

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

MINUTES  
**Board of Finance Special Meeting**  
**Wednesday, March 25, 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 via Zoom***

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  
Julie Luby, Assistant Superintendent of Schools  
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

**Change to Agenda**

Wes Marsh made a motion to add agenda item #9A "Discussion of Town Tribune article" to tonight's agenda and to delete agenda item #12 "Discussion of Public Safety and Security- Executive Session". Tom Garben seconded the motion. **Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)**

**Correspondence and Announcements**

Wes Marsh spoke of a Freedom of Information rule that documents that will be discussed at virtual meetings must be posted at least 24 hours ahead of the meeting.

Wes Marsh read an email from Rick Salem expressing his concerns regarding the possibility of the BOF passing a budget without taxpayer approval due to the coronavirus quarantine. He offered a suggestion that last year's budget numbers be used and then adjusted mid-year.

### **Public Comment**

Selectman Kim Hanson spoke of the Executive Order regarding the BOF setting of the budget without taxpayer approval and noted that he believes that the BOS is **required** to authorize the BOF to submit a budget.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Wes Marsh made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2020 regular meeting as presented. Jane Landers seconded the motion. **Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)**

### **Budget Transfers**- None

### **Discussion of Medical Plan for 2020-2021- Tom Kowalchik, USI**

Tom Kowalchick from USI spoke of the Medical Plan for the Town of New Fairfield and specifically a breakdown of claims and how the coronavirus outbreak will affect the medical plan. He noted that many elective and preventative surgeries scheduled for May and June are being cancelled due to the coronavirus thus claims may be lower in May and June but will increase once the crisis is over. He noted that New Fairfield has a very healthy medical reserve and encouraged the Board that it is kept despite the current situation. He recommended keeping the same ISL (Individual Stop Loss) and ASL (Aggregate Stop Loss) as last year.

Mr. Kowalchick will put together more information and will present at the April 8, 2020 meeting.

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

Wes Marsh noted that the BOS and BOE will present their plans for the respective reductions for their proposed 2020-2021 budgets at the April 1<sup>st</sup> BOF meeting. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino noted that the BOE voted at their March 19<sup>th</sup> meeting to accept the reductions by the amount requested. The BOE is not scheduled to meet again until April 2<sup>nd</sup> so the details of these reductions will not be available at the April 1<sup>st</sup> BOF meeting.

There was a brief discussion of the different options and timeline for the budget in light of the coronavirus pandemic. There was a suggestion of waiting until May to finalize the budget so that there is a better idea of the overall situation. Some members expressed concerns that there needs to be a point in time that a decision needs to be made. There was a question about revenue that the town receives from the State and if it will be delayed since the tax deadline has been extended. Finance Director Ed Sbordone noted that he has not heard of any delays at this point.

### **Town Tribune article**

Wes Marsh spoke of a *Town Tribune* article written by Selectman Khris Hall regarding the proposal to delay the budget process. In the article, it was noted that Governor Lamont has issued an Executive Order to alter the usual budget process for the Town to allow the BOF to set the Mil Rate instead of having a budget referendum. The intent of this is to maintain social distancing. A previous Executive Order allowed for delaying the budget decisions by a month. There was a lengthy discussion of how this delay would affect the budgets and the logistics of sending out the tax bills. First Selectman Pat Del Monaco noted that she spoke with the Town's Tax Collector and it is possible to have an August

collection date instead of July without a lot of disruption. It was decided to wait until the next BOF meeting to discuss this further before sending out the *Town Tribune* article. In the meantime, Cheryl Reedy will send a draft article to the members.

### **Ongoing updates**

**Legal**- No comments

**Expenditure report**- Finance Director Ed Sbordone noted that everything was on track.

**Revenue report**- Ed Sbordone noted that the revenue surplus is preliminarily estimated to be about \$341,000.

**Capital and Nonrecurring**- Pat Del Monaco noted that Public Works projects are not happening at this time but will be reevaluated in the near future.

### **Public Comment**

Selectman Kim Hanson encouraged the members of the BOF to take a careful look at the governor's directive regarding setting the budget without taxpayer approval and didn't think that the BOF had a choice but to set the Mil Rate unless the order is lifted. He further spoke of his concerns about incoming revenue from the State and its ability to pay.

### **Future Agenda Items**

The Board will review the budget following at meetings in the near future:

- reductions for both the BOE and BOS
- Audit
- Medical plan
- Town Tribune article

### **Board member comments**

Members of the Board of Finance thanked everyone involved in setting up the Zoom virtual meeting and encouraged everyone to stay safe and healthy and to stay home.

### **Adjournment**

Cheryl Reedy made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 pm. Jane Landers seconded the motion.

**Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)**