

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

MINUTES
Board of Finance Special Meeting
Wednesday, March 18, 2020
7:30 PM
Virtual meeting via Zoom

Members present via Zoom

Wes Marsh, Chairman
Michael Cammarota
Tom Garben
Jane Landers
Cheryl Reedy
Anthony Yorio
Brian Shea, Alternate
Mark Werner, Alternate
Greg Williams, Alternate

Other Town Officials Present:

Ed Sbordone, Finance Director and Town Treasurer
Pat Del Monaco, First Selectman
Khris Hall, Selectman
Kim Hanson, Selectman
Dr. Pat Cosentino, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Rich Sanzo, Director of Business and Operations
Antonio Iadarola, Town Engineer
Peggy Katkocin, BOE Chairman
Rick Regan, BOE Member

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

Director of Business and Operations Dr. Rich Sanzo gave a brief overview of the rules and procedures for having a virtual meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

Appointments- None

Correspondence and Announcements- None

Public Comment- None

Approval of Minutes

Anthony Yorio made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2020 regular meeting as presented. Tom Garben seconded the motion. **Vote: 5-0-1 (Motion approved- Jane Landers abstained)**

Budget Transfers- None

Discussion of the BOS and BOE requested budgets for 2020-2021

There was a lengthy discussion of the BOS requested budget specifically the following topics:

- Long term capital projects including town wide drainage improvements. Brush Drive will be broken into three phases. Town Engineer Tony Iadarola spoke of the specifics and costs of each phase. He noted that there may be some LOCIP money available for drainage issues. He spoke of the repairing of bridges under 20 feet long.
- Other projects discussed include Columbia Drive, Bear Mountain Bridge, Bigelow Road, Yale Drive and Warwick Road Bridge.
- The possible installation of flashing lights specifically at Town Hall.
- Beach House project and the possibility of a STEAP grant.
- Discussion of the possibility of removing the dam behind the Senior Center that exists on town property.
- Ball Pond Watershed study that could potentially be funding by grants.
- Discussion of the roles and responsibilities of the Fire Marshal and whether the position should go from part-time to full-time.

The Board discussed revenues and expenditures and specifically the surplus for the current year. There was a suggestion of using surplus from the fiscal year 2019-2020 for capital items for the 2020-2021 budget. It was noted that surplus should not be used for operating expenses. Other topics discussed included the postponement of the bond sale due to the volatility of the market at this point, the change in interest income, and the increase in student tuition revenue. There was a brief discussion of how the town's medical plan could be affected by the coronavirus.

There was a discussion among the Board of Finance members as to what would be the optimal Mil Rate percentage increase the 2020-2021 budget and there was a consensus that it should be below 3% increase from last year. The Board briefly discussed the possibility of whether or not the budget referendum vote can be postponed.

Cheryl Reedy made a motion to ask the Board of Education and the Board of Selectmen to come back to the BOF at their April 1, 2020 meeting with the respective cuts: BOE- \$100,000 in capital and \$337,600 in operating and BOS- \$300,000 capital and \$84,400 in operating. Jane Landers seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Ongoing updates

Wes Marsh made a motion to table the agenda item "Ongoing updates" until the next meeting. Anthony Yorio seconded the motion. **Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Public Comment

John Hodge commented on the Bridge and drainage projects and noted that the Ball Pond Watershed project and previous plans for resolving the issues. He encouraged the Selectmen to contact Representative Jahana Hayes' office for information and guidance. He further spoke of the dam behind the Senior Center and noted that there is a lot of sedimentation there and suggested contacting DEEP and the DOT regarding this. He thanked the BOF for doing a great job during tough times.

Public comment (con't)

Selectman Kim Hanson thanked the BOF for their hard work during these tough times. He spoke of his concerns with taking money out of capital and suggested that the BOF be very conservative during these difficult times.

Future Agenda Items

A medical update, ongoing updates, the audit presentation and discussion of the 2020-2021 budget will be discussed at the next BOF meeting.

Board member comments

Members of the Board of Finance thanked everyone involved in setting up the Zoom virtual meeting. They thanked everyone involved in putting budget numbers together especially First Selectman Pat Del Monaco, Town Engineer Tony Iadarola and Finance Director Ed Sbordone.

The BOF members encouraged everyone to stay safe and healthy and to stay home.

Adjournment

Jane Landers made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 pm. Tom Garben seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)