

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

MINUTES

Board of Finance Regular Meeting
Wednesday, April 13, 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
Brian Shea, Alternate

Other Town Officials Present:

Evelyn Abraham, Finance Director
Susan Chapman, First Selectman
Mike Gill, Selectman
Kim Hanson, Selectman
Ed Sbordone, BOE member/Accounting Manager
Dr. Alicia Roy, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Jason McKinnon, Ass't Superintendent of Schools
Christine Baldelli, Middle School Principal
Sarah McLain, Meeting House Hill School Principal
Craig McClain, Business Manager
Steve Burfeind, BOE Chairman
Samantha Mannion, BOE member
Susan Starr, BOE member
Amy Tozzo, BOE member

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Appointments- None

Correspondence and Announcements- Chairman Wes Marsh noted that he received an email from resident Theda Lambert on April 11th regarding the refunding of school bonds. Mr. Marsh forwarded this email to the Town Treasurer and will address it at the next regular BOF meeting.

Public Comment

Some parents, as well as Consolidated teacher, Amy Johnson spoke in support of the Board of Education budget and asked the BOF not to make the proposed \$950,000 cut.

Jim McAllister spoke of Candlewood Lake and in support of the Candlewood Lake Authority and asked the BOF to seriously consider supporting the CLA budget.

Pat Callahan spoke in support of the Candlewood Lake Authority.

Approval of Minutes

John Hodge made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2016 regular meeting as presented. Anthony Yorio seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-1 (Motion approved-Michael Cammarota abstained)

Budget Transfers- None

Board of Selectmen's requested budget for 2016-2017

Candlewood Lake Authority

John Hodge made a motion to create a new line item under the Board of Selectmen budget entitled "CLA Negative Unassigned Fund Repayment" and to fund said line item in the amount of \$55,621.00. The money in this line item can only be expended for repayment of the negative unassigned fund balance created by the misappropriation of restricted funds by the Candlewood Lake Authority and under the following conditions:

1. The CLA establishes an entirely separate bank account to make sure that the restricted funds will be segregated from operating fund.
2. Funds from this account will only be appropriated for the purpose that the donors originally intended and for no other reason.

Further, the Board of Finance requests that the remaining appropriation for the Candlewood Lake Authority be paid in 1/12 increments, commencing July 1, 2016 and on the first of every month thereafter.

As a condition of receiving monthly payments, the Candlewood Lake Authority shall provide an audit for the Fiscal year 2015-2016 no later than 60 days, following the close of the fiscal year. Jane Landers seconded the motion.

Wes Marsh made a motion to amend the previous motion to add that the remaining appropriation of \$21,179.00 be paid in 1/12 increments beginning July 1, 2016. Anthony Yorio seconded the motion.

Vote on amendment: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Michael Cammarota made a motion to amend the previous motion to delete the words "created by the misappropriation of restricted funds by the Candlewood Lake Authority". Anthony Yorio seconded the motion.

Vote on amendment: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

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

Board of Selectmen's budget

At the April 6th BOF meeting, the BOS was asked to come to the BOF's April 13th with a presentation of what \$150,000 worth of cuts to the requested budget would look like. First Selectman Susan Chapman presented the BOF with the following scenario:

- \$100,000 -Road repair
- \$16,000- Excavator
- \$10,000-Town Hall phones
- \$10,000- Parks and Rec proposed Basketball court
- \$5,800- Contracted services
- \$3,200- Business Machines
- \$5,000- Saw Mill Bridge

Wes Motion made a motion to reduce the Board of Selectmen's requested Town Budget by \$150,000.00. John Hodge seconded the motion.

There was a discussion of other cuts made to the Parks and Recreation commission this year and the BOF discussed leaving the \$10,000 in the budget for the proposed basketball court.

Tom Edward made a motion to amend the previous motion to cut \$140,000 from the Board of Selectmen's requested Town Budget instead of \$150,000 and leave \$10,000 in Cap and Non for the basketball court.

Vote on amendment: 5-0-1 (Motion approved- Jane Landers opposed)

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

Board of Education's requested budget for 2016-2017

At the April 6th BOF meeting, the BOE was asked to come to the BOF's April 13th with a presentation of what \$950,000 worth of cuts to the requested budget would look like. The BOF requested that the proposed cuts be \$750,000 worth of payroll cuts and \$200,000 from the Capital and Nonrecurring budget.

Chairman Wes Marsh spoke of the BOE actual budget and noted that there has been approximately \$1.3 million transferred from payroll to non-payroll over the last two years combined. There was a discussion of attrition and essential positions for the district. Mr. Marsh noted that he would like to see improvements to the buildings and suggested leaving the \$200,000 in the requested Capital and Nonrecurring account but to cut \$650,000 from payroll. It was noted that once the budget is approved by the taxpayers, the BOF has no line item control over the BOE's budget. There was a suggestion of putting more information regarding the BOE budget when it is published in the paper.

Wes Marsh made a motion to reduce the payroll for the Board of Education's requested budget for 2016-2017 by \$650,000.00. Jane Landers seconded the motion.

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

Vote to recommend to a Town Meeting the 2016-2017 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 \$10,949,556 from the General Fund and \$510,853 from the Capital and Nonrecurring fund and \$875,699 from other Governmental funds for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2017 and education expenditures totaling \$41,499,894 from the General Fund and \$540,000 from the Capital and Nonrecurring fund for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2017. John Hodge seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Public Comment- A resident of the town spoke of the amount of taxpayer dollars spent on education compared to town expenses.

Future meetings

Wes Marsh made a motion to cancel the scheduled BOF Meeting for Wednesday, April 20th. Jane Landers seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Board member comments

Cheryl Reedy suggested that the BOF meet at the voting polls immediately after the budget vote to set the Mil Rate if the budget passes. This would give the Tax Department more time to prepare bills.

The members of the BOF thanked Chairman Wes Marsh for all his hard work with budget.

The board thanked the Board of Education, Administration, the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Department for all their hard work with the budget.

Adjournment

John Hodge made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:09pm. Michael Cammarota seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)