

BOARD OF EDUCATION, NEW FAIRFIELD, CT
Business Operations/Resource Management Subcommittee Meeting

Name of Subcommittee: BO/RM Meeting type: Regular
Date of Meeting: 9/21/23 Minutes submitted by: K. LaTourette
Members present: Greg Flanagan, Kim LaTourette, Ed Sbordone, Amy Johnson
Members absent:
Other attendees: Ken Craw, Carrie DePuy, Pat Del Monaco, Greenleaf Rep Kevin Siebrecht
Place of meeting: Meeting Access: BO/RM Subcommittee (9/21/23 at 6:00 p.m.) Web:
https://zoom.us/j/93375742787 Dial In: (929) 205-6099 Meeting ID: 933 7574 2787

Meeting called to order: 6:02 p.m. The zoom guidelines were read by the host.

MOTION: Made by: Ed Sbordone **Seconded by:** Greg Flanagan
To amend the agenda to have Greenleaf go first
Recording of vote: Approved by consensus

II. Approval of Minutes

A. August 17, 2023 – Regular

MOTION: Made by: Ed Sbordone **Seconded by:** Greg Flanagan
To approve the minutes
Recording of vote: Approved by consensus

III. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Potential Town Solar Project

This item was moved to the first informational item on the agenda. Pat DelMonaco was present to explain this project and application process. There is some site work that needs to take place on the old landfill. The cost is \$15,000. BOS is asking BOE to share that cost 1/3, 2/3. This project would meet the electricity needs of our town and school buildings. Kevin, a rep from Greenleaf, was present at our meeting as well. They have been working with the town for over 10 years and this is a project that has been looked at for the past several years. The Inflation Reduction Act is now available to make the timing right. A \$2,000,000 tax credit comes into play. The schools do have solar already on roofs. There is a development fee associated with this and the bid round should take place in February. We can buy in for 20% less for Eversource bid; for example, instead of 15 cents, we could get it for 12 cents. An attachment was shared to explain New Fairfield's cash flow. New Fairfield should benefit half a year after metering. In year three, we would make an additional payment with money from the government. We would be net positive about \$75,000. After about 25 years, if this is what is chosen for loan process, we would be able to put about \$6,000,000 back into the budget. This assumes the connection into the grid as well. The interest rate for the loan should be somewhere around 4% - municipal. Ed asked specifically of the impact on the BOE. The benefit would be assigned according to their kWh meter. Greg asked about leasing or buying to own. The town would be planning on buying to own so that we have the full benefit. When the power is out, you are not utilizing solar, batteries would be used to stabilize. Newtown is an example of a recent project that has been done. They have done seven or so projects and are pretty much off the grid right now. (Amy Johnson lost connection and left the meeting at approximately 6:20 p.m. She said she would join the regular meeting.) Kevin recommends annual inspections after year 7 or 8. This is warranted for 25 years. Pat is anticipating creating a fund that would then go towards inspections and maintenance, as well as looking into insurance. Ken asked some questions from a district

budgeting standpoint - installed 2024 and in 2025 should be \$100,000 ahead, so the FY 2026 budget should see some savings.

B. Monthly Summary of Budget vs. Actual Expenditure/Encumbrances vs. Projected Year-End Expenditure/Encumbrances Report for FY 2023-24 at August 31, 2023 - The payroll projections were included. We are right on par with previous years.

C. Fund 19 Surplus - \$20,000 surplus is realized from closing out POs. Last year, it was somewhere around \$300,000. We are using our entire budget and it was tight. We are going to request the entire amount from the BOF.

D. STEAM Room Air Conditioning

This classroom was part of the renovation project. The temp was up to 96 degrees in that room. Carrie DePuy said that we could look at this and possibly install air conditioning in April using capital funds.

IV. ACTION ITEMS - none

V. OTHER - none

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn: Made by: Ed Sbordone
Recording of vote: Aye – Unanimous

Seconded by: Greg Flanagan
Meeting adjourned at: 6:48 p.m.