

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

**MINUTES
Board of Finance Meeting
Wednesday, November 19, 2008
7:30 PM
New Fairfield High School Library**

Members present:

Joe Hart, Chairman
Lucy DiRocco
Jane Landers
Wes Marsh
Tom Wahlig
Art Azzarito, Alternate
Tony Sanches, Alternate
Brian Shea, Alternate

Members not present:

Al Mardis- leave of absence

Other Town Officials Present:

John Hodge, First Selectman
Ron Oliveri, Selectman
Jay Waterman, Finance Director
Ed Sbordone, Accounting Manager
Ed McCue, Fire Chief
Various members of the Fire Dept.

Call To Order Chairman Joe Hart called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Appointments

Chairman Joe Hart noted that he received an e-mail from Al Mardis requesting that Brian Shea be appointed during the rest of his leave of absence. Mr. Hart noted that the alternates should all have equal time and should rotate meetings.

Wes Marsh made a motion to elevate Brian Shea to a full member status in Al Mardis' absence for this meeting. Jane Landers seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion approved)

Correspondence and Announcements

Joe Hart announced he received responses from BL Companies and O&G Industries, Inc. regarding the auditors request for outstanding invoices. BOF members will receive copies of these letters. (Such letters to be attached to the minutes of this meeting.)

Lucy DiRocco spoke about an FOI case that went before Superior Court. This will be discussed more during "Legal update".

Public Comment

Many members of the public spoke in favor or against the Emergency Radio Communications system.

First Selectman John Hodge spoke of the FOI case that Lucy DiRocco mentioned and noted some case law that came out of this case.

Approval of Minutes

Joe Hart made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2008 regular meeting as presented. Brian Shea seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-1 (Motion approved-Jane Landers abstained)

There was a discussion regarding minutes before they are actually approved by the board and if they should be stamped "draft" minutes. It was decided that this should be brought up at a future meeting when a representative from FOI is present.

BOF Sub-committee reports

An audit subcommittee meeting was held immediately before this meeting. No quorum was present so an informal meeting was held and the members present went over the draft audit report. The audit report needs to be approved by December 31st. Another subcommittee meeting will be held soon.

Communications project

Resident Ron Graiff gave a presentation regarding the proposed Emergency Communication Radio System. Mr. Graiff spoke of alternatives to the proposed system. Members of the Board of Finance asked questions of Mr. Graiff regarding the emergency system.

Recess

Jane Landers made a motion to take a recess at 9:39 pm. Lucy DiRocco seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Joe Hart made a motion to reconvene the meeting at 9:50 pm. Jane Landers seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Communications project (con't)

Pier Con representatives Jeff Jacobson and Andy Healey gave a presentation regarding the proposed radio system. Members of the board of finance asked questions from Mr. Jacobson and Mr. Healey. First Selectman John Hodge spoke in favor of the Pier Con radio system.

Addition to agenda

Jane Landers made a motion to add to the agenda item #8a-1 "Vote on the Emergency Communication System". Brian Shea seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Vote on Emergency Communication System

Brian Shea made a motion to recommend to a town meeting (to be adjourned to a referendum) the purchase of an emergency communication system for a price not to exceed \$2 million including bonding costs. Jane Landers seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-1 (Motion approved- Lucy DiRocco abstained)

Table of Agenda Items

Joe Hart made a motion to table the following agenda items until the next regular Board of Finance meeting of December 17th. (Rest of agenda items for #8 and #10, 11 and 14). Wes Marsh seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Board of Education –School Business project update- Tabled

Board of Selectmen- Town ongoing project update- Tabled

FOI Workshop-target date- Target date is the December BOF regular meeting

Budget process discussion- Tabled until next regular BOF meeting

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of acceptance of 2007-2008 audit

The audit subcommittee will meet in December and will recommend to the full board at that time.

Vote on approval of BOF meeting dates for 2009

Lucy DiRocco made a motion to approve the BOF meeting dates for 2009 as presented. Tom Wahlig seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Budget transfers- None

ONGOING UPDATES

Medical update- Tabled

Legal update- Tabled

Year to date expenses review- Tabled

Cap/Non report review- Tabled

Final review for 2007-2008- Tabled

Public Comment- Resident Ed Siebert spoke of the proposed emergency communications system

New Agenda Items- None

Board Member comments- Tabled until next regular BOF meeting

Adjournment

Joe Hart made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:54pm. Wes Marsh seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

