

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

MINUTES

Board of Finance Regular Meeting
Wednesday, March 18, 2015
7:30 PM
New Fairfield Community Room

Members present:

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

Other Town Officials Present:

Susan Chapman, First Selectman
Mike Gill, Selectman
Evelyn Abraham, Finance Director
Ed Sbordone, Accounting Manager
Dr. Alicia Roy, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Jason McKinnon, Chief Academic Officer
Mariana Coelho, High School Principal
Christine Baldelli, Middle School Principal
Sarah McLain, Meeting House Hill School Principal
Karen Gruetzner, Consolidated School Assistant Principal
Aaron Herold, Director of Technology
Craig McClain, Business Manager
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

Chairman Wes Marsh read a letter that the board received from Chairman of the Commission on the Aging, Maureen Salerno thanking the BOF for their help and cooperation with the Elderly Tax Relief amendment.

Public Comment- None

Approval of Minutes

Jane Landers made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2015 regular meeting as presented. Tom Edwards seconded the motion.

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

Budget Transfers- None

Discussion of the Board of Education's requested budget for 2015-2016

The board discussed the BOE requested budget and asked questions of Superintendent of Schools Dr. Alicia Roy and Business Manager Craig McClain. Main topics of discussion included attrition and the number of expected retirements for this year. It is hopeful that a list of retirements for this year will be known before closing out the budget. The board also discussed Capital and Nonrecurring projects for the schools and specifically the proposed parking lot projects at Consolidated School and the Middle School and High School. Cost of field replacement for the turf fields was also discussed.

Discussion of the Board of Selectmen's requested budget for 2015-2016

The board discussed the BOS requested budget for 2015-2016. A specific topic of discussion included the proposed hiring of 24/7 EMS. Selectman Mike Gill presented the BOF with a chart that included response times and how these times can be decreased by the hiring of a 24/7 EMS.

The board also discussed the four-year average for Real Estate Conveyance revenue and the replacement of the Beach House at the Town Beach. It was suggested that the town apply for a STEAP grant for the building of the Beach House. The contract for ambulance and paramedics was also discussed.

It was noted that the Grand List went down by approximately \$343,000 after the Board of Assessment Appeals meeting. The board discussed reductions to the requested budget and how these reductions affect the Mill Rate.

Request by Board of Finance

To date, the proposed budget has an increase of 3.18% over last year's budget. The consensus of the board is to keep the increase under 2%. In order to reach this goal, \$500,000 would have to be cut from the proposed budgets. The BOF asked the Board of Education to show what \$400,000 worth of cuts would look like to their budget and the town was asked to provide \$100,000 worth of cuts.

ONGOING UPDATES

Medical update- To date there is \$1.8 million in the reserve fund.

Legal update- The available balance as of March 13, 2015 is \$8,135.00.

Year to date expenses review- The board discussed property and casualty insurance.

Current year revenue update- The tax collection rate to date is 98.42%. To date, the town has received \$11,765 more for Real Estate Conveyance Tax than this time last year.

Cap & Non- The unappropriated fund balance is \$1,193,987. The bid for the library renovation project was awarded to Sacadino Construction. Finance Director Evelyn Abraham will get a breakdown of funds of the library project from the PBC Chairman.

Public Comment

BOE Chairman Scott Akam spoke of the Medical Plan as well as the BOF requested cuts for the BOE.

First Selectman Susan Chapman reminded everyone that the parking lot project at the high school must be approved by several town boards before it can be completed.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Alicia Roy spoke of the Medical Plan and noted that the increase for health insurance is \$16,000 less than last year.

Future agenda items

The Medical Plan for both the town and the BOE will be discussed at the next meeting. The Candlewood Lake Authority and the Turf Replacement Field Fund will also be discussed.

Board member comments- None

Adjournment

John Hodge made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:59pm. Wes Marsh seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)