

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

MINUTES

Board of Finance Pension and Bonding Subcommittee
Wednesday, September 23, 2020
7:30 PM
Via Zoom

Members present:

Mark Werner, Subcommittee Chairman
Tom Garben
Cheryl Reedy

Other Town Officials Present:

Linda Farinha, Financial Assistant and Town Deputy Treasurer
Ed Sbordone, Finance Director and Town Treasurer
Dr. Rich Sanzo, Director of Business and Operations
Rich Kalinka, Fire Department

Call To Order Mark Werner called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Appointments- None

Correspondence and Announcements-None

Public Comment- None

Discussion of Pension and OPEB questions and answers

Mark Werner thanked Ed Sbordone and Linda Farinha for getting all the requested information and follow up questions from the last subcommittee meeting.

There was a discussion of the Fire Department pension and it was noted that the administrator does not have a copy of the contract. Ed Sbordone will look into this further. There was a discussion of the challenge of getting information from Guggenheim and the possibility of getting another carrier. Rich Kalinka spoke of the pension for the Fire Department and specifically LOSAP (Length of Service Award Program). The pension for the firefighters is \$260 per month. Cheryl Reedy spoke of her concerns with the plan not increasing much in the last 25 years and not keeping in pace with cost of living. Members of the subcommittee thanked members of the Fire Department for all their hard work and service to the Town.

There was a discussion of the bonding of the school projects and the cash flow needs of the Consolidated Early Learning Academy. Dr. Sanzo noted that the cash flow analysis was prepared in May 2019 and will ask Colliers to develop an updated cash flow analysis around the turn of the new year. He also noted that it is anticipated that there will be special sessions

of the Senate and then the House to vote on grants for school construction. There was a suggestion of the possibility of locking in low interest rates. Ed Sbordone will investigate the administrative costs of locking in rates.

There was a brief discussion of the 457B Plan and investment options offered to Town employees as well as OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits). Ed Sbordone explained the process for the investment of the pension plans and noted that it is an informal Ad Hoc committee. It was noted that there have been suggestions for pension committees in the past but they were never established. Ed Sbordone and Linda Farinha noted that they would welcome having a pension committee. Mark Werner spoke of pension committees in surrounding towns. Linda Farinha spoke of different employees and their respective pension plans.

The subcommittee spoke of advisors and the pros and cons of keeping the same advisors for a long period of time. They discussed metrics for measuring the quality of work for advisors.

Public Comment- None

Future Agenda items

The subcommittee will meet on Oct. 6 and will discuss recommendations to make to the full BOF.

Subcommittee member comments

Members of the subcommittee thanked Ed Sbordone and Linda Farinha for all their hard work and encouraged them to give any information or suggestions to the subcommittee that they see fit.

Adjournment

Cheryl Reedy made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 pm. Tom Garben seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-0- (Motion Approved)

**Received by Email on 9/28/2020 @ 8:30 a.m.
By: Holly Z. Smith, Asst. Town Clerk, New Fairfield**
