

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

MINUTES

Board of Finance Budget Workshop

Saturday, March 4, 2017

9:00 AM

Community Room at 33 Route 37

Members present:

Wes Marsh, Chairman
Michael Cammarota
John Hodge
Jane Landers
Cheryl Reedy, Alternate
Rick Salem, Alternate
Brian Shea, Alternate

Members not present:

Anthony Yorio
Tom Edwards

Other Town Officials Present:

First Session

Evelyn Abraham, Finance Director
Susan Chapman, First Selectman
Mike Gill, Selectman
Pam Dohan, Town Clerk
Kerrie Greening, Tax Collector
Ed Sbordone, Accounting Manager/BOE Member
Sean Loughran, Parks and Rec Commission Chairman
Dominic Cipollone, BOE Member
Samantha Mannion, BOE Member
Amy Tozzo, BOE Vice Chairman

Second Session

Evelyn Abraham, Finance Director
Dr. Alicia Roy, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Jason McKinnon, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Ed Sbordone, Accounting Manager/BOE Member
Dr. Richard Sanzo, High School Principal
Michael Chapleau, High School Assistant Principal
Scott Rohwedder, High School Assistant Principal
Christine Baldelli, Middle School Principal
Cheryl Milo, Middle School Assistant Principal
Sarah McLain, Meeting House Hill School Principal
James Mandracchia, MHHS Ass't Principal
Robert Spino, Consolidated School Principal
Karen Gruetzner, Consolidated School Assistant Principal
Phil Ross, Director of Buildings and Grounds
Andrea Einhorn, Director of Public Personnel Services
Aaron Herold, Director of Technology
Craig McClain, Business Manager
Amy Tozzo, BOE Vice Chairman
Dominic Cipollone, BOE Member
Douglas DeRito, BOE Member
Samantha Mannion, BOE Member
Susan Starr, BOE Member
Jay Voss, BOE Member
Sean Loughran, Parks and Rec Commission Chairman

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Appointments- Tom Edwards was unable to attend this meeting and asked that Brian Shea serve in his absence.

Presentation of the Board of Selectmen Requested Budget 2017/2018

First Selectman Susan Chapman presented the Board of Selectmen's requested budget for 2017/2018 and gave a power point presentation. The total BOS's requested budget for 2017/2018 equals \$9,645,297.00. This represents an increase in payroll over 2016/2017 of \$21,655 and a decrease of non-payroll of \$94,287. The total municipal operating budget has a decrease of .75% over the 2016/2017 budget. The total budget reductions equal \$584,438. This budget can be found online at www.newfairfield.org.

Public Comment- None

Review- Board of Selectmen's Requested Budget for 2017-2018

Chairman Wes Marsh spoke of the governor's proposed budget cuts and the possibility that New Fairfield will receive approximately \$4.5 million less from the state. Susan Chapman spoke of the challenges of the proposed State cuts. It was noted that State Legislators will attend the BOF meeting of March 8th to discuss the State budget.

There was a discussion of cuts to the Town budget and how this will affect road repair for the Town roads. Other topics of discussion included the Police Department, the Resident State Trooper program, Capital and Nonrecurring projects and reductions.

Recess

The board went into recess at 10:19am.

The board came back from recess at 10:30am.

Presentation of Board of Education Requested Budget 2017/2018

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Alicia Roy presented the Board of Education requested budget for 2017/2018 and gave a power point presentation. The total BOE's requested budget for 2017/2018 equals \$42,533,047 for a 2.54% increase over the 2016/2017 budget. The total for the BOE's recommended operating budget is \$34,140,432 which represents an increase of \$1,199,264 above the current fiscal year. Dr. Roy spoke of the breakdown of the BOE's requested budget and noted that 76.5% goes towards payroll. The district currently spends \$15,085.00 per pupil annually which ranks 127th of 169 communities in Connecticut. 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.

Dr. Roy spoke of other items that affect the budget specifically health insurance which has decreased from last year and GASB 45.

Assistant Superintendent of Schools Dr. Jason McKinnon spoke of district goals and Student achievements and assessments. He noted that student performance has improved due to the investments in curriculum and

professional development. He also spoke of “Making Sense with Budget Dollars” and Next Generation Accountability which reports growth for each individual.

Consolidated School Principal Rob Spino spoke of a requested non-payroll increase for Consolidated School of \$9,695 to be used for a new science program and math journals.

Meeting House Hill School Principal Sarah McLain and Assistant Principal James Mandracchia spoke of the requested non-payroll increase of \$6,704 for MHHS to be used for Instructional supplies for the new science program and student journals for the math program. An additional \$750 was requested for a Pen Pal Field trip to Stadley Rough School in Danbury.

Middle School Principal Christine Baldelli and Assistant Principal Cheryl Milo spoke of the requested non-payroll increase for the Middle School of \$21,598 to be used for Conference and Travel for continued participation in conferences, professional development and Instructional Equipment.

High School Principal Dr. Richard Sanzo spoke of the non-payroll requested increase for the high school in the amount of \$14,018. This would be used for continued participation in conferences previously covered by NextGen grant, dues and fees for the PSAT for grades 9-11 and annual dues, visiting team fees, and evaluation seminar costs associated with preparing for Fall 2018 NEASC accreditation visit.

Dr. Sanzo also spoke on behalf of the Athletic Department in the high school and spoke of the requested increase for athletics of \$8,702 to pay officials through second round of postseason and transportation for post-season conference/state tournaments. It was noted that the cost of supplies for athletics has decreased.

Dr. Roy spoke of the requested non-payroll increase of \$23,916 for the Central Office which includes the BOE financial system, payables and payroll services, fingerprinting and the upgrade of compliance posters due to labor law changes.

Director of Technology Aaron Herold spoke of the requested increase for Technology of \$90,148 which will be used to pay for internet costs, Lexia software and equipment including Chromebooks for Kindergarten, and a gym projector and screen for MHHS.

Business Manager Craig McClain spoke of the increase of \$68,928 for transportation. It was noted that the cost of utilities has decreased by \$16,965.

Director of Buildings and Grounds Phil Ross spoke of the Capital Improvement plan and noted that this plan has been changed from a 10-year plan to a 15-year plan. He also spoke of the Capital Improvement Status Report designed to give the public an overview of capital projects. The capital improvement plan for 2017-2018 totaled \$487,000.

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

Consolidated School teachers Amy Johnson and Michelle Brown spoke in support of the BOE’s requested budget.

Review- Board of Education's Requested Budget

The Board of Finance reviewed the BOE's requested budget and asked specific questions of the Superintendent, administrators and members of the Board of Education. Specific questions included the \$100,000 from payroll to non-payroll contingency. Other topics discussed included Worker's compensation, diesel and heating fuel, GASB 45, capital projects, teacher salaries and unfunded mandates.

BOE Vice Chairman Amy Tozzo spoke of the personnel requests and specifically Math coaches and paraprofessionals. Dr. Roy spoke of the challenges of hiring specific employees and forecasting payroll.

Cheryl Reedy congratulated Meeting House Hill School Principal Sarah McLain on her retirement.

Adjournment

John Hodge made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:03pm. Brian Shea seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)