

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

MINUTES
Board of Finance Budget Workshop
Saturday, March 7, 2015
9:00 AM
Community Room at 33 Route 37

Members present:

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

Members not present:

Anthony Yorio, Alternate

Other Town Officials Present:

Morning Session

Susan Chapman, First Selectman
Mike Gill, Selectman
Evelyn Abraham, Finance Director
Ed Sbordone, Accounting Manager
Bruce Taylor, Fire Chief
Ed McCue, Fire Department
Sean Loughran, BOE Member & Parks & Rec Chairman

Afternoon Session

Dr. Alicia Roy, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Jason McKinnon, Chief Academic Officer
Craig McClain, Business Manager
Evelyn Abraham, Finance Director
Ed Sbordone, Accounting 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
Robert Spino, Consolidated School Principal
Karen Gruetzner, Consolidated School Assistant Principal
Keegan Finlayson, Remediation and Intervention Coordinator
Phil Ross, Director of Buildings and Grounds
Sonia Raquel, Director of Public Personnel Services
Aaron Herold, Director of Technology
Mary Stolle, Athletic Director
Scott Akam, BOE Chairman
Sean Loughran, BOE Member
Amy Tozzo, BOE Member
Jay Voss, BOE Member

Call To Order Chairman Wes Marsh called the meeting to order at 9:00am

Pledge of Allegiance

Appointments- None

Presentation of the Board of Selectmen Requested Budget 2015/2016

First Selectman Susan Chapman presented the Board of Selectmen's requested budget for 2015/2016 and gave a power point presentation. The total BOS's requested budget for 2015/2016 equals \$10,662,910.00 for a 2.58% increase over the 2014/2015 budget. This represents a dollar increase of \$276,901.00. The total requested for the operating budget is \$9,327,838.00 Money requested for the contribution to the Capital and Nonrecurring fund equals \$202,601.00. Two main factors contributing to the budget increase are the proposed 24/7 EMS employee and the amendment to the elderly tax relief.

Other points of discussion among the BOS and the BOF board members included the road repair schedule and the Candlewood Lake Authority. First Selectman Chapman spoke of a meeting with the CLA and it was noted that they overspent their budget. There was a discussion of the possibility of New Fairfield opting out of contributing to the CLA. It was decided that the BOS will invite members of surrounding towns to a meeting regarding the CLA.

Other topics of the budget discussion included purchasing cots and blankets in case of an emergency, the cost of the next tax revaluation which will be done in 2019, utilities, town audit, real estate conveyance tax, town clerk receipts and air conditioning at the Police Dept.

There was a brief discussion of the BOE request for the town to fund an additional School Resource Officer for the district. The BOS noted that if the BOE determines that they would like an additional SRO that the BOS will help make it happen but it should be funded out of the BOE budget.

A copy of the proposed BOS budget is available at www.newfairfield.org

Public Comment

There was a question regarding the increase in overtime for the Police Dept.

Resident Adrian Bing-Zaremba spoke in support of hiring an additional School Resource Officer especially one that is trained in risk prevention and counseling.

Recess

The board went into recess at 11:05am.

The board came back from recess at 1:00pm.

Presentation of Board of Education Requested Budget 2014/2015

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Alicia Roy presented the Board of Education requested budget for 2015/2016 and gave a power point presentation. The total BOE's requested budget for 2015/2016 equals \$41,829,648 for a 2.48% increase over the 2014/2015 budget. The total for the BOE's recommended operating budget is \$32,632,684 which represents a 3.18% increase or \$1,005,798 above the current fiscal year. The district currently spends \$13,490.00 per pupil annually which ranks 20th of 21 districts in DRG B.

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Dr. Roy spoke of the District Goal and noted the many awards and distinctions received by students of all grade levels. The District Goal incorporates 5Cs which include critical thinking, communication, collaboration, creativity, and connections in alignment with the Common Core State Standards.

Two main items that affect this year's budget include energy savings, health care costs and parking lot circulation and safety.

Changes in staffing for the 2015-2016 school year include a reduction of four teaching positions which are expected to be funded through attrition and the addition of a math coach to support teachers and students.

There was a discussion of a 15 year capital project plan and specifically the parking lot improvement plan for the high school and middle school parking lot. It was noted that this is a priority due to safety issues. Other capital projects discussed include the auditorium at the high school and the replacement of Rebel Turf.

Dr. Roy thanked the Administrators, staff and the entire Board of Education for help with compiling this budget. A copy of the BOE requested budget and power point presentation can be found at www.newfairfieldschools.org

Public Comment

Resident Tom Weisenberger spoke in support of the BOE proposed budget and especially the hiring of an additional SRO that specializes in counseling and determining at risk students.

Adjournment

Jane Landers made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:03pm. Don Blackwell seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)