July 16, 2015

The Board of Finance held a special meeting on this date at the meeting room in the Town Hall. Members present were Glenn Frishman, Chairman; Dudley Wheeler and Sandy Grimes. Brian Bentz and Tim O'Brien were dialed in on conference call. Secretary June Strunk was absent. Also present were Director of Finance Jim Sullivan; Public Works Director Barbara McKrell and Selectman George Crouse. Bill King, Business Manager, was also in via conference call. A few residents of the Town were also present.

Mr. Frishman called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Cohn-Reznick 2014-2015 Engagement Letter– Mr. Frishman stated that Director Sullivan did some additional research and recommended that the board approve and sign the letter. Mr. Bentz made a motion to approve, Mr. Grimes seconded.

Board of Education Bid Waiver for Dell Chrome Books and Servers-Mr. Frishman stated that the questions and concerns that Mr. Bentz had prior to the meeting were addressed and have been resolved, therefore Mr. Bentz made a motion to approve the waiver, and Mr. Frishman seconded.

Department of Public Works Bid Waiver for dump trucks- Mr. Frishman asked if Mr. Wheeler and Director of Public Works McKrell had a prior meeting, and if Mr. Wheeler was satisfied with the outcome. Mr. Wheeler said he was satisfied with the additions and deductions and that the figure had changed from what it was originally. The cost now is $156,255 per truck. Mr. Grimes motioned to approve the waiver, Mr. Wheeler seconded.

Additional appropriations- Mr. Frishman asked for an appropriation of $10,000 for Professional Services line. There is a bond issue coming up, with the rehab of the elementary schools as well as the BOE and Town finance consolidation study. Mr. Frishman stated that he had a conversation with the Chairman of the BOE and he is very interested in hiring the consultant service. It would take a year to 15 months to complete but it has the potential to save taxpayers close to 2 million dollars, as it would shorten the time line on the bond. Mr. Bentz made the motion to approve, Mr. Wheeler seconded.

Floodplain Management- Selectman Crouse stated that FEMA rescinded the town's participation on 5/1/15 because the last person in charge of Floodplain Management was

the former Town Engineer and he left the position in 2014. The last review by FEMA was in the fall of 2013 to May 2014. Selectman Crouse stated that during that time we lost the Town Engineer who was responsible for doing the review. The BOF in 2014 did not fully fund the position of Floodplain Manager and this retired the position but kept it open for future consideration.) The new Town Engineer, Scott Deledda, felt he had an obligation to act as Floodplain Manager and realized he needed extensive training. He was sent to FEMA from March 9-12, 2015. In April he called the State Department and was told we were eligible for the FEMA 5% discount. In June, when a constituent called and asked why he was no longer eligible, it was discovered through the State Department that FEMA said that due to staff transitions, Stonington fell through the cracks and is now not compliant. FEMA responded with a path to compliance. There are 8 structures in town that they have identified in our floodplain zone that if made compliant the town would reach 90% again. FEMA does reviews in April and October. Selectman Crouse went on to say that the problem now is that the town has no authority to compel the owners to do what is necessary for compliance. The way to resolve this is to reinstate the Floodplain Manager position with a $2000 stipend to restore the oversight, as well as $666 out of last years budget for Mr. Deledda for his four months acting as Floodplain Manager. This has been negotiated with the Union and they have agreed with both of these items. Mr. Bentz made the motion to approve, Mr. Grimes seconded.

Mr. Grimes made a motion to adjourn at 9:45, Mr. Wheeler seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

June Strunk
Secretary

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