

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

**MINUTES**  
**Board of Finance Public Hearing**  
**Saturday, March 2, 2013**  
**10:00 AM**  
**Community Room at 33 Route 37**

***Members present:***

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

***Members not present:***

Tom Quigley

***Other Town Officials Present:***

**Morning Session**

John Hodge, First Selectman  
Susan Chapman, Selectman  
Mike Gill, Selectman  
Kerrie Greening, Tax Collector  
Jay Waterman, Finance Director  
Ed Sbordone, Accounting Manager  
Steve Burfeind, BOE Member

**Afternoon 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  
Michael Chapleau, High School Assistant Principal  
Christine Baldelli, Middle School Principal  
Cheryl Milo, Middle School Assistant Principal  
Sarah McLain, Meeting House Hill School Principal  
James Mandracchia, MHHS Assistant Principal  
Wendy Seeley, Consolidated School Principal  
Phil Ross, Director of Buildings and Grounds  
Aimee Turner, Director of Pupil Personnel Services  
Sonia Raquel, Director of Public Personnel Services  
Kerrie Greening, Tax Collector  
Scott Akam, BOE Member  
Steve Burfeind, BOE Member  
Vic Flagello, BOE Member  
Sean Loughran, BOE Member  
Peter Ohring, BOE Member

**Call To Order** Chairman Wes Marsh called the meeting to order at 10:00am

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Appointments**

Chairman Wes Marsh noted that Tom Quigley has requested that Cheryl Reedy be appointed as a full voting member for today's meeting in his absence.

**Presentation of Board of Selectmen Requested Budget 2013/2014**

First Selectman John Hodge presented the Board of Selectmen's requested budget for 2013/2014 and gave a power point presentation. The total BOS's requested budget for 2013/2014 equals \$10,156,182 for a 6.11% increase over the 2012/2013 budget. The total requested for the operating budget is \$8,607,162. Mr. Hodge spoke of the budget and noted that there have been none or very little increases in recent years. Money requested for the Capital and Nonrecurring fund equals \$585,091. It was noted that Capital and Nonrecurring money from last year was funded through the unappropriated Cap & Non account. That is not an option for this year. Mr. Hodge spoke of payroll increases for both union and non-union town employees.

It was noted that the biggest challenge to this year's budget is that revenues are not as high as anticipated. Mr. Hodge noted that the BOS and the Finance Department have recently adopted a new policy with the town departments and the boards and commissions that all expenses except for salaries must be approved by the First Selectman and the Finance Director prior to any expenditures. Surplus for the current fiscal year is not anticipated to be as high as prior years.

A copy of this power point presentation is available at [www.newfairfield.org](http://www.newfairfield.org)

**Public Comment on the BOS requested budget 2013/2014-** None

**Discussion of Board of Selectmen Requested Budget 2013/2014**

Members of the BOF asked questions of First Selectman Hodge and Finance Director Jay Waterman regarding the 2013/2014 proposed budget. Main topics of discussion included the town's infrastructure especially the paving of roads. Currently, roads are usually paved every eight or nine years and it was noted that the town would like to keep that schedule. The board members asked about Police Vehicles and Police salaries for both State Troopers and local officers. Mr. Hodge noted that there is no longer a subsidiary for time and a half for police overtime.

The Board of Finance members asked about the consultant fee for the Plan of Conservation and Development as well as the possible surplus from the Meeting House Hill School project. Other topics included the cost of snow removal and the legal budget.

The Board of Finance decided to make a list of questions for future meetings and to send them to the Board of Selectmen ahead of time so that they have adequate time to prepare.

**Recess**

Tom Edwards made a motion to go into recess at 11:14am. Jane Landers seconded the motion.

**Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Keith Landa made a motion to come back from recess at 1:00pm. Cheryl Reedy seconded the motion.

**Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)**

**Presentation of the Board of Education Requested Budget 2013/2014**

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Alicia Roy presented the Board of Education requested budget for 2013/2014 and gave a power point presentation. The total BOE's requested budget for 2013/2014 equals \$40,511,562 for a 3.25% increase over the 2012/2013 budget. Dr. Roy noted that 1.27% or \$496,679 of the increase was due to the impact of increase in non-operating budget which includes School Security, debt service, capital and nonrecurring, health insurance and GASB 45. The total for the BOE's recommended operating budget is \$31,364,269 which represents a 2.55% increase or \$778,489 above the current fiscal year.

Dr. Roy spoke of the District Goal and noted the many awards and distinctions received by students of all grade levels.

The Power Point presentation included a summary of priorities within the district and some state unfunded mandates and how they affect the budget. Specific examples of this include the Common Core State Standards and the new Teacher Evaluations. Other factors that affect the budget include staff reorganization, sequestration and attrition. In the wake of the tragedy in Newtown, costs associated with potential safety measures were discussed. It was noted that the BOE has voted to charge a fee to high school students for parking. This is expected to generate approximately \$17,000 annually which will be put towards safety.

Dr. Roy spoke of needed staff and proposed an additional 5.9 positions. A total of 11.2 positions are proposed to be reduced.

Dr. Roy spoke of Buildings and Grounds initiatives and Energy Savings and how they affect the budget.

Health Insurance policies have been changed to HSA (Health Savings Accounts) for teachers, administrators and non-union personnel. This change is projected to save over \$200,000 the first year.

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 2013/2014- None**

**Discussion of Board of Education Requested Budget 2013/2014**

Board of Finance Chairman Wes Marsh spoke of the proposed budgets for both the town and the BOE and noted that combined the requested increase equals 5.92%. Mr. Marsh explained that 1% of the budget is approximately \$400,000.

Specific questions asked of the Superintendent included information about the parking fee and maintenance of the parking lot at the high school, software for the new teacher evaluations and needed staff for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades and the effect of enrollment.

The BOF spoke of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and College and Career Readiness and asked about measurements and data to tell if they reached their goal. Dr. Roy spoke of the NWEA data.

Dr. Roy spoke of the current fiscal year and noted that any surplus will not be as high as prior years.

The board decided to cancel the BOF scheduled for Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. The next meeting of the Board of Finance will be held on Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm in the Community Room at 33 Route 37.

**Adjournment**

Don Blackwell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:51pm. Keith Landa seconded the motion.

**Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Received for Record MAR - 5 2013  
At 9 h 44 m A M and recorded by  
Pamela J. Dehan-ATC  
Janice D. Zackeo, Town Clerk, New Fairfield, CT