

October 15, 2014

The Board of Finance held a special meeting on this date at the Wequetequock Fire Department meeting room. Members present were Glenn Frishman, Secretary; Dudley Wheeler; Sandy Grimes; Bryan Bentz and June Strunk. Also present Superintendent Van Riley; Frank Todisco and residents.

Mr. Frishman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Election of Officers – Mrs. Strunk nominated Glenn Frishman as Chairman of the Board of Finance. Mr. Bentz seconded and voting was unanimous. Mr. Wheeler nominated June Strunk as Secretary of the Board of Finance. Mr. Grimes seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

Seating of New member – Tabled

Comments from the Public – None

Previous Minutes – Mr. Wheeler made a motion to approve the minutes of the September meeting as presented. Mr. Grimes seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

K-12 Building Committee update – Mrs. Strunk informed the members that after almost 20 months the committee has hired an architect. The Board of Selectmen accepted the recommendation and the committee will meet with the architect on the 16th of October. She added that there are four options which consider the budget, students and maintenance. They plan to hold three Public Hearings with a strict timeline of February 2015.

Board of Education

CIP – Members agreed to table this item to the November meeting which included a prioritized list of safety issues as there is a considerable amount of backup to review.

SEED – As requested by the Board at the September meeting the Board of Education provided confirmation of the mandated state requirement and the district's approved plan. The requested \$125,000 is intact. After discussion, Messrs. Wheeler and Grimes were against funding along with Mrs. Strunk. Mr. Bentz was in support but the requested was not approved.

WBBS reimbursement – Request for reimbursement of \$52,795 for required safety repairs to two ceiling sections. Mr. Grimes made a motion to approve the request for \$52,795 and forward to the Board of Selectmen for a Town Meeting. Mr. Wheeler seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

Conservation Commission – Chairman Stanton Simm and Stuart Cole were present to discuss the \$200,000 allocation for 168 acres of the Davis Farm to the Stonington Land Trust. This allows for conservation easement and development rights only. Mr. Simm stated that this property is considered a top priority by archeologists for the Native American artifacts it contains and has great historical significance. He added that this is the Commissions' only opportunity for this action. Mr. Frishman made a motion to approve the \$200,000 allocation of the town's \$400,000 open space fund to help the Stonington Land Trust acquire the development rights to 168 acres of the Davis Farm and send to the Board of Selectmen for a Town Meeting. Mr. Bentz seconded the motion. Mr. Wheeler was opposed.

Budget Transfers – Senior Accountant Barbara Dexter provided for the members FY 2013-2014 Budget transfers with an attached year to date Budget report. Members agreed to table this to the November meeting for further review.

Discussion of Budget target for coming fiscal year – Mrs. Strunk stated that she would like to avoid the hurdles faced by the Board last year by being more aware of inflation, cost of living increases and Grand list adjustments ahead of time. She added that she would provide more definitive numbers for the next meeting. The Board also indicated it would notify town and school officials to keep their proposed increases in the upcoming 2015-2016 budget to about 1.8 percent.

Correspondence

Enhanced School Safety measures – Chief Stewart informed the members that the Police Department of ongoing safety plans with the SPS.

Battery Backup- Chief Stewart informed the members of a battery backup purchase.

New Business

2015 Meeting Schedule – Members agreed to 2015 scheduled meetings for the first Wednesday of the month at 7:15 pm at the Police Department meeting room.

Subcommittee reports – Mr. Grimes reported that no action has been taken with regard to the Athletic Field usage fees. He added that Leanne Theodore is working on a report showing a percentage of use for each organization before and after reconstruction. He also stated that the Board should meet with the Board of Selectmen to get some decisions.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Wheeler made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Grimes seconded the motion and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "June Strunk".

June Strunk
Secretary