

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

MINUTES

**Board of Finance Regular Meeting
Wednesday, May 18, 2016
7:30 PM
New Fairfield Community Room**

Members present:

Wes Marsh, Chairman
Michael Cammarota
John Hodge
Anthony Yorio
Cheryl Reedy, Alternate
Rick Salem, Alternate
Brian Shea, Alternate

Members not present:

Tom Edwards
Jane Landers

Other Town Officials Present:

Evelyn Abraham, Finance Director
Susan Chapman, First Selectman
Mike Gill, Selectman
Kim Hanson, Selectman

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Appointments

Tom Edwards was unavailable for tonight's meeting and asked that Brian Shea serve in his place.

Jane Landers was unavailable for tonight's meeting and asked that Rick Salem serve in her place.

Correspondence and Announcements

Chairman Wes Mash noted that the Board received a letter from Larry Marsicano of the Candlewood Lake Authority. An agenda item was added in order to discuss this.

Chairman Wes Marsh noted that the Board received a letter via email from resident Theda Lambert inquiring about the refinancing of the school bonds specifically whether or not a Town Meeting was required for this refinance and GO bonds. Mr. Marsh read the response letter from Town Treasurer Phil Cammarano noting that no Town Meeting was required and further explained the process for this refinancing.

Public Comment

High School teachers David Herberger and Chris Tate spoke in support of the Candlewood Lake Authority and Project CLEAR and in support of funding for the lake.

Addition to agenda

Wes Marsh made a motion to add item #10A "Discussion of letter from Candlewood Lake Authority" correspondence to the agenda. John Hodge seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Approval of Minutes

John Hodge made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2016 regular meeting as presented. Rick Salem seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Budget Transfers- None

Mil Rate for 2016-2017

Wes Marsh made a motion to set the Mil Rate for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2017 at 28.68 Mils. John Hodge seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

New Fairfield Tax Collector Suspense list

The Board discussed the suspense list for the Town presented by the Tax Collector. This list was comprised of mostly car taxes. The Board requested to see an update on these collections on an annual basis.

Wes Marsh made a motion to approve the Suspense List from the New Fairfield Tax Collector dated May 3, 2016 in the amount of \$36,913.16. Brian Shea seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

State budget-Connecticut General Assembly

Chairman Marsh spoke of the State budget that passed recently. He spoke of how the State budget affects the Town of New Fairfield and noted after the additions and deductions that the Town comes up ahead \$14,971.00

Discussion of letter from Candlewood Lake Authority

Candlewood Lake Authority Executive Director Larry Marsicano spoke of the budget for CLA and specifically the use of restricted funds. Mr. Marsicano referred to a letter written to the Board of Finance asking for clarification of the use of certain restricted funds. He referred to an audit of the CLA dated June 2015. John Hodge noted that no official action was taken by the entire Candlewood Lake Authority but only its Executive Board. Mr. Hodge read in part an opinion letter from Pullman and Comley noting that benefit funds were misused, inappropriate and not reasonable.

There was a discussion among the BOF members regarding the appropriate use of funds and how to appropriate restricted funds. It was noted by the BOF that the Candlewood Lake Authority should follow Generally Accepted Municipal Accounting standards.

Auditor's invoice regarding Candlewood Lake Authority

John Hodge made a motion to approve the auditor's invoice regarding the Candlewood Lake Authority in the amount of \$2,337.50 as presented. Michael Cammarota seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Discussion of BOE quarterly transfers and attrition

Cheryl Reedy noted that she attended a finance subcommittee of the Board of Education on April 26th and reported on the following:

- To date, there are 13 retirements for this year.
- There was a discussion of possibly transferring money from the Capital budget to the operating. It was noted that a prior opinion from Town Counsel said that this could not be done.
- Transfers of \$127,079.00 were approved for third quarter transfers
- There was a discussion of the possibility of building an additional playground by the soccer fields. Funds for this will be raised by the Soccer Club.
- There was a proposal to build a new turf practice field. The Parks and Rec commission has already approved this but approval BOE, Field Fees and the BOS is still needed. To date, approximately \$90,000 has been raised towards this project.

There was a discussion of the maintenance of Rebel Turf Field and the track. Chairman Marsh suggested having the BOF meet with the Field Fees committee. Finance Director Evelyn Abraham will check to see if the Field Fees committee has met recently.

Chairman Wes Marsh noted that 95% of the third quarter transfers of the BOE came from payroll to non-payroll items.

ONGOING UPDATES

Medical updates- the medical fund looks good

Legal updates- there is approximately \$17,670 left in the legal budget for the year. The fee for the Pullman Comley opinion will be taken out of the BOF legal line.

Year to date expenses review- The BOF reviewed expenses to date.

Current year revenue update- The tax collection rate is 99.97%

Cap & Non- The library renovation project will be closed out once cds mature in July and August.

Chairman Wes Marsh noted that there have not been many Inter-Departmental transfers this year and thanked the BOS and the Finance Department for their hard work with this.

Public Comment- Selectman Kim Hanson spoke of the Field Fees Committee and noted that the Parks and Rec Commission and the BOE want the new proposed field to become part of the Field

Fees committee, both boards must vote to amend the Field Fees document. Selectman Hanson noted that the Field Fees Committee has no authority to set rates and must be done by the BOE.

Future Agenda items- None

Board member comments- None

Adjournment

John Hodge made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:01pm. Rick Salem seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)