

April 15, 2015

The Board of Finance held a special meeting on this date at the Stonington High School commons. Members present were Glenn Frishman, Chairman; June Strunk, Secretary; Dudley Wheeler; Bryan Bentz; Sandy Grimes and Tim O'Brien. Also present Jim Sullivan, Interim Director of Finance, Town and SPS staff, BOE members and residents.

Mr. Frishman called the Budget deliberation portion of the adjourned Public Hearing to order at 7:18 pm. He stated that they would start with a few adjustments to the budget. Mr. Wheeler stated that with regard to the Stonington Community Center, on page 91 of the Recommended budget book the Como has been given \$10,070 to replace Floor Tile in CIP. He stated that adding this to the \$42,000 places them over the requested budget amount.

Mr. Frishman addressed the Reclassification to the Legal expenditure line items for greater clarity. No change to dollar amount. Mr. Sullivan had prepared a handout for the members.

**After discussion, the consensus was to make the following adjustments:**

Board of Education increase of \$38,211.00.

Stonington Free Library – add \$2500.00

Board of Finance recording secretary – add \$1000.00

Page 90 – 7 yr. Purchase Commitment of \$47,600.00, Mrs. Strunk stated that this purchase has been completed. She added that the Board had previously discussed creating a line for Capital maintenance projects. Mr. Bentz asked why this is necessary; Mr. O'Brien agreed that they had discussed not making this a general contingency fund but more specific for taxpayer clarity. Members agreed to create a line totaling \$250,000 for Mystic Middle School roof repair using the \$47,600. The remaining \$202,400.00 to come from the Fund balance.

Mrs. Strunk stated that the Town of Westerly has removed all funding to the Westerly Adult Day Services. Is it now managed by PACE, a management company? Mr. Bentz asked if there was a reason for this. The Director of Social Services stated that they still offer the same services to residents of Stonington. Mr. Frishman asked if it is still nonprofit or a state agency. No one was sure of this. Members agreed to reduce the line item by \$7,999.00 leaving \$1.00 in the line. Mr. Frishman asked Mr. Grimes to please research the reason for the changes.

The Proposed primary categories for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 stand as follows:

General Government - \$19,267,161.00  
Debt Service - \$ 5,135,389.00  
Capital Improvement - \$ 1,460,561.00  
Board of Education - \$35,355,347.00

Motion made by Mrs. Strunk to set the mil rate at 21.32 with expenditures totaling \$61,218,458 and to forward to the Board of Selectmen to set the call for Town Meeting for the 2015-2016 budget. Seconded by Mr. Grimes. Motion was unanimous.

At this time, Mrs. Strunk addressed the top five reasons why people choose to live where they live. They are affordability, taxes, job opportunities, public safety and education. She feels that this budget addresses all of these items and she encourages everyone to vote.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Grimes made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Wheeler seconded the motion and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
June Strunk  
Secretary

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