funded for the upcoming year and went over various scenarios and ways to fund the medical plan. Chairman Wes Marsh spoke of the town's claims history and it was noted that the town has not reached 110% in many years. Mr. Marsh also noted that most towns in Connecticut do not fully fund their medical funds.

Jane Landers made a motion to go with a 120% aggregate stop loss for the Medical Fund for the 2011/2012 fiscal year. Al Mardis seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-1-0 (Motion approved-Tom Edwards opposed)

Al Mardis made a motion to fully fund the Medical Reserve fund for 2011/2012 at \$1.28 million. Tom Wahlig seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-1-0 (Motion approved-Wes Marsh opposed)

GASB 45 Funding for 2011-2012

The board spoke funding GASB 45 by using \$125,000 from the BOE 2010-2011 surplus and putting \$125,000 in the 2011-2012 budget.

Wes Marsh made a motion to approve GASB 45 for \$125,000 with additional \$125,000 from the Board of Education 2010-2011 surplus. Al Mardis seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Discussion of Board of Selectmen requested budget

There was a discussion of having an additional \$100,000 in nontaxpayer revenue put in the 2011-2012 BOS budget. This will be discussed at the next Board of Selectmen's meeting.

Wes Marsh made a motion to approve the Board of Selectmen budget for 2011-2012 as presented with the addition of \$100,000 in nontaxpayer revenue. Tom Edwards seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Discussion of Board of Education requested budget

The board discussed reducing the BOE operational budget by \$200,000. This does not include the \$116,000 already cut by the BOE at their last meeting. It was noted that this cut should come from the operational budget. BOE Chairman Kim Hanson questioned whether or not the BOF had the authority to specify cuts specifically to the operational budget. The board discussed what percentage increase would be passed by the taxpayers.

Wes Marsh made a motion to approve the Board of Education requested budget for 2011-2012 with the reduction of \$200,000 from the original education operational budget of \$29,907,524. Tom Wahlig seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-1-0 (Motion approved-Tom Edwards opposed)

Medical Reserve Fund

There was a discussion of ways to fund the Medical Reserve Fund. It was noted that it is not recommended to take money out of the General Fund for this purpose. The board discussed taking money out of the

unappropriated Capital and Nonrecurring fund. It was noted that taking money out of the unappropriated Capital and Nonrecurring fund will not affect the bond rating and there will be no negative impact.

Jane Landers made a motion to take \$305,000 from the unappropriated Capital and Nonrecurring fund and apply it towards the Medical Fund. Al Mardis seconded the motion.

Jane Landers made a motion to amend the previous motion to clarify that the \$305,000 from Cap & Non is in addition to the \$300,000 already in the 2011-2012 budget for a total medical contribution of \$605,000. Al Mardis seconded the motion.

Vote to amend motion: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Vote on original motion as amended: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Recess

Wes Marsh made a motion to go into recess at 8:50pm in order to calculate the numbers for the budget for 2011-2012. Tom Wahlig seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Wes Marsh made a motion to come back from recess at 9:06pm. Tom Edwards seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Adjustment of Medical Reserve Fund

Jane Landers made a motion to adjust the number from the previously approved motion regarding taking \$305,000 from the unappropriated Capital and Nonrecurring fund. The amount should be \$357,000 instead of \$305,000. Al Mardis seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Vote to bring Board of Finance recommended 2011-2012 budget to a Town Meeting

Wes Marsh made a motion to recommend to a Town Meeting the BOF recommended budget consisting of the following: Municipal Expenditures totaling \$9,489,450 from the General Fund and Municipal Expenditures from the Capital and Nonrecurring fund of \$280,000 and \$851,811 from other governmental funds and Education Expenditures from the General Fund and Capital and Nonrecurring fund totaling \$38,674,750 and appropriating from the unappropriated Capital and Nonrecurring account \$357,000 which results in a Mil Rate increase of 2.88%. Robert Klick seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

(This motion was retracted later in the meeting)

Electronic correspondence received from the public

Wes Marsh read an e-mail sent to the board from Kathy Hanley asking that the French program not be cut from the Middle School curriculum.

Public Comment

There was a suggestion from the public that the board may want to get a white board to illustrate calculations used by the board so that the public has a better idea of what is going on.

Board of Education Chairman Kim Hanson questioned the final number for the BOE budget.

Recalculation of the budget

Jane Landers made a motion to go into recess at 9:16pm in order to recalculate the numbers for the budget. Tom Edwards seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Wes Marsh made a motion to come back from recess at 9:35pm. Jane Landers seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Vote to bring Board of Finance recommended 2011-2012 budget to a Town Meeting

Wes Marsh made a motion to cancel the previously made motion to recommend the BOF 2011-2012 budget to a Town Meeting. Al Mardis seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Wes Marsh made a motion to recommend to a Town Meeting a BOF recommended budget consisting of the following: Municipal Expenditures totaling \$9,344,450 from the General Fund and Municipal Expenditures from the Capital and Nonrecurring fund of \$280,000 and \$851,811 from other governmental funds and Education Expenditures from the General Fund and Capital and Nonrecurring fund totaling \$38,069,750 and appropriating from the unappropriated Capital and Nonrecurring account \$357,000 which results in a Mil Rate increase of .67 or a 2.88% increase. Robert Klick seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Future Agenda Items

Jane Landers made a motion to cancel the previously scheduled meeting of April 6, 2011. Al Mardis seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

It was noted that the Budget referendum will be sometime in the middle of May.

Board Member comments

Members of the BOF thanked Chairman Wes Marsh and everyone involved in the budget process

Adjournment

Al Mardis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:45pm. Jane Landers seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)