

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

MINUTES

Board of Finance Regular Meeting
Wednesday, June 19, 2019
7:30 PM
New Fairfield Community Room

Members present:

Wes Marsh, Chairman
Michael Cammarota
Jane Landers
Cheryl Reedy
Anthony Yorio
Rick Salem, Alternate

Other Town Officials Present:

Ed Sbordone, Finance Director
Pat Del Monaco, First Selectman
Khris Hall, Selectman
Dr. Pat Cosentino, Superintendent of Schools
Peggy Katkocin, BOE Chairman

Members not present:

Erin Badillo
Tom Garben, Alternate
Brian Shea, Alternate

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. Tom Garben was also absent for this meeting.

Addition to the Agenda

Wes Marsh made a motion to add agenda item #10A "Approval of Boat Dock invoice" to the agenda. Jane Landers seconded the motion. **Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Correspondence and Announcements

Chairman Wes Marsh read an email from taxpayer Eric Schonenberg thanking the BOF for their recent editorial regarding the low voter turnout in New Fairfield. He also expressed his disappointment with the low voter turnout and thanked the BOF for all their hard work.

Public Comment- None

Approval of Minutes

Wes Marsh made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2019 regular meeting as presented. Anthony Yorio seconded the motion. **Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Budget Transfers

Finance Director Ed Sbordone gave a brief description of this transfer.

Wes Marsh made a motion to approve the Inter- Departmental transfer in the amount of \$40,000.00. Cheryl Reedy seconded the motion. **Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion approved)**

\$	Transfer From		\$	Transfer To	
\$20,000.00	4160-140	Unclass P & B-Salary Adjustments	\$40,000.00	4310-451	Public Works-Road Repair
\$15,000.00	4160-230	Unclass P & B-Pension			
\$4,000.00	4160-250	Unclass P & B-Unemployment			
\$1,000.00	4160-260	Unclass P & B-Workers Compensation			
\$40,000.00			\$40,000.00		

Update on High School and Consolidated School projects

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino spoke of the proposed high school and Consolidated School building projects and noted that the grant applications will be sent to the State by the June 30th deadline. She noted that there are new cost estimates that will be presented at the BOE meeting of June 20th. The overall cost of these projects has been reduced due to an increased reimbursement rate for the Consolidated project from 27.86% to 37.86% which will yield a savings of approximately \$3 million.

There will be a Public Hearing on Thursday, August 1st at 7:00 pm with the BOE, BOS and BOF. This Public Hearing will also include a presentation of conceptual designs and an estimate of the financial impact to the taxpayers.

Dr. Cosentino also spoke of a meeting with the bond advisor that was attended by members of the BOE, BOS and BOF. She plans to set up meetings with local organizations to go over the projects to make sure that all taxpayers know the impact of these projects. Anyone interested in setting up a meeting should contact Dr. Cosentino at Central Office. She noted that there has been a lot of positive feedback from residents that have been on tours and noted that anyone that was skeptical about the need for new buildings has changed their minds after attending the tour. She thanked Director of Buildings and Grounds Phil Ross and Director of Business and Operations Dr. Rich Sanzo for all their hard work.

Jane Landers asked to get a breakdown of money spent on the last high school building project including the Science wing and the culinary project. Dr. Cosentino will ask Dr. Sanzo to provide this.

BOE Chairman Peggy Katkocin spoke of the decision made in 2007 to rebuild Meeting House Hill School and not to fix the high school. She thanked Ed Sbordone, Dr. Sanzo and Dr. Cosentino for all their hard work. She noted that there has been a lot of feedback from residents regarding the good relationship between the BOE, BOF and BOS.

Medical Plan

Tom Kowalchik from USI Insurance Services spoke the medical plans for 2019-2020. He noted that the insurance company has agreed to give the Town \$200,000 ISL with an aggregate of 120% for the

\$250,000 ISL cost with the caveat that one individual has a laser not to exceed \$350,000. There was a brief discussion of the most cost effective option for the town.

Wes Marsh made a motion to approve the medical plan with \$200,000 ISL with a Laser not to exceed \$350,000 for one member and a 120% Aggregate Stop Loss with a prescription plan for a premium cost of \$312,920.88. Anthony Yorio seconded the motion. **Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Board of Finance article for the Town Tribune

It was decided that the BOF will not submit a Town Tribune article for the summer.

Boat Dock Invoice

Wes Marsh made a motion to approve the payment of to Race Coastal Engineering in the amount of \$2,327.28 and \$1,200.00 to PAH Inc. from the Boat Dock replacement fund. Anthony Yorio seconded the motion. **Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Cheryl Reedy suggested that “Boat Dock invoices” be added as a regular item to the agenda. It was decided to add it for the time being.

Update on School Safety and Security Committee

Anthony Yorio gave a brief description of the Security Operations Center recommended by the School Security and Safety Committee. He spoke of the additional appropriation of \$220,000 from the Unappropriated Cap & Non for this project and the urgency of getting this done over the summer This would cover the first phase of this project. He noted that the district applied for a grant for security expenses which may be used for Phase 2 and/or Phase 3. It was noted that the balance of the unappropriated capital and nonrecurring fund is approximately \$905,000.

There was a brief discussion of the confidentiality of the project and it was noted that board members are welcome to attend the Executive Sessions of the School Security and Safety Committee to get more information.

Recommendation for a Town Meeting

Wes Marsh made a motion to recommend to a Town Meeting the approval of an additional appropriation of \$220,000.00 from the Unappropriated Cap & Non for the school security operating center project. Jane Landers seconded the motion. **Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion approved)**

\$	Transfer From		\$	Transfer To	
\$220,000.00	301-4100-700	Unappropriated Cap & Non	\$220,000.00	306-4600-700	School Security Operating Center Project
\$220,000.00			\$220,000.00		

ONGOING UPDATES

Medical update- The Board reviewed actual numbers through the end of April.

Legal update- The Board reviewed the legal balance billed through June 12th.

Year to date expenses review- Ed Sbordone spoke briefly about the State Trooper regular time invoice that is only billed once a year.

Current year revenue update-The tax collection rate is 99.18%. The Board thanked Tax Collector Kerrie Greening and her staff. There was a brief discussion of interest income and EMS paramedic income. It was noted that the revenue surplus for the year is expected to be approximately \$400,000 to \$450,000

Cap & Non- The Saw Mill Bridge project is on schedule. There was a brief discussion of what projects can be closed out by the end of June.

Public Comment- None

Future Agenda items- There was a suggestion of possibly cancelling the August BOF meeting.

Board member comments

Members of the Board congratulated all the New Fairfield graduates. They also congratulated all the Spring Sports teams especially the Lacrosse teams.

Everyone congratulated Cheryl Reedy on being named Senior Citizen of the Year.

The Board wished everyone a happy summer.

Adjournment

Anthony Yorio made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 pm. Jane Landers seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion approved)