

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

MINUTES

Board of Finance Regular Meeting
Wednesday, November 15, 2017
7:30 PM
New Fairfield Community Room

Members present:

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

Members not present:

Tom Edwards
John Hodge
Anthony Yorio

Other Town Officials Present:

Ed Sbordone, Finance Director

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Appointments

Chairman Wes Marsh noted that John Hodge will not be in attendance at this meeting and has appointed Brian Shea to serve in his place and that Tom Edwards will not be in attendance and has appointed Rick Salem to serve in his place.

Addition to the agenda

Jane Landers made a motion to add item #6A “Discuss and vote on the calendar of meetings for 2018” to the agenda. Michael Cammarota seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion approved)

Correspondence and Announcements

Chairman Wes Marsh read an email that he received from resident Bud Koral asking about the budget detail for the new flagpole recently added to Candlewood Corners in town. Mr. Marsh responded to Mr. Koral that this is part of the Street Scape Beautification project and noted that \$10,000 has been budgeted per year for Street Scape.

Chairman Wes Marsh read a letter from outgoing BOF member John Hodge thanking everyone for the opportunity to serve on the Board of Finance and thanking fellow BOF members for all their hard work and cooperation.

Public Comment

Erin Badillo spoke of the State funding from the State of Connecticut to New Fairfield that was more than originally expected. She asked the BOF to use these funds for one time projects or expenses that will not cause additional expenses in future years.

Approval of Minutes

Jane Landers made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2017 regular meeting as presented. Rick Salem seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion approved)

Approval of Calendar

Wes Marsh presented the calendar of meetings for the BOF for 2018. The Board will meet on the third Wednesday of every month except for September due to Yom Kippur and November due to Thanksgiving. The Board will meet every Wednesday in March to discuss the budget.

Jane Landers made a motion to approve the calendar of meetings for 2018 as presented. Michael Cammarota seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion approved)

Budget Transfers

Wes Marsh made a motion to approve the following transfer (Town Meeting Not required) in the amount of \$19,900.00. Jane Landers seconded the motion. (Such document to be attached to the minutes of this meeting.

Wes Marsh made a motion to amend the previous motion to clarify that it is an Additional Appropriation. Jane Landers seconded the motion.

Vote to amend: 5-0-0 (Motion approved)

Vote on motion as amended: 5-0-0 (Motion approved)

\$	Transfer From		\$	Transfer To	
\$19,900.00	3400-6	Police Private duty	\$19,900.00	4210-130-2	Police-Private Duty OT
\$19,900.00			\$19,900.00		

New Fairfield municipal election of November 7, 2017

Wes Marsh introduced Erin Badillo as the new member on the Board of Finance. She will be installed this week.

Corrective actions progress on audit deficiency findings

Finance Director Ed Sbordone noted that the auditors have been working on the request to do a “deeper dive” into town accounts. This will be on the BOF agenda until a report is made from the auditors.

State of Connecticut fiscal year budget 2017/2018 and what it means for New Fairfield

Cheryl Reedy spoke of the possibility of the state getting rid of the car tax. She noted that according to the Tax Collector, New Fairfield collects approximately \$3.8 million through car taxes. She spoke on how this will affect taxpayers and noted that the Town will collect the same amount of money but the burden will shift to real property owners.

Wes Marsh noted that New Fairfield will receive approximately \$2.2 million more state funding than originally thought in this year’s budget. There was a discussion among the members as to what would be the best way to utilize this money. Chairman Marsh suggested the following possibilities:

1. Put in General Fund
2. Give to the BOS and BOE for their respective budgets
3. Put into 2018-2019 budget as revenue
4. Fund capital projects

There was no consensus at this time and the Board will discuss this further in December.

2016-2017 Budget surplus

The Board spoke of a BOF policy made at a previous meeting where 100% of the revenue surplus and 50% of the expenditure surplus will be put in the General Fund. There was a discussion of the surplus for 2016-2017 and how the BOS and the BOE would spend a surplus if given the opportunity.

Wes Marsh made a motion concerning the 2016-2017 budget surplus and the Board of Finance requests from the Board of Selectmen an outline of how they would spend their designated surplus of \$123,796 and an outline from the Board of Education on how they would spend their designated surplus of \$156,574 to be presented to the Board of Finance at its December meeting. Brian Shea seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion approved)

ONGOING UPDATES

Medical update- The Board reviewed the Medical Fund balance for the first three months of the year. The projection has gone down slightly due to the funding of OPEB (Other than Pension Employee Benefits). Contributions to HSA have already been made.

Legal update- The balance as of November 6, 2017 is \$90,531. A transfer for the Health/Enforcement line will be needed in the near future.

Year to date expenses review- Ed Sbordone spoke of the expenses for Police overtime and noted that Town Officers have the right of first refusal for overtime. This will affect the police overtime line but will cause a savings for the State Trooper overtime.

Current year revenue update- The Board reviewed revenue and specifically noted that interest, police private duty and EMS billing are trending well.

Cap & Non- Wes Marsh noted that roads are being paved.

Public Comment- None

Future Agenda items

The Board will discuss the following at meetings in the near future:

- Update on the Medical plan
- Budget surplus
- Elderly Tax Relief report
- Suggestions to improve communications with town residents
- Election of officers

Board member comments

Members of the Board:

- Congratulated the winners of the recent election.
- Wished everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving.
- Thanked outgoing BOF member John Hodge for all his hard work and dedication to the Board of Finance.

Adjournment

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

Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion approved)