

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

MINUTES
Board of Finance Regular Meeting
Wednesday, April 1, 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
Steve Rinaldi, Everett James, Inc.
Dr. Alicia Roy, Superintendent of Schools
Ed Sbordone, Accounting Manager
Dr. Jason McKinnon, Chief Academic Officer
Mariana Coehlo, High School Principal
Christine Baldelli, Middle School Principal
Cheryl Milo, Middle School Assistant Principal
Sarah McLain, Meeting House Hill School Principal
Karen Gruetzner, Consolidated School Ass't Principal
Maureen Salerno, Commission on the Aging Chairman
Scott Akam, BOE Chairman
Sean Loughran, BOE member
Linda Norris, BOE member
Susan Starr, BOE member
Amy Tozzo, BOE member
Jay Voss, 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

BOE member Amy Tozzo spoke in support of the BOE budget and specifically professional development.

BOE member Linda Norris spoke in support of the BOE budget and specifically the additional \$50,000 in revenue due to the revaluation.

Tom Weisenberger spoke in support of the BOE budget.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Alicia Roy spoke of education budgets in surrounding towns and noted that they spend a lot more per student as compared to New Fairfield.

BOE Chairman Scott Akam spoke in support of the BOE budget.

Approval of Minutes

Don Blackwell made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2015 regular meeting as presented. Mike Cammarota seconded the motion.

John Hodge made a motion to amend the previous motion to delete the last sentence of the first paragraph that reads “The board asked for a payment schedule for replacement of Rebel Turf” and change it to “The Board asked that the Field Fees Committee come back to the BOF with a payment schedule that reflects how they will pay for the repair/replacement of Rebel Turf, Stadium Turf and the track moving forward without having the project funded via the taxpayers. Jane Landers seconded the motion.

Vote to amend motion: 5-0-1 (Motion approved-Tom Edwards abstained)

Vote on motion as amended: 5-0-1 (Motion approved-Tom Edwards abstained)

Budget Transfers- None

Vote on medical plan’s stop loss and prescription drug coverage for the 2015-2016 budget

Steve Rinaldi from the firm of Everett James, Inc. gave a presentation that showed options for the medical plan as well as the various options for ASL and ISL both with and without prescription plans. There was a discussion of the amount that should be in the medical reserve fund and whether or not Individual Stop Loss is necessary.

Wes Marsh made a motion to approve the medical plan with 110% Aggregate Stop Loss with prescription drug coverage for the fiscal year 2015-2016. John Hodge seconded the motion.

Jane Landers made a motion to amend the previous motion to include moving \$65,000 from the stop loss premium line and put it into the claims line. John Hodge seconded the motion.

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

Vote on motion as amended: 6-0-0- (Motion approved)

Approval of BOE changes to 2015-2016 budget

The board discussed the \$400,000 cuts to the BOE budget that was requested by the BOF. The BOE came back with the following cuts: \$50,000 (Attrition), \$50,000 (ADP payroll software system) and

\$300,000 (Capital and Nonrecurring). It was noted that with this cut and the \$100,000 requested cut by the town, the Mil Rate increase would be 1.97%.

Wes Marsh made a motion to approve the Town and Board of Education changes for fiscal year 2015-2016 as described in the document entitled Fiscal budget 2015-2016 budget. (Such document to be attached to the minutes of this meeting). Jane Landers seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Vote to recommend to a town meeting the 2015-2016 BOF recommended budget

Wes Marsh made a motion to recommend to a town meeting a Board of Finance recommended budget consisting of the following: municipal expenditures totaling \$10,573,544 from the General Fund and \$530,201 from the Capital and Nonrecurring fund and \$1,108,569 from other Governmental funds for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016 and education expenditures totaling \$41,365,590 from the General Fund and \$331,631 from the Capital and Nonrecurring fund for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016 be approved. John Hodge seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Public Comment

Holly Murtha spoke of the recently amended Elderly Tax Relief program.

Chairman of the Commission on the Aging, Maureen Salerno spoke of the amended Elderly Tax Relief program and also in support of the Board of Education budget.

Future Agenda Items

The board will discuss the amended Elderly Tax Relief program and will check with the Assessor what effect the amendment had on the program as compared to other years.

The board discussed the possibility of cancelling the April 15th meeting. It was decided that if this meeting is cancelled, a special meeting will be held if necessary.

Board member comments

Members of the Board of Finance thanked everyone including the BOS, BOE, Finance Department and the Chairman of the Board of Finance for a successful budget season.

Adjournment

John Hodge made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:43pm. Don Blackwell seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)