

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

**MINUTES**  
**Board of Finance Regular Meeting**  
**Wednesday, February 19, 2014**  
**7:30 PM**  
**New Fairfield Community Room**

***Members present:***

Wes Marsh, Chairman  
Don Blackwell  
Michael Cammarota  
Tom Edwards  
John Hodge  
Jane Landers  
Steve Brown, Alternate  
Cheryl Reedy, Alternate  
Brian Shea, Alternate

***Other Town Officials Present:***

Susan Chapman, First Selectman  
Mike Gill, Selectman  
Kim Hanson, Selectman  
Evelyn Abraham, Finance Director  
Steve Rinaldi, Everett James, Inc.  
Rich Seman, Assessor  
Julie Blick, Assistant Assessor  
Scott Akam, BOE Chairman  
Linda Norris, BOE member  
Susan Starr, BOE member

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

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Appointments**-None

**Correspondence and Announcements**- None

**Public comment**- None

**Approval of Minutes**

Don Blackwell made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2014 regular meeting as presented. Mike Cammarota seconded the motion.

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

Jane Landers made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2014 audit subcommittee meeting as presented. Don Blackwell seconded the motion.

**Vote: 5-0-1 (Motion approved-John Hodge abstained)**

**Budget Transfers**

Wes Marsh made a motion to approve the following Inter-Departmental transfer in the amount of \$5,000.00. John Hodge seconded the motion. (Such document to be attached to the minutes of this meeting)

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

\$	Transfer To		\$	Transfer From	
5,000.00	4120-110	Town Clerk Salaries	3,000.00	4190-345	HR-Business Services
			500.00	4221-338	Ambulance-Para/EMT
			500.00	4160-580	Unclass. P & B Mileage
			375.00	4160-140	Unclass. P & B Salary Adj.
			300.00	4430-110	WPCA-Salaries
			250.00	4198-610	Historical Prop.-M&S
			75.00	4162-312	Intergov. Agencies-COST
<b>5,000.00</b>			<b>5,000.00</b>		

Wes Marsh made a motion to approve the following Inter-Departmental transfer in the amount of \$25,000.00. Don Blackwell seconded the motion. (Such document to be attached to the minutes of this meeting)

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

\$	Transfer To		\$	Transfer From	
\$25,000.00	4310-610-3	PW-Snow Materials and Supplies	\$5,000.00	4160-260	Unclass. P & B-Workers Comp
			\$10,000.00	4163-520	General Ins-Property & Casualty
			\$10,000.00	4195-620-5	Utilities-Town Prop-Fuel Oil
<b>\$25,000.00</b>			<b>\$25,000.00</b>		

**Additional Appropriation-Public Works Trucks and Equipment**

Wes Marsh made a motion to recommend to a Town Meeting the following Additional Appropriation not to exceed \$42,500. Jane Landers seconded the motion. (Such document to be attached to the minutes of this meeting)

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

First Selectman Susan Chapman spoke of the purchase of a new front loader for the Public Works Department. The cost for this would be \$152,488 which includes a trade-in value of \$17,500. It was noted that if this front loader was purchased this year, it would not have to be included in next year's budget. There was a brief discussion of the Capital and Nonrecurring fund and uses for the town surplus.

\$	Transfer To		\$	Transfer From	
\$42,500.00	301-4330-742	Cap & Non-PW Trucks and Equip	42,500.00	301-4100-700	Unappropriated Cap & Non
<b>\$42,500.00</b>			<b>\$42,500.00</b>		

### **Presentation and discussion of the Medical Plan for the 2014-2015 budget year**

Steve Rinaldi from the firm of Everett James, Inc. gave a presentation that included a discussion of current claims experience, a preliminary projection for fiscal years 2014 and 2015 and an update on Health Care reform.

Mr. Rinaldi presented the board with a handout that included a summary report of rolling 12 months medical and prescription drug billed claims summary report, a catastrophic claims summary and a projection for the fiscal years 2014-2015. There is a projected surplus for the year ending 2013/2014 of \$288,906.

### **Discussion of Senior Citizen Tax Relief**

Town of New Fairfield Assessor Rich Seman spoke of programs available to residents over 65 for tax relief based on income. Currently, the town has both a state program and a town program. Last year, 151 households qualified for tax relief programs with a cost to the town of \$246,819.00. Currently the annual income limits are \$34,100 for single filers and \$41,600 for married filers. No asset check is required for this tax relief. It was noted that surrounding towns have higher income limits than New Fairfield. There was a discussion of increasing the income limits to be consistent with other towns and it was noted that it is within the purview of the Board of Finance to increase the income limits.

There was a discussion of the benefits of giving seniors tax relief and how it affects school taxes. The board discussed whether or not giving more tax relief benefits would cause more senior to stay in town.

It was decided that a Public Hearing should be held in order to get input from the taxpayers regarding parameters and opinions for expanding the tax relief programs. John Hodge will construct an agenda for this Public Hearing. It was suggested that this hearing be possibly held on a Saturday after budget season.

Selectman Kim Hanson spoke of the Senior Citizen Tax relief and noted that residents that are not Senior Citizens may also be in need of assistance.

### **Discussion of law enforcement overtime vs. cost of additional officer**

There was a discussion of the amount of overtime for police officers in town. It was noted that one officer is currently out on disability resulting in some payroll savings which is offset by overtime. There was a comparison of overtime for this past year with previous years. John Hodge thanked Finance Director Evelyn Abraham for all her hard work in putting together information regarding the law enforcement overtime.

### **Discussion of 2014-2015 budget planning**

Budget binders will be available for pick up at the New Fairfield Library early next week. The BOE and the BOS will present their budgets to the BOF on Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. The BOS is requesting an increase of 2.84% over last year and the BOE is requesting an increase of 2.54%.

It was noted that the grand list is up from last year primarily due to the supplemental automobile tax. There was a brief discussion of the budget for the BOE Capital and Nonrecurring revenue that was not needed since a grant was recently received for security.

### **ONGOING UPDATES**

**Medical update-** The Medical Reserve fund looks good and could be approximately \$1.5 million by year end.

**Legal update**- John Hodge noted that there is now a stipulated agreement with Barbieri Painting that requires them to repaint the Parsonage as per the specification from Sherwin Williams.

**Year to date expenses review**- There was a question about overtime at the communications center. First Selectman Chapman noted that three people have been hired recently.

There was a question about Fire Department equipment and maintenance. Selectman Mike Gill noted that equipment and maintenance is usually done early in the year.

**Current year revenue update** -Finance Director Evelyn Abraham spoke of the tuition from Sherman and noted that the town will be over budget in tuition revenue by \$66,950.00.

Real-Estate conveyance tax is also expected to be over budget for this year.

**Cap & Non**- The unappropriated fund balance is currently \$919,755.58.

**Public Comment**- Selectman Kim Hanson thanked Steve Rinaldi from the firm of Everett James, Inc. for his in depth and informative presentation.

**Future agenda items**

The BOE and the BOS will present their budgets to the BOF on Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Cheryl Reedy asked for an update on the Library Renovation project. First Selectman Susan Chapman noted that it is hopeful that the library will be on the agenda for the State Bonding Commission for grants in the near future.

**Board member comments**- Don Blackwell thanked everyone for attending this meeting.

**Adjournment**

John Hodge made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:46 pm. Don Blackwell seconded the motion.

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