

March 11, 2015

The Board of Finance held a special meeting at the Police Department meeting room. Members present were Glenn Frishman, Chairman; Dudley Wheeler; Tim O'Brien; Bryan Bentz ; June Strunk, Secretary and Sandy Grimes. Also, present, SPS Superintendent Van Riley, Business Manager Bill King, Board of Education Chairman Frank Todisco, BOE members, SPS staff and residents.

Mr. Frishman called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

Budget Hearings --

Chairman Todisco began the FY 15-16 Budget presentation stating that the final budget approved by the Board of Education carries a 5.35% increase. Items contributing to the increase are contractual requirements, utility costs and new special education students with legally required services and programs enrolled in the district. Also included are 4.4 positions with one elimination.

Mr. Riley reviewed increases to line items in response to previous questions from the Board, along with enrollment projections. There is a 2.5% increase to administrator salaries however Mr. Riley stated he declined the raise.

Mr. Frishman asked if there was any way to mitigate the Special Education costs.

Mr. Riley replied that there was not as there is no control over the students coming into the program. Allison VanEtten, Director of Special Services/Special Education shared information about new students to the district as well as current students as well as requirements and the unanticipated costs associated.

She stated that there are 23 children and if no other Town enrolls these children, even if they are a DCF student, Stonington is responsible for the education of that student.

She added they are working on options such as work at local businesses for the 18 to 22 year olds, bringing students from other districts and charging tuition as well as the purchase of a van to transport the students. Mr. Riley stated that a van would cost approximately \$30,000 while the current transportation cost per student is \$78,000.

Mr. Frishman asked if there was any chance for an electricity reduction. Mr., King replied that he has recently changed suppliers and as he is not locked in he keeps an eye on rates and can renegotiate.

Mr. Grimes asked about the fields maintenance. Mr. King replied that the SPS does the maintenance while DPW does the fertilization.

Mrs. Strunk asked about the Police Services. Mr. King replied that those lines pertain to several areas for example events and life safety. He added that any time there is over 100 visitors to the school, an officer must be present.

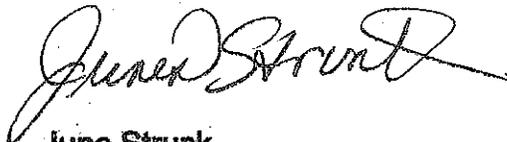
Members discussed the water damage at West Broad Street School due to the burst pipe in the attic. Mr. Ken Donovan stated that it was fortunate that this happened during the day, as the damage could have been significantly worse. The alarm sounded and was addressed quickly. Damages are being assessed and a claim will be filed to cover costs over the \$10,000 deductible.

Members reviewed the CIP budget. There is a total of \$907,000 in security items listed on the BOE proposed CIP that will be addressed in the Bond and Safety appropriation. Mr. King made one adjustment to the proposed CIP; Aerial Lift for the whole district has died and must be elevated to a B. Urgent status. Members also discussed the continued need for portable classrooms, rooftop units at SHS and PMS as well as asbestos abatement.

Correspondence -
None

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 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



June Strunk
Secretary