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16 MAR - 8 AM 8:49

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March 2, 2016

The Board of Finance held a joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen on this date in the meeting room of the Stonington Police Department. Members present were Bryan Bentz; Chairman, June D. Strunk, Secretary; Glenn Frishman, Dudley Wheeler, Tim O'Brien, and Michael Fauerbach. Also present were Selectmen Rob Simmons and Michael Spellman, Selectwoman Kate Rotella, Chief of Police Darren Stewart, Director of Finance James Sullivan, Director of Public Works Barbara McKrell, Town Engineer Scott Deledda, as well as Head of Department of Assessment Marsha Standish.

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

Budget Presentations

- General Government-Department of the First Selectman- First Selectman Rob Simmons discussed the highlights of the budget. He stated that he decreased \$10,000 from his salary and put it towards the salaries of Mr. Spellman and Mrs. Rotella, and that he would like it to continue through the next budget cycle. He stated that the Department of the First Selectman has an overall .30% decrease in the budget.
- Assessors Office-Mr. Simmons stated that he raised the Tax Assessors salary by \$2000 to to draw it in line with others in equivalent towns. Ms. Standish reviewed the highlights of her budget. She stated that her department applied for \$160,000 in grants, of which \$124,730 was received.
- Public Works-Director McKrell mentioned all of the properties her department takes care of. She said they are working on their in house skills so they will not have to contract out as many services. She stated that they completed work on the all purpose field and there is \$50,000 left in the field bond that was approved. She would like the Board to consider using that money to complete Phase II of the ADA work at the fields. She also would like to purchase a small backhoe so they can increase in house services. Mr. Deledda gave an overview of the functions of his department and also stated that he is also the Community Flood Plain Manager. He stated that he is looking for an increase in professional services in an effort to assist in the flood plain manager CRS compliance status. He said that other than that, his budget is the same as in previous years.

- CIP-Selectman Simmons stated that one change in the CIP is the ADA accessibility at the athletic fields. The priority was raised due to public safety and liability concerns. Director McKrell said that the State requested that the town take action in ADA compliance. Mr. Deledda stated that \$100,000 of improvements need to be done, with \$50,000 coming from the bond and \$50,000 coming from CIP. Selectman Simmons also said another change was the priority of handicapped access into the Como. General Operations- IT Director Roger Kizer spoke of the need for a town wide computer upgrade. Police Chief Darren Stewart spoke of the need for upgrade of the police radio system. He stated that the more towns that buy into this new system, the less expensive it will be.

Department of Assessment

- Grand List- Director Standish stated that there was a reduction of 2.6M in motor vehicles, and that the DMV does know where these motor vehicles are located. She said there are 118 properties in town that are under construction. She mentioned the large properties that are going forward such as the Thread Mill and Spruce Meadows which will be added to future growth.

Director of Finance

- Director Sullivan requested a line item transfer of \$20,000 from the Highway Department to repairs and maintenance line item. Mr. Wheeler motioned to approve, Mr. Frishman seconded, and voting was unanimous.
- Additional appropriation and bid waiver for additional lighting in the Police Department parking lot. This motion was tabled until further information was available.

Correspondence

There was none.

Liaison reports

There were none.

K-12 Liaison Reports

Ms. Strunk mentioned that next week there will be a community meeting regarding the progress of the project.

Previous Minutes

Mr. Wheeler made a motion to approve both sets of minutes, Mr. Frishman seconded, and voting was unanimous.

Comments from the Public-

Mr. John Nickerson, President of the Stonington Como, asked the Board to consider help in funding the Como's upcoming Capitol Investment Project.

Mr. Frishman made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Wheeler seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:29pm.

Respectfully submitted,

June D. Strunk, Secretary

kds