

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

MINUTES
Board of Finance Regular Meeting
Wednesday, May 15, 2019
7:30 PM
New Fairfield Community Room

Members present:

Wes Marsh, Chairman
Michael Cammarota
Jane Landers
Anthony Yorio (arrived 8:06 pm)
Tom Garben, Alternate
Rick Salem, Alternate
Brian Shea, Alternate

Members not present:

Erin Badillo
Cheryl Reedy

Other Town Officials Present:

Ed Sbordone, Finance Director
Pat Del Monaco, First Selectman
Dr. Pat Cosentino, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Rich Sanzo, Director of Business and Operations
Peggy Katkocin, BOE Chairman
Rick Regan, BOE member
Rusty Malik, Architect (QA&M0)

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Appointments-Wes Marsh noted that Erin Badillo will be absent for tonight's meeting and has appointed Tom Garben to serve in her place and that Cheryl Reedy will be absent for tonight's meeting and has appointed Brian Shea to serve in her place.

Correspondence and Announcements- None

Public Comment- None

Addition to the Agenda

Wes Marsh made a motion to add agenda item #11A "Approval of Boat Dock invoice" to the agenda. Jane Landers seconded the motion. **Vote: 4-0-1 (Motion approved-Anthony Yorio arrived late and did not vote on this motion.)**

Approval of Minutes

Jane Landers made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2019 regular meeting as presented. Michael Cammarota seconded the motion. **Vote: 4-0-1 (Motion approved- Jane Landers abstained. Anthony Yorio arrived late and did not vote on this motion.)**

Budget Transfers- None

High School and Consolidated School proposed projects

Director of Business and Operations Dr. Rich Sanzo, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino and Architect Mr. Rusty Malik from the firm of QA & M gave a brief preliminary presentation regarding the proposed building of new schools for both Consolidated School and New Fairfield High School. Dr. Sanzo noted that the BOE voted unanimously to apply for the State grants for reimbursements for new buildings. This application is due by June 30, 2019. If the June 30th date is not met, the district would have to wait an entire year to apply again. Dr. Sanzo noted that due to the conditions of the schools, the State is only interested in reimbursing for new construction and will not reimburse if the district decides to renovate the existing buildings.

Dr. Sanzo spoke of the recent NEASC visit and noted that the district has been placed on “Warning” due to the conditions of the buildings. Other reasons to build new schools instead of renovating the existing buildings include the ability to “right-size” the buildings for the current enrollment and operational savings including staffing, maintenance and energy use. There was a brief discussion of the cost of doing nothing or the cost of renovating and it was noted that building new would result in the lowest cost to the taxpayer. He noted that there may be an economy of scale with building two projects at once.

Dr. Sanzo spoke of the configuration of the buildings and noted that the proposal would be to have a Consolidated Early Learning Academy for grades Pre K to 1 built on the Meeting House Hill School campus. The 2nd grade would be moved to MHHS. The High School would be built on the current High School campus on the side to the left of the building.

The presentation also included a breakdown of costs as well as a timeline for completion. The June 2019 deadline is for the application to the State and does not bind the district to anything. The referendum for this project is expected to be sometime in the Fall of 2019. If the referendum is successful, the expected occupancy would be July 2022 for Consolidated School and July 2024 for the High School. Information regarding this project can be found on the district’s website under the tab labeled “Building projects”.

Board members asked questions regarding the proposed projects and spoke of their role regarding the financing. There were some suggestions about ways to make less of an impact to the taxpayers including corporate sponsors and fundraisers.

Wes Marsh made a motion that the BOF endorse bringing the proposed school projects for both the High School and Consolidated School to the taxpayers to a referendum. Michael Cammarota seconded the motion.
Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Vote to set Mill Rate for the 2019-2020 fiscal year

Wes Marsh made a motion to set the Mill Rate for the fiscal year commencing on July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020 at 30.90 Mills. Anthony Yorio seconded the motion. **Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Vote to approve the Suspense List from the New Fairfield Tax Collector

Anthony Yorio made a motion to approve the Suspense List from the New Fairfield Tax Collector dated May 3, 2019 as presented. Michael Cammarota seconded the motion.
Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Medical Plan for the 2019/2020 budget

Wes Marsh noted that Tom Kowalchik from USI Insurance Services is still in negotiations with Anthem regarding the medical plan. This will be on the agenda for the June BOF

meeting. There was a brief discussion among the BOF members regarding the prescription rebates.

Boat Dock Invoice

Wes Marsh made a motion to approve the payment of the invoice from Race Coastal Engineering for the anchor system for the boat docks in the amount of \$3,854.20 from the Boat Dock replacement fund. Anthony Yorio seconded the motion. **Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Board of Finance article for the Town Tribune

Brian Shea volunteered to write the next BOF article for the Town Tribune. He will focus on the voter turnout for the last budget referendum.

School Safety and Security Committee

Anthony Yorio noted that the School Safety and Security Committee met last week and will file the application for the SVPP Grant. It is hopeful that the district will receive an answer by the beginning of the school year and will be able to implement Phase I of the project.

ONGOING UPDATES

Medical update-Wes Marsh noted that the Medical consultant commented that New Fairfield's medical reserve is 99% above other self-insured towns.

Legal update- First Selectman Pat Del Monaco spoke of the expense for legal counsel for Fire Arms legal fees. This is for the town to defend the town's stance on applications for fire arms that are appealed.

Year to date expenses review- Ed Sbordone spoke of salary adjustments for two years worth of projected increases for contracts that weren't settled. The town is still waiting on the State Trooper bills. A transfer to put approximately \$40,000 back into road repair will be brought to the BOF at their next meeting if approved by the BOS. Mr. Sbordone noted that the expenditures are in good shape and a surplus is expected.

Current year revenue update- Ed Sbordone noted that the ECS payment was received today. Another payment from ECS in the amount of \$70,000 is expected. Approximately \$92,000 was received from LOSIP. Building permit fees are up by approximately \$150,000. One more quarter of interest is expected in the amount of approximately \$150,000. Student tuition in the amount of approximately \$95,000 is expected. The revenue surplus for the fiscal year is expected to be approximately \$300,000.

First Selectman Pat Del Monaco noted that the application for FEMA reimbursement from the May 15, 2018 storm is almost complete. The town is hoping to get reimbursed for debris clean up for the private roads.

Cap & Non- The Saw Mill Bridge project is going well. Pat Del Monaco gave an update of the lake studies.

Public Comment

Bob Jano spoke in support of building a new high school.

BOE Chairman Peggy Katkocin spoke in favor of building new schools and thanked the BOF for supporting the referendum.

John McCartney thanked everyone involved in the school building proposals. He thanked all three boards for working together. He encouraged residents to take a tour of both of the buildings.

Future Agenda items- The Medical plan and a discussion of the budget surplus will be discussed at the next meeting.

Board member comments

Members of the BOF encouraged residents to take a tour of both Consolidated and the High School. They spoke of the role of the BOF in making this project affordable for all taxpayers. They encouraged everyone to give suggestions for creative ideas for raising money for the project.

Adjournment

Anthony Yorio made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 pm. Jane Landers seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)