

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

MINUTES

**Board of Finance Regular Meeting
Wednesday, February 17, 2016
7:30 PM
New Fairfield Community Room**

Members present:

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

Rick Salem, Alternate

Members not present:

Brian Shea, Alternate

Other Town Officials Present:

Evelyn Abraham, Finance Director
Steve Burfeind, BOE Chairman
Ed Sbordone, BOE member/Accounting Manager
Bob Lindberg, Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.
Stephen Scholl, Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Appointments- None

Correspondence- Chairman Wes Marsh noted that he gave the board members a final copy of the Town's audit. This is also available on the Town's website.

Public Comment- Resident Rudy Bahrens spoke of the Board of Education and the drop in enrollment in New Fairfield schools.

Approval of Minutes

Anthony Yorio made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2016 regular meeting as presented. Jane Landers seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0-2 (Motion approved- Tom Edwards and John Hodge abstained)

Budget Transfers- None

Presentation and discussion of Medical Plans for the 2016-2017 budget by the firm of Arthur J. Gallaher & Co.

Bob Lindberg from the firm of Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. gave a presentation regarding the medical plans for both the Town of New Fairfield and New Fairfield schools. Included in the presentation was a discussion of current experience with a review of year to date claim experience, discussion of previous years, and a review of large claims. A preliminary projection was given for the year ending 2016. Mr. Lindberg also briefly spoke of Health Care Reform and the Cadillac Tax. It was noted that claims for January 2015 to December 2015 were down almost \$300,000 from previous years.

The board spoke of medical and prescription plans and High deductible plans. It was noted that a catastrophic claim is anything over \$50,000. There was a discussion of Aggregate Stop Loss vs. Individual Stop Loss. It was decided that the board will need more information before making a final decision regarding the medical plan. Mr. Lindberg and Mr. Scholl will return for the March 16th regular BOF meeting. In the meantime, Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. will send a contract to the Finance Director and also will give a breakdown of prices for plans with and without prescription drugs.

Budget Planning discussion- 2016-2017 fiscal year

Chairman Wes Marsh noted that the BOE and the BOS will present their budgets to the BOF on Saturday, March 5th. As of now, the combined town and BoE budgets total \$53,686,720. which would increase the mil rate by 2.87%. Chairman Marsh noted that this would increase the Mil Rate by 2.87% when factoring in the non taxable revenue. In order to bring the increase to under 2%, an additional \$400,000 would have to be cut from the budget.

There was a discussion of the state budget, the medical fund and the advantages to building up the General Fund.

ONGONG UPDATES

Medical update- The ending fund balance as of December 31, 2015 is \$2,886,736.12

Legal update- The balance as of February 12th is \$36,793. Finance Director Evelyn Abraham will check with CIRMA about a possible claim with a particular law suit.

Year to date expenses review- The board briefly discussed year to date expenses.

Current year revenue update- The tax collection rate is 94%. There was a brief discussion of building permit revenues being down compared to last year.

Cap & Non review- Approximately \$8,000 was spent to repair damage caused by a flood in the Town Hall basement. It is expected that this will be reimbursed by insurance.

Public Comment- None

Future agenda items

The budget will be presented to the BOF on Saturday, March 5th. After that, the board will meet every Wednesday in March.

Board member comments- Michael Cammarota congratulated the New Fairfield Boys and Girls Basketball Team for going to the playoffs.

Adjournment

John Hodge made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:06pm. Michael Cammarota seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)