

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

MINUTES

Board of Finance Regular Meeting
Wednesday, March 7, 2012
7:30 PM
New Fairfield Community Room

Members present:

Wes Marsh, Chairman
Don Blackwell
Doug Connelly
Tom Edwards
Jane Landers
Keith Landa, Alternate
Michael Cammarota, Alternate
Brian Shea, Alternate
Members not present:
Tom Quigley

Other Town Officials Present:

John Hodge, First Selectman
Jay Waterman, Finance Director
Susan Chapman, Selectman
Mike Gill, Selectman
Ed Sbordone, Accounting Manager
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
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
Various teachers

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Appointments- Chairman Marsh noted that Tom Quigley appointed Keith Landa to serve as a full member in his absence.

Correspondence and Announcements- None

Public Comment

Many members of the public including parents, BOE members, teachers and administrators spoke of the proposed Board of Education budget for 2012-2013.

Approval of Minutes

Tom Edwards made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2012 regular meeting as presented. Jane Landers seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-1 (Motion approved-Keith Landa abstained)

Don Blackwell made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2012 public hearing as presented. Tom Edwards seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-1 (Motion approved-Doug Connelly abstained)

Discussion and vote on the Medical Plan and Medical Plan Reserve Funding for 2012-2013

Wes Marsh spoke of the medical plan cost and reserve fund for 2012-2013. Three options presented were: 120% aggregate stop loss with no Individual stop loss, 110% aggregate stop loss with no Individual stop loss or 125% aggregate stop loss with \$200,000 of Individual stop loss. The board discussed the pros and cons of different options and which plan would be the most fiscally responsible and beneficial to the town.

Wes Marsh made a motion that the BOF approve a Medical Plan with a 110% aggregate stop loss with a reserve of \$1,375,771. Tom Edwards seconded the motion.

Wes Marsh made a motion to amend the previous motion to note that the premium of \$172,547 will come out of the reserve and the remainder of \$54,755 will be put back into the reserve fund.

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

Vote on original motion as amended: 5-1-0 (Motion approved-Jane Landers opposed)

Discussion on the GASB 45 funding for 2012/2013

Finance Director Jay Waterman spoke of the latest actuarial report that is done every other year and noted that the contribution will remain the same for the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

Wes Marsh made a motion that the BOF fund GASB 45 at \$300,000 for the 2012/2013 budget year. Jane Landers seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Discussion of the Board of Selectmen's requested 2012/2013 budget

There was a discussion regarding the BOS's requested budget for 2012/2013. The board discussed whether to fund capital and nonrecurring at 50% from the unappropriated capital and nonrecurring and 50% from taxes. The town and the BOE will consolidated the pension plan in the current fiscal year which will result in approximately \$300,000 for the town plan. The BOS has recommended that \$268,000 of the \$300,000 be earmarked for the 2012-2013 pension plan and the balance being advocated for road repair. The BOF discussed possible used for the remaining \$32,000.

Discussion of the Board of Education's requested 2012/2013 budget

The board discussed the BOE's requested budget for 2012/2013 and spoke of possible cuts and what would be a feasible increase that the taxpayers would agree to.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Alicia Roy spoke of a new state statute that allows for any surplus funds up to 1% of the operating budget to be put in a non-lapsing account. Dr. Roy suggested that \$200,000 originally budgeted for capital and nonrecurring be taken out of the budget and any remaining surplus from 2011-2012 budget be put in a capital and nonrecurring account for the BOE.

Dr. Roy noted that as of this date, 13 Sherman students will be attending New Fairfield High School next year as freshmen. Three senior students will be graduating leaving a net of 10 more Sherman students for the year 2012-2013 with a revenue of approximately \$109,640. Dr. Roy suggested that this non-tax revenue be used to offset GASB 45.

There was a discussion of how much money needs to be cut in order to reach a 3% overall increase. It was noted that \$300,000 worth of cuts would yield a 3.17% increase and \$400,000 worth of cuts would yield a 2.92% increase. There was a discussion among the board regarding these cuts. Topics included a discussion of enrollment projections and the amount of money saved through attrition. Jane Landers asked for the amount of money actually saved through attrition for the last four years.

Public Comment

Some teachers and BOE members further spoke of the Board of Education requested budget

Future Agenda Items

Future agenda items include BOE & BOS budgets, GASB 45 and revenue for Sherman students

Board member comments

Members of the board thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and voicing their opinions. The board members spoke specifically about the Board of Education budget.

Adjournment

Jane Landers made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:33 pm. Tom Edwards seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)