

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

MINUTES

Board of Finance Budget Workshop
Saturday, March 5, 2016
9:00 AM
Community Room at 33 Route 37

Members present:

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

Members not present:

Rick Salem, Alternate

Other Town Officials Present:

First Session

Dr. Alicia Roy, Superintendent of Schools
Evelyn Abraham, Finance Director
Dr. Jason McKinnon, Chief Academic Officer
Craig McClain, Business Manager
Ed Sbordone, Accounting Manager/BOE Member
Mariana Coelho, High School Principal
Michael Chapleau, High School Assistant Principal
Scott Rohwedder, High School Assistant Principal
Christine Baldelli, Middle School Principal
Sarah McLain, Meeting House Hill School Principal
Robert Spino, Consolidated School Principal
Karen Gruetzner, Consolidated School Assistant Principal
Keegan Finlayson, 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
Laurie Slade, Director of Pupil Personnel
Steve Burfeind, BOE Chairman
Scott Akam, BOE Member
Sean Loughran, BOE Member
Samantha Mannion, BOE Member
Susan Starr, BOE Member
Amy Tozzo, BOE Member
Jay Voss, BOE Member

Second Session

First Selectman, Susan Chapman
Selectman, Mike Gill
Ed Sbordone, Accounting Manager/BOE Member
Aaron Herold, Director of Technology
Gail Lehman, Library Board Director
Sean Loughran, Parks and Rec Commission Chairman
Susan Starr, BOE Member

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Appointments- None

Presentation of Board of Education Requested Budget 2016/2017

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Alicia Roy presented the Board of Education requested budget for 2016/2017 and gave a power point presentation. The total BOE's requested budget for 2016/2017 equals \$42,682,862 for a 3.18% increase over the 2015/2016 budget. The total for the BOE's recommended operating budget is \$33,649,168 which represents a 3.43% increase or \$1,116,484 above the current fiscal year. The district currently spends \$14,146.00 per pupil annually which ranks 20th of 21 districts in DRG B.

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.

Specific items affecting the budget include program changes particularly in Math and Science. Money has been put into this budget for Professional Development in Math. Other items that affect the budget include AP Text books at the high school and the cost of GASB 45. Capital improvements include the renovation of the parking lot at Consolidated School and flooring with abatement at the high school. Money has been put aside in the year's budget for the Capital and Nonrecurring fund towards the auditorium renovations at the high school.

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

Residents Tom Weisenberger and Craig Rosen spoke in support of the BOE budget.

BOE Chairman Steve Burfeind spoke in support of the BOE budget.

Review- Board of Education's Requested Budget

The BOF reviewed the Board of Education's budget and specifically asked questions regarding test scores and the BOE's plan to increase test scores. There was a discussion of how improvements are measured and how New Fairfield compares to other districts. Assistant Superintendent of Schools Dr. Jason McKinnon spoke of different types of data and new ways that the district is measuring improvement. BOE member Amy Tozzo spoke of the need to increase Professional Development in the district. There was a discussion of insuring that additional money spent on the education budget would equate to higher test scores and student achievement. There was a brief discussion of the town's ability to pay vs. willingness to pay.

Recess

The board went into recess at 11:17am.

The board came back from recess at 11:37am.

Presentation of the Board of Selectmen Requested Budget 2016/2017

First Selectman Susan Chapman presented the Board of Selectmen's requested budget for 2016/2017 and gave a power point presentation. The total BOS's requested budget for 2016/2017 equals \$11,161,734.00 for a 5.56% increase over the 2015/2016 budget. This represents a dollar increase of \$588,193.00. The total requested for the operating budget is \$9,853,334.00. Main challenges to this year's budget include the increase in the police budget and overtime, public works, state funding, and the decrease in interest income. First Selectman Chapman spoke of the advantages of joining the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities and noted that the cost to join is \$9,429.00. Reductions to the budget include salaries, public works road repair, Social Security workers compensation, property & casualty insurance and police department overtime. The Town is saving money due to the implementation of the HSA Medical plan.

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

Public Comment

Parks and Rec Commission Chairman Sean Loughran noted that \$119,000 of the Parks and Rec revenue goes back to the town. He noted that the Beach House and the Snack Shack at the Town Beach are in need or replacement. There was a discussion of the options for this including combining the Snack Shack into the Beach House.

Resident Tom Weisenberger spoke of the Police Committee formed to investigate the best option for the town in regards to the Police Department. John Hodge noted that the next meeting of the Police Committee is Monday, March 21st and encouraged Mr. Weisenberger and all residents to attend.

Library Board Chairman Gail Lehman spoke of the proposed reduction in staff for the library and the desire to have the library open the same time every day. Members of the BOF asked questions of Mrs. Lehman regarding staffing of the library and number of patrons that use the library at any given time. This will be discussed further at a future BOF meeting.

Review- Board of Education's Requested Budget

The BOF asked questions of the Board of Selectmen regarding their proposed budget. One of the main topics was a discussion of the Candlewood Lake Authority. It was noted that the CLA overspent their budget for the last 6-7 years. This year there is an approximate \$56,000 shortfall. John Hodge spoke of a proposed bill that would require Lake Authorities to conform to the same budget standards as municipalities. The BOF decided that the CLA must give a plan by the end of March on how they plan to pay back the \$56,000 shortfall.

There was a discussion of road repair and it was noted that approximately 6.62 miles of roads will be paved this year. The BOF spoke of the General Fund and noted that any surplus from this year's budget should go into the General Fund. The Board also discussed Police costs, water systems and Street Scape.

The Board of Finance will further discuss the proposed budget at their next meeting on Wednesday, March 9th at 7:30pm.

Adjournment

Tom Edwards made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:18pm. Michael Cammarota seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

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03/05/16

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