

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

MINUTES
Board of Finance Regular Meeting
Wednesday, March 8, 2017
7:30 PM
New Fairfield Community Room

Members present:

Wes Marsh, Chairman
Michael Cammarota
John Hodge
Jane Landers
Anthony Yorio
Cheryl Reedy, Alternate

Brian Shea, Alternate

Members not present:

Tom Edwards
Rick Salem, Alternate

Other Town Officials Present:

Evelyn Abraham, Finance Director
Susan Chapman, First Selectman
Dr. Alicia Roy, Superintendent of Schools
Ed Sbordone, Accounting Manager
Pam Dohan, Town Clerk
Kerrie Greening, Tax Collector
Dr. Richard Sanzo, High School Principal
Christine Baldelli, Middle School Principal
Craig McClain, Business Manager
Jay Voss, BOE member
Michael McLachlan, State Senator
Richard Smith, State Representative
Randy Collins, CCM Representative

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Appointments- Tom Edwards was unable to attend this meeting and designated Brian Shea to act in his absence.

Correspondence and Announcements

Cheryl Reedy thanked Tax Collector Kerrie Greening for all her hard work and the excellent tax collection rate.

Public Comment- None

Approval of Minutes

Wes Marsh made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2017 regular meeting as presented. Jane Landers seconded the motion. **Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Discussion of Governor's proposed budget for 2017-2018

State Senator Michael McLachlan, State Representative Richard Smith and CCM Representative Randy Collins spoke of the proposed budget and possible cuts from the State budget to the Town of New Fairfield. It was noted that the Governor has proposed a budget that could have approximately \$4.5 million of cuts to New Fairfield.

State Senator McLachlan spoke of a proposal to have the State move up their budget deadline in order to give municipalities a heads up on the State budget. State Senator McLachlan and State Representative Smith spoke of the Governor's refusal to put forth a reasonable budget.

2017-2018 Budget

Members of the BOF asked questions of the State Legislators regarding the proposed State budget. There was a discussion of the optimal tax percentage increase for New Fairfield. It was noted that other towns were proposing a 5% tax increase in order to cover State cuts. There was a brief discussion of the redistribution of ECS funds and payments to pension funds. There was a discussion of a possible reimbursement from the State regarding Special Education placement. The Board spoke of minimum wage and prevailing wage and zero based budgeting. There was a suggestion of possibly requiring the revaluation of homes less often in order to save money.

There was a discussion of revenue sources and ways to increase revenues at the State level.

The Board thanked all the Legislators for all their hard work.

The Board discussed instructions that they should give to the BOS and BOE.

John Hodge made a motion to instruct the Board of Education to present a 0% budget increase over the 2016-2017 approved budget.

Wes Marsh made a motion to amend the previous motion to give a deadline to the BOE of March 29th. Anthony Yorio seconded the motion. **Vote: 6-0-0 (Amendment approved)**

John Hodge made a motion to amend the original motion to inform the BOE to be prepared to make additional cuts below the 0% if necessary. Brian Shea seconded the motion.

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

Public Comment- None

Future agenda items

Medical and Debt service will be discussed at the March 22nd meeting.

Cancellation of meeting

Wes Marsh made a motion to cancel the regular meeting of March 15, 2017. John Hodge seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Board Member comments- None

Adjournment

John Hodge made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:31 pm. Anthony Yorio seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)