

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

**MINUTES**  
**Board of Finance Public Hearing**  
**Saturday, March 3, 2012**  
**9:00 AM**  
**Community Room**

***Members present:***

Wes Marsh, Chairman  
Don Blackwell  
Tom Edwards  
Jane Landers  
Tom Quigley  
Michael Cammarato, Alternate  
Keith Landa, Alternate  
Brian Shea, Alternate

***Members not present:***

Doug Connelly

***Other Town Officials Present:***

**Morning Session**

Dr. Alicia Roy, Superintendent of Schools  
Barbara Mechler, Assistant Superintendent of Schools  
Craig McClain, Business Manager  
Mariana Coelho, High School Principal  
Scott Rohwedder, High School Assistant Principal  
Christine Baldelli, Interim Middle School Principal  
Scott Bannon, Interim Middle School Assistant Principal  
Phil Ross, Buildings and Grounds Director  
Sarah McLain, Meeting House Hill School Principal  
Laura Olson, MHHS Interim Assistant Principal  
Wendy Seeley, Consolidated School Principal  
Lynn Fichtel, Consolidated School Assistant Principal  
Aimee Turner, Director of Pupil Personnel Services  
Jay Waterman, Finance Director  
Phil Cammarano, Town Treasurer  
Ed Sbordone, Accounting Manager  
Scott Akam, BOE member  
Steve Burfeind, BOE member  
Karen Chance, BOE member  
Vic Flagello, BOE member  
Sean Loughran, BOE member  
Peter Ohring, BOE member  
Various teachers and paraprofessionals

**Afternoon Session**

John Hodge, First Selectman  
Susan Chapman, Selectman  
Mike Gill, Selectman  
Jay Waterman, Finance Director  
Sean Loughran, BOE member  
Karen Chance, BOE member  
Gail Lehman, Library Board Chairman  
Laurie Landa, Library Board member

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

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Appointments** None

**Presentation of the Board of Education Requested Budget 2012/2013**

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Alicia Roy presented the Board of Education requested budget for 2012/2013 and gave a power point presentation. The total BOE's requested budget for 2012/2013 equals \$39,881,247 for a 4.26% increase over the 2011/2012 budget. Dr. Roy noted that 1.26% or \$482,441 of the increase was due to the impact of increase in non-operating budget which includes debt service, capital and nonrecurring, health insurance and GASB 45. The total for the BOE's recommended operating budget is \$30,911,579 which represents a 3.86% increase above the current fiscal year. This increase is due to the district having to absorb the loss of the Education Jobs Grant, mandated non-salary costs in Special Education and an increase in costs for heating and diesel fuels.

Energy-Saving Initiatives were discussed as well as the need to add teachers in the lower grades. Dr. Roy compared the education expenditures per pupil in New Fairfield with that of other districts in the DRG.

Dr. Roy spoke of the District Goal for New Fairfield and spoke of the increased use of technology in the schools specifically the One-to-One Computing. Dr. Roy spoke of many awards and distinctions received by students of all grade levels. There was a power point slide regarding salary obligations and the reduction of existing staff for the coming year as well as needed staff for 2012/2013. The net change of needed positions equals \$74,719.00.

Dr. Roy gave an overview of the fixed cost increases and spoke of how they affect the budget. A copy of the BOE requested budget and power point presentation can be found at [www.newfairfieldschools.org](http://www.newfairfieldschools.org)

**Public Comment on the BOE requested budget 2012/2013**

Many members of the public including parents, teachers and administrators spoke about the requested BOE budget. Specific topics included the Safety Web program at the Middle School and the need to have fewer students in each section in Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade.

**Discussion of Board of Education Requested Budget 2012/2013**

Members of the BOF discussed the BOE's recommended budget and noted that they would like to see a 0% increase in the operating budget instead of a 3.86% increase as presented. Chairman Wes Marsh noted that the maximum overall tax increase should be 3% or less. Chairman Marsh noted that the approximately \$262,000 from the Education Jobs Fund grant of previous years should not be added to the budget. There was a discussion of negotiated salaries and wage increases and eligible retirees. Class size, especially in the lower grades was discussed as well as full-day Kindergarten and common core state standards. Other topics of discussion included energy costs, capital and nonrecurring budgets and building maintenance.

**Recess**

Don Blackwell made a motion to go into recess at 12:07pm. Tom Edwards seconded the motion.

**Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion approved)**

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Don Blackwell made a motion to come back from recess at 1:00pm. Jane Landers seconded the motion. **Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion approved)**

### **Presentation of Board of Selectmen Requested Budget 2012/2013**

First Selectman John Hodge presented the Board of Selectmen's requested budget for 2012/2013 and gave a power point presentation. The total BOS's requested budget for 2012/2013 equals \$8,361,337 for a 3.3% increase over the 2011/2012 budget. The majority of the increase is due to capital and nonrecurring expenses, medical and debt service. It was noted that state funding, interest income and conveyance tax are not as lucrative as they were in previous years. A copy of this power point presentation is available at [www.newfairfield.org](http://www.newfairfield.org)

Mr. Hodge showed a budget summary for the years 2010-2013 and showed a list of tax increases/decreases since 2009/2010. The town operating budget for 2012/2013 has a 0% increase. A summary of BOS recommended operational reductions was given which include payroll and non-payroll expenses was shown. There was a discussion of the road maintenance program and it was noted that approximately eight miles of roads are paved each year. Mr. Hodge included capital projects to be done in 2012/2013 and future capital project for the town.

### **Public Comment on the BOS requested budget 2012/2013**

Karen Chance thanked the Board of Finance for all their hard work.

Sean Loughran spoke of the elimination of the Buildings and Grounds position.

Linda Decker spoke on behalf of the "Friends of the Library" and asked about an increase in the library budget.

### **Discussion of Board of Selectmen Requested Budget 2012/2013**

Members of the BOF asked questions of First Selectman Hodge and Finance Director Jay Waterman regarding the 2012/2013 proposed budget. Main topics of discussion included the library budget and potential renovations to the library. It was noted that any renovations to the library should not be bonded. There was a discussion of other capital projects that should be done in town. State Police overtime and boat dock fees were also discussed.

There was a discussion of year-end surplus

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 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **Adjournment**

Tom Edwards made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:30pm. Don Blackwell seconded the motion.

**Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion approved)**