

**March 10, 2015**

The Board of Finance held a special joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen and the K-12 Building Committee at the Pawcatuck Middle School. Members present were Glenn Frishman, Chairman; Dudley Wheeler; Tim O'Brien; Bryan Bentz ; June Strunk, Secretary and Sandy Grimes.

Also, present, Selectmen Crouse and Spellman; Chairman Rob Marsiglia and fellow members of the K-12 Building Committee as well as staff and residents.

Mr. Frishman called the joint meeting to order at 7:10 pm

**K-12 Building Committee presentation for School Modernization**

Mr. Marsiglia stated that the K-12 Building Committee starting in the fall of 2013 conducted a survey and assessment of the condition of the three elementary schools. The architecture firm Drummey, Rosane, Anderson Inc. (DRA) was hired to document conditions and prepare a best value trade-off analysis of the options. The Committee held three workshops between October 2014 and January 2015 prior to completing its final recommendation in March 2015 using a two-phase process.

The final recommendation is considered the best value solution as it fully modernizes Stonington elementary school buildings; returns 5<sup>th</sup> grade to the elementary program; consolidates the elementary program in Pawcatuck at the West Vine School; relocates Pre-K to the West Vine and Deans Mill campuses; proactively addresses the aging roof at Pawcatuck Middle School; retains reserve capacity in the district and preserves the potential to consolidate Central Office and the Middle Schools in the future. This also calls for closing West Broad Street School.

The projected total cost is \$69M (2018 Dollars) with a projected Net cost of \$52.3M after reimbursement. The reimbursement rate for renovate as new as differing percentages.

Mr. Frishman asked about value engineering. Mr. Barrett of DRA explained that a project is open and able to value engineering.

Mr. Wheeler questioned the need for 6000 square foot gymnasiums. Julie Holland replied that the current gyms could not hold the entire assembly. The WVS gym is also the cafeteria and the DMS gym ceiling is excessively low. A divider can also be used for two activities to be held simultaneously. Mr. Grimes asked how the floors would be protected. Mr. Barrett replied that this would be part of the elemental decisions of the building.

Mr. Grimes expressed concern on this affecting the bond rating. Mr. Frishman stated he has asked Interim Finance Director Jim Sullivan to put together an analysis.

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Mr. Frishman added that he is concerned the operating budget will be held hostage. This is a good project but the residents need full disclosure, the mil rate will increase. Mr. Bentz stated that a 50-year outlook is the right idea; the Town should start putting funds away.

*June Strunk made a motion to approve the K-12 Building Committee Elementary School Project for \$69,000,000. Mr. Grimes seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.*

All present discussed the timeline. Selectman Crouse stated that the referendum should be targeted for April 28, 2015. Julie Holland added that she has set up community information meetings at the schools and other venues.

Mr. Frishman announced a recess for adjournment of the Joint meeting.

#### **Budget Hearings –**

**Police –** Chief Darren Stewart discussed GIS projections showing "hot spots" around Town to validate beat structure, reduced gas prices as they combined with the BOE, Non-union personnel were paid the same 2.4% wage increase as Union personnel. He stated the number of officers has not increased since 2013- the projection is 1.2 officers for every 1000 residents and there are more and more calls with increased responsibilities. The CT average is 2.57 and New England is 3.4. Mrs. Strunk asked for detailed data to assist with the BOF deliberations.

Lt. Bryan Schneider spoke to the computer problems in the vehicles. He stated that they lose connectivity and entered data. He added they are currently in a trial basis with Net Motion Wireless that holds the data in software. There is a one-time \$8000 fee with a \$2000 a year maintenance costs. This would eliminate the T1 line. Police Commission Chair Ray Trebisacci asked for the Boards support.

**Public Works –** Director Barbara McKrell stated that the DPW has five core services: public right of way services, fueling services, park, cemetery maintenance, fields, school turf maintenance, snow removal, and emergency response. Members asked about the fields maintenance and Mrs. McKrell stated that she would review the Memorandum of Understanding written with regard to the fields. She provided a vehicle list showing mileage adding that the department is keeping the vehicles too long.

At this time, Linda Savitsky mentioned amortization of the cost of new vehicles. A master lease program for Capital equipment with a financial institution. For each lease - schedule is added and levels out over time. This applies to Police and heavy equipment as well. She will keep an eye on rate for each new year lease – tax free to own at end of lease.

#### **Previous Minutes –**

Mr. Grimes made a motion to approve the February 25, 2015 as well as all draft minutes on record. Mr. O'Brien seconded and voting was unanimous.

**Additional Appropriations/Transfers 2014-2015 FY- Debt Service/Capital  
Asset Acquisitions -**

Mr. Grimes made a motion to approve the transfer of \$121,367 from Fund Balance to Debt Service. 02/05/15 interest payment on bond issue. Mr. O'Brien seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

Mr. O'Brien made a motion to approve the transfer of \$269,842 from the Deans Mill School roof replacement project surplus to Equipment Highway for new trucks under funded. Mrs. Strunk seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

**Correspondence -**  
None

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Grimes made a motion to adjourn. Mr. O'Brien seconded the motion and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:25 pm

Respectfully submitted,



June Strunk  
Secretary