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TOWN OF STONINGTON

BOARD OF FINANCE – BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

Monday, March 04, 2024

Board of Education District Office Conference Room

40 Field Street Pawcatuck

7:00 PM

The Stonington Board of Finance held a special meeting on this date at the Board of Education District Office Conference Room at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Tim O'Brien, Lynn Young, Deborah Norman, Chris Johnson, William Sternberg and David Brown. Mike Fauerbach was absent.

Call to Order:

Chairman O'Brien called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited

Budget Presentation – Police with CIP:

Chief DelGrosso, Deputy Chief Olson and Captain Schneider gave an overview of their budgetary requests including Capital Improvement Projects. Some key areas highlighted included but were not limited to staffing needs due to upcoming retirements, school safety training, replacement of records management system, police vehicle replacement, surveillance cameras, body/cruiser cam mandate, technology upgrades to replace aging infrastructure, bullet proof vests replacement, fuel pump replacement, handgun replacement and emergency management. Further information was shared regarding the request on behalf of the First Selectman for the addition of a full-time police position dedicated to a proactive approach to help address mental health needs in the town. Discussion ensued between all parties on different items within the police budget.

Budget Calendar – Possible discussion of hearing/meeting dates:

None.

Budget Correspondence:

Several items of correspondence were been received by the Board of Finance.

Regular Business:

Bid Waiver Request:

Bid waiver request from Captain Schneider to purchase desks for the Emergency Operations Center from Watson for \$32,509.00. The vendor is on State bid list.

A motion was made by Mr. Brown, seconded by Ms. Young and voted unanimously to approve the request.

Line-Item Transfer Requests:

Request from First Selectman to transfer \$2,500 from 10101-81000 town wide to 10176-80651 Mystic Chamber of Commerce, to support Townwide Celebration organized by Chamber in October 2023.

Mr. Bruce Flax, President of Mystic Chamber of Commerce, gave an overview of the request noting the request was made after the last budget was passed. Mr. Flax was asked by the Board of Finance to return with the request after January 2024 when they could look at doing a line-item transfer. In discussion, it was asked if the same request for funding was made to Groton. Mr. Flax noted that Groton incorporates event costs in their budget for areas such as police services of which the Chamber receives funding.

After much discussion and a first preliminary round of voting resulting in a split, a motion was made by Ms. Norman, seconded by Mr. Johnson to approve the request with Ms. Norman, Mr. Johnson, Mr. O'Brien and Ms. Young voting for and Mr. Sternberg and Mr. Brown voting against. Ms. Young noted that she would not support this request again in the future.

Request from DPW Director to transfer \$30,000 from 10151-80241 materials snow removal to 10151-80205 repairs and maintenance to cover anticipated deficit in account. This item was tabled.

Approval of Minutes:

02/07/24 Regular Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Norman seconded by Ms. Young voted and unanimously to approve the minutes.

02/22/24 Human Services Budget Presentation Minutes

This item was tabled.

02/27/24 Solid Waste – Public Works Budget Presentation Minutes

This item was tabled.

Liaison Reports:

None.

Adjourn:

A motion was made by Mr. Sternberg seconded by Ms. Norman and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James Sullivan, Director of Finance