

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

MINUTES
Board of Finance Regular Meeting
Wednesday, April 6, 2016
7:30 PM
New Fairfield Community Room

Members present:

Wes Marsh, Chairman
Tom Edwards
John Hodge
Jane Landers
Anthony Yorio
Cheryl Reedy, Alternate
Rick Salem, Alternate

Members not present:

Michael Cammarota
Brian Shea, Alternate

Other Town Officials Present:

Evelyn Abraham, Finance Director
Susan Chapman, First Selectman
Mike Gill, Selectman
Ed Sbordone, BOE member/Accounting Manager
Dr. Alicia Roy, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Jason McKinnon, Ass't Superintendent of Schools
James Mandracchia, MHHS Assistant Principal
Craig McClain, Business Manager
Jack Keating, Candlewood Lake Authority
Larry Marsicano, CLA Executive Director
Mark Toussaint, Candlewood Lake Authority
Sean Loughran, Parks and Rec Commission Chairman/BOE member
Steve Burfeind, BOE Chairman
Samantha Mannion, BOE member
Susan Starr, BOE member
Amy Tozzo, BOE member
Jay Voss, BOE member

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Appointments- Chairman Wes Marsh noted that Michael Cammarota will not be able to attend tonight's meeting and appointed Cheryl Reedy to act in his place.

Correspondence and Announcements- None

Public Comment- None

Approval of Minutes

Anthony Yorio made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2016 regular meeting as presented. Jane Landers seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Budget Transfers- None

Presentation and discussion of the Candlewood Lake Authority 2016-2017 budget

Mark Toussaint from the Candlewood Lake Authority spoke of their budget deficit and noted that the CLA recognizes that there is a problem and has met to discuss solutions and areas to improve accounting measures. Some suggestions that the CLA has for improvement include a multi year plan, better reporting of budget vs. actual numbers and adding a contingency plan. It was noted that it was hopeful that First Light will fund the CLA at the same level as the towns. Mr. Toussaint also spoke of a three year plan and looking at what can be deferred. There was a brief discussion of the role of the Candlewood Lake Authority and the challenges for the lake.

Members of the BOF spoke of the deficit of the CLA and noted that the CLA should operate within their budget. There was a discussion of their action plan and it was noted that that there doesn't seem to be a specific plan. BOF member John Hodge noted that he is also a member of the Candlewood Lake Authority and that he and CLA member Jack Keating voted against the CLA action plan at a recent meeting.

Town Attorney and Candlewood Lake Authority member Jack Keating spoke against the CLA's action plan noting that the plan is based on hope instead of facts and specifics. He spoke of the mission of the CLA and questioned if the CLA is the most cost effective option for New Fairfield.

It was suggested that the Board of Finance asked the Board of Selectmen for recommendations regarding this.

Board of Selectmen's requested budget for 2016-2017

The BOF discussed the requested budget for the BOS for the year 2016-2017 and spoke of cuts to both the operating budget and the Capital and Nonrecurring account. First Selectman Susan Chapman noted that the roads will be driven in the next week to determine which ones need repair. Chairman Wes Marsh asked about additional revenue services. Finance Director Evelyn Abraham noted that utilities prices have been locked in. The BOF discussed potential cuts and decided to ask the BOS to present how \$150,000 worth of cuts would impact their budget. It was noted that these proposed cuts should be shown from the operating and capital expenses and not shown as additional revenue.

John Hodge made a motion to instruct the Board of Selectmen to present to the BOF what \$150,000 worth of cuts from the requested budget of 2016-2017 would look like at their April 13th meeting. Jane Landers seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Board of Education's requested budget for 2016-2017

The BOF discussed the BOE requested budget for 2016-2017 and spoke specifically of the payroll accounts. The BOF questioned how much was transferred from payroll to non-payroll in recent years. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Alicia Roy noted that to date there are five retirements for 2016. There was a discussion of how to account for attrition and payroll. Dr. Roy suggested having a "turnover" account to put money aside specifically for payroll. The BOF noted that enrollment in the schools has decreased by 12% over the last three years and asked how this has affected the budget. Dr. Roy will get more information regarding this.

There was a lengthy discussion of the BOE budget and transfers that were made. The BOF stressed that they are interested in seeing an accurate budget and that the budget should be allocated to have money spent as intended. There was a brief discussion of the Capital and Nonrecurring account and how a \$200,000 cut would affect the budget.

Wes Marsh made a motion to instruct the Board of Education to cut \$750,000 of payroll and \$200,000 of Capital and Nonrecurring from their 2016-2017 requested budget. Jane Landers seconded the motion.

Wes Marsh made a motion to amend the previous motion to instruct the BOE to **show** what \$750,000 worth of cuts from payroll and \$200,000 worth of cuts from Cap & Non would look like and to present it to the BOF at their April 13th meeting. Jane Landers seconded the motion.

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

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

Vote to schedule final mark up of the budget for 2016-2017

Wes Marsh made a motion to schedule the BOF Final Mark up of the budget for Wednesday, April 13th. Jane Landers seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-1-0 (Motion approved- Cheryl Reedy opposed)

Public Comment

Resident Linda Norris spoke in support of the BOE budget and against the proposed cuts especially to the BOE payroll.

Future Agenda Items- The final mark up of the budget will be held on Wednesday, April 13th at 7:30pm at the Community Room at 33 Route 37.

Board member comments- None

Adjournment

John Hodge made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:25pm. Jane Landers seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)