

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

MINUTES

Board of Finance Regular Meeting
Wednesday, March 22, 2017
7:30 PM
New Fairfield Community Room

Members present:

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

Members not present:

Michael Cammarota

Other Town Officials Present:

Ed Sbordone, Accounting Manager
Susan Chapman, First Selectman
Dr. Alicia Roy, Superintendent of Schools
Mike Gill, Selectman
Kim Hanson, Selectman
Craig McClain, Business Manager
Steve Burfeind, BOE Chairman
Dominic Cipollone, BOE member
Douglas DeRito, 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- Wes Marsh noted that Michael Cammarota was unavailable for tonight's meeting and appointed Cheryl Reedy to act in his place.

Correspondence and Announcements- Chairman Wes Marsh read an email addressed to the BOF from resident Pat Bower noting his support for the school budget.

Public Comment

Resident Pat Bower spoke in support of the Board of Education specifically Math coaches.

Approval of Minutes

John Hodge made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2017 regular meeting as presented. Jane Landers seconded the motion. **Vote: 4-0-2 (Motion approved- Tom Edwards and Anthony Yorio abstained)**

Cheryl Reedy made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2017 regular meeting as presented. Jane Landers seconded the motion. **Vote: 5-0-1 (Motion approved- Tom Edwards abstained)**

Jane Landers made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2017 audit subcommittee meeting as presented. John Hodge seconded the motion. **Vote: 4-0-2 (Motion approved- Anthony Yorio and Cheryl Reedy abstained)**

Anthony Yorio made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2017 Insurance subcommittee meeting as presented. Jane Landers seconded the motion. **Vote: 5-0-1 (Motion approved- Cheryl Reedy abstained)**

Budget Transfers

Wes Marsh made a motion to approve the following Inter-Departmental transfer of \$6,000.00. Cheryl Reedy seconded the motion. (Such document to be attached to the minutes of this meeting)

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

\$	Transfer From:		\$	Transfer To:	
\$2,000.00	4110-110	BOS-Salaries	\$6,000.00	4160-260	Unclass. P & B-Worker's Comp- (Additional premium from 15/16 audit)
\$2,000.00	4110-330	BOS-Grants Administrator			
\$1,000.00	4191-110	Planning Commission-Salaries			
\$500.00	4192-110	Zoning Commission-Salaries			
\$500.00	4196-110	PBC-Salaries			
\$6,000.00			\$6,000.00		

Discussion of GASB 45 (OPEB) for 2017-2018 budget

Wes Marsh gave an overview of the budget and spoke of the five main areas of the budget including GASB 45, Debt Service, Medical, Operations and Capital and Nonrecurring. GASB 45 is a fund for medical benefits for retirees. There was a discussion of the best way to fund GASB 45. It was noted that there will be a presentation regarding the Medical fund at the next BOF meeting on March 29th.

There was a discussion of the possibility of funding this out of the Medical Reserve Fund. The amount that needs to be funding for this year is \$257,000 with \$250,000 for the BOE and \$7,000 for the Town. It was noted that this would cause a hole for the following year.

Debt Service for 2017-2018

Wes Marsh read an email from Town Treasurer Phil Cammarano regarding Debt Service. It was noted that due to the Town's Bond Rating we were able to get low interest rates in the past however, there does not seem to be any opportunities in the near future to do any more refinancing. Chairman Marsh thanked Town Treasurer Phil Cammarano for all his hard work which has saved the Town a significant amount of money over the years.

Budget Discussion

There was a lengthy discussion of the budget and specifically how the State budget will affect New Fairfield for the upcoming year. Wes Marsh checked with New Fairfield Tax Collector Kerrie Greening regarding the

possibility of sending out subsequent bills and how it will affect the Tax Department if bills are sent later than the usual date. According to Mrs. Greening, this would be feasible but very complicated.

There was a discussion of different scenarios with the State budget and the best way for New Fairfield to plan for their budget. The Board discussed the consequences of dipping into the General Fund or cutting services. There was discussion of the optimal tax increase in order to absorb State cuts which must be weighed against the taxpayer's ability to pay. Superintendent of Schools Dr Alicia Roy spoke of Attrition in the schools.

John Hodge made a motion that the BOF agree to approve a tax increase of no more than 5% for the fiscal year 2017-2018. Jane Landers seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-3-0 (Motion denied- John Hodge, Anthony Yorio and Jane Landers in favor- Tom Edwards, Wes Marsh and Cheryl Reedy opposed)

Ongoing updates

Cheryl Reedy made a motion to dispense with the ongoing updates for tonight's meeting. Jane Landers seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Public Comment

Selectman Kim Hanson encouraged the discussion of possibility using some of the General Fund for budget shortfall.

Mark Werner thanked the BOF and asked them to consider preserving the BOE budget as much as possible.

BOE member Dominic Cipollone spoke in support of the BOE budget.

Scott March spoke in support of the BOE budget.

Future agenda items

The Medical Fund and the Insurance Consultant will be discussed at the March 29th meeting.

Board member comments

Board members spoke of the budget and the challenges of weighing the needs of the Town and the Board of Education against the taxpayer's ability to pay.

Adjournment

John Hodge made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 pm. Jane Landers seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)