

Amended
DRAFT

November 4, 2014

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14 DEC 10 AM 8:47
CYNTHIA LADWIG
TOWN CLERK

The Board of Finance held a regular meeting on this date at the Police Department meeting room. Members present were Glenn Frishman, Chairman; Dudley Wheeler; Sandy Grimes; Bryan Bentz and June Strunk, Secretary. Also present Superintendent Van Riley; Frank Todisco, Highway Supervisor Lou Dicesare, Steve Burdick, Highway fleet mechanic and residents.

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

Seating of New member – Mrs. Strunk stated that the Democratic Town Committee had four applicants for the vacancy. Mr. Grimes made a motion to accept Tim O'Brien to the Board of Finance. Mrs. Strunk seconded the motion and voting was unanimous. Mr. O'Brien was sworn in as the new member of the Board.

Comments from the Public – Sue Jones stated that she would like comments from the public added at the end of the meetings as well.

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

Board of Education

CIP – Mr. Frishman stated that he and Mr. Grimes did a walk through of WBSS to assess the safety issues. Mrs. Strunk added that the K-12 building committee has hired the architect and have set January as the goal to receive his recommendations. She feels it best to wait until they have a better assessment of which schools will still be in operation. Members reviewed the CT. *Report of the School Safety Infrastructure Council* revised and updated in June 2014. This report recognized the need for an "all hazards" emergency preparedness and response capability. Mr. Wheeler asked if SPS would get monies toward the safety upgrades. Superintendent Riley said yes, about \$35,000 but he did not know when or how it would be distributed. At this time, Mr. Frishman suggested a sit down meeting with all parties; Mr. Todisco agreed.

Additional Appropriation - Public Works – Mr. Frishman tabled this item.

Budget Transfers – Senior Accountant Barbara Dexter provided for the members FY 2013-2014 Budget transfers with an attached year to date Budget report. Mr. Wheeler made a motion to accept the transfers as presented. Mr. Grimes seconded and voting was unanimous.

Discussion of Budget target for coming fiscal year – Members reviewed a Town of Stonington Grand List and Property Tax analysis prepared using the Town Budget books. They also discussed the Cost of living and population levels in the schools. Mr. Bentz added that they need to look at all factors. He also asked that departments provide justification for a budget increase not a line by line explanation or review of current fiscal year. Members agreed to submit a request to the First Selectman instructing the Town departments to keep operating budgets with increases no more than 2%.

Correspondence - None

Subcommittee reports – Members discussed the multi year bus contracts and route consolidation. The final bill for DMS is in. The bid amount was \$792,000. The total net cost to the Town with reimbursement from the state was \$650,000.

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. Due to errors on work of the fields they are going to litigation against the company. Mr. Grimes asked if the Board supports a fee schedule to offset the maintenance costs of the fields. Mr. Wheeler replied yes that was always the plan.

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 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

June Strunk
Secretary