

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

MINUTES
Board of Finance Regular Meeting
Wednesday, August 15, 2018
7:30 PM
New Fairfield Community Room

Members present:

Wes Marsh, Chairman
Erin Badillo
Anthony Yorio
Cheryl Reedy, Alternate
Rick Salem, Alternate
Brian Shea, Alternate

Members not present:

Michael Cammarota
Tom Edwards
Jane Landers

Other Town Officials Present:

Ed Sbordone, Finance Director
Khris Hall, Selectman
Kim Hanson, Selectman
Peggy Katkocin, BOE Chairman
Rick Regan, BOE member

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Appointments-Jane Landers was not in attendance and appointed Cheryl Reedy to serve in her place.
Michael Cammarota was not in attendance and appointed Rick Salem to serve in his place.
Tom Edwards was not in attendance and appointed Brian Shea to serve in his place.

Correspondence and Announcements

Wes Marsh read a letter from resident John McCartney regarding the hiring of a School Resource Officer in the schools. The letter spoke of his support for hiring a full-time officer instead of using the overtime approach. He spoke of the dangers and consequences of too much overtime. This letter will also be submitted to the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education. There was a discussion regarding this among the members of the Board of Finance. There were questions regarding exactly how much overtime the officers are currently working. Some members of the Board of Finance agreed that the BOS should be encouraged to hire more officers.

Public Comment

Selectman Kim Hanson spoke of the additional appropriation that was presented to the Board of Finance and approved by the Board of Selectman for the School Resource Officer at New Fairfield Middle School. He spoke of the process and the order for requesting and noted that the Board of Education has not yet requested the hiring of a SRO for the Middle School. He also spoke of other appropriations that would affect the budget.

Board of Education Chairman Peggy Katkocin spoke of the possibility of hiring a School Security Officer instead of a School Resource Officer. This would be a Sept-June assignment. She noted that often retirees are suitable for this position. She suggested checking with the Newtown School District for suggestions.

Selectman Khris Hall spoke of the recommendation by the BOS to hire an officer in each school and noted that it is time sensitive since school is starting soon.

Approval of Minutes

Cheryl Reedy made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 18, 2018 regular meeting as presented. Anthony Yorio seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0-2 (Motion approved- Brian Shea and Rick Salem abstained)

Budget Transfers- None

Update on May 15, 2018 storm damage cleanup

Wes Marsh referred to an email from Kevin Nugent from Supreme Storm Services to Director of Public Works Russ Loudon. He specifically noted that the project cost will remain under the budgeted amount and is anticipated to be completed between August 24th and August 26th. It was noted that some work days have been lost due to the weather.

Finance Director Ed Sbordone noted that the contract is well within the budget.

School Safety and Security Committee update

Anthony Yorio spoke of the School Safety and Security Committee and specifically the proposed \$120,000 Additional Appropriation for a School Resource Officer in the Middle School. The School Safety and Security Committee has reviewed many aspects of the schools and is making the recommendation for an additional SRO to both the BOS and the BOE. He noted that hiring a full time officer could be a 12-15 month process so the overtime model will be used for the short-term. He spoke of a more comprehensive plan for the long term and also the difference between a School Security Officer and a School Resource Officer. He also noted that there are some quick and inexpensive security measures that can be implemented in the near future and others that will take longer to implement.

Recommend to a Town Meeting- Additional Appropriation

There was a lengthy discussion among the Board members regarding the process and timing for recommending additional appropriations.

Wes Marsh made a motion to recommend to a Town Meeting the approval of an additional appropriation of \$120,000 from the 2017-2018 operating surplus for the funding of a School Resource Officer for New Fairfield Middle School should it be requested by the Board of Education.

Cheryl Reedy made a motion to call the question regarding the previous motion after a lengthy discussion. Brian Shea seconded the motion.

Vote to call question: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Vote: 3-3-0 (Motion denied- Erin Badillo, Wes Marsh and Anthony Yorio in favor, Cheryl Reedy, Rick Salem and Brian Shea opposed)

Town Tribune Article

Brian Shea will write the next Town Tribune article regarding the costs of the storm clean up.

Planning Commission workshop- Plan of Conservation and Development

Wes Marsh noted that he attended the Planning Commission workshop on August 9th regarding the Plan of Conservation and Development. The POCD in 2013 asked the BOF to come up with some actions for the plan. Chairman Marsh noted that the BOF does not set policy and therefore should not be responsible for items in the POCD. These items were then shifted to the BOS. The Planning Commission will meet again next month. The BOS will develop an Economic Development Council as part of the POCD. The POCD document can be found on the town's website.

ONGOING UPDATES

Medical update- Will discuss at the September meeting

Legal update- All invoices for the 2017-2018 fiscal year have been received. There is money left in the legal budget for 2017-2018.

Year to date expenses review- The Board reviewed expenditures with no questions.

Current year revenue update- The property tax collection rate for 2017-2018 was 99.71%

Cap & Non- the unappropriated Cap and Non balance went up slightly.

Review of Preliminary surplus for Fiscal year 2017-2018

Finance Director Ed Sbordone spoke of the surplus for the fiscal year 2017-2018 and noted that the numbers were preliminary. The pre-audited operating surplus for the year is expenditure surplus for both of the town and the BOE of \$341,239.33 and revenue surplus of \$2,268,074.13 for a total surplus of \$2,609,313.46. He spoke of the BOF policy for appropriating surplus and noted that if this is followed \$178,547.84 will be appropriated to various funds and \$2,430,765.62 will remain in the General Fund. Mr. Sbordone also supplied the Board with a spreadsheet of previous year surpluses and how they were distributed.

Public Comment

BOE Chairman Peggy Katkocin asked about the timeline for the additional appropriation for the SRO.

BOE member Rick Regan spoke of the process hiring an additional SRO and noted that the School Safety and Security Committee had representation from all three boards.

Future Agenda Items

The Board will discuss the 2017-2018 surplus and ideas for the Town Tribune article in upcoming meetings.

Board Member Comments- None

Adjournment

Anthony Yorio made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 pm. Cheryl Reedy seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)