

**TOWN OF STONINGTON**  
**BOARD OF FINANCE SPECIAL MEETING**  
**BOE Community Meeting Room**  
**Wednesday, January 8, 2020**  
**7:15 PM**

A meeting of the Board of Finance was held on this date at the Board of Ed Community Meeting Room. Members present were Chairman Tim O'Brien, Lynn Young, Michael Fauerbach, Deb Norman, Bob Statchen and David Motherway Jr. Mr. Glenn Frishman was absent. Director Jim Sullivan was in attendance.

Chairman O'Brien called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Comments from the public: None

Previous Minutes: On a motion by Ms. Young and seconded by Ms. Norman, the minutes dated December 4, 2019 were approved after minor corrections were noted. Voting was unanimous with Mr. Motherway abstaining. **Motion carried.**

**New Business**

**Line Item Transfers:**

Ms. Young motioned to approve a line item transfer of \$1,186,000 from various Board of Ed CIP budget line items to fund the Stonington Middle School roof project. Mr. Fauerbach seconded. Director Sullivan reported to the Board members that the transfers included unused funds currently in the capital improvement fund that had been set aside for Board of Ed capital projects of previous years and the money was not or will not be used. It is also inclusive of two yearly allocations of \$250,000 set aside for the roof project. There is an estimated cost of \$1,248,412 for the project. Voting was unanimous. **Motion carried.**

Ms. Young motioned to approve a line item transfer of a surplus of \$64,969.25 from BOE CIP project line item "BOE - Underground Storage Tank" to Town CIP project line item "Town - Underground Storage Tank". Mr. Fauerbach seconded. Director Sullivan reported to the Board members that there were two separate accounts funding the underground storage tank projects, one for the Board of Ed and one for the Town. The Board of Ed has replaced their tanks and have come in \$64,000 under budget and the Town project is not complete. This transfer moves the BOE surplus to the Town line item. Voting was unanimous. **Motion carried.**

Ms. Young motioned to approve a line item transfer of \$145,351 from Board of Finance line item "Contingency for BOE MBR" to Education line item, to account for smaller decrease in expected ECS funding cut and boost Education line to meet Minimum Budget Requirements. Mr. Motherway seconded. Voting was unanimous. **Motion carried.**

Ms. Young motioned to approve a line item transfer of \$3,400 from Town Wide line item to Mosquito Spraying line item, to fund additional spraying due to EEE concerns. Mr. Statchen seconded. Director Sullivan explained that the Town Wide line item is a line item in the Selectman's budget that is utilized to pay for town wide issues. The transfer of funds will cover an overage in the mosquito spraying line item that was incurred due to additional spraying to alleviate the threat and concern of EEE in the area. Voting was unanimous. **Motion carried.**

Ms. Young motioned to approve a line item transfer of \$20,000 from CIP Streetscape Route 1 project to new project "Riverwalk Project" to fund design work, by Docko, Inc., for bulkhead repair along the Pawcatuck River. Mr. Statchen seconded. Director Sullivan distributed correspondence to the Board from Mr. Dave Hammond, Chairman, Economic Development Commission (EDC), who was in attendance, that outlined the objective of the EDC and the reason for the transfer. Director Sullivan explained that at a previous Board of Finance meeting \$40,000 had been transferred into the Streetscape project line item, resulting in a total of \$160,000 of which the EDC is asking that \$20,000 be reprogrammed into this new project of a Riverwalk Bulkhead. Chairman O'Brien added that he had received an email from the First Selectman on the Streetscape subject stating that the tree wardens did not want to move forward with the proposed tree removal as previously discussed and budgeted for, but use size appropriate trees resulting in a cost savings to the Town. The First Selectman felt confident that this savings would permit the \$20,000 being repurposed for the Riverwalk project.

Mr. Hammond explained that the EDC proposes to connect the stretch between Route 1 and Donahue Park, along the Pawcatuck River, enhancing public access to the Park and making it more accessible. Mr. Hammond informed the Board that he will be advertising a community meeting to be held next week to solicit input for creating a vision for the downtown area. The Docko, Inc. proposal is the first step towards permitting the project with CT Dept of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) and The Army Corps of Engineers (ACoE) for a public access Riverwalk. Mr. Hammond stated that this proposal will provide the EDC with a cost estimate of the projected work.

Ms. Young inquired about the funding of the project as a whole and asked if the Town is unable to fund the project immediately and chooses to fund it over several years or not at all, would the expenditure for surveying and permitting proposed now, be money well spent. It was Mr. Hammond's opinion that the analysis would assist in the ability to obtain grant funding and having a solid estimate of the project cost will provide insight to the project as a whole.

Mr. Hammond stated that a citizens committee has been put together to research grant opportunities and the committee will be looking at private donations as well. Mr. Hammond expects that only a portion of the expense will be shared by the Town, but added that most private funding entities prefer to see a public partnership while weighing their contributions. It was agreed that Mr. Hammond will come before the board once Docko has provided their report. The line item transfer voting was unanimous. **Motion carried.**

### Additional Appropriations

Ms. Young motioned to approve an additional appropriation of \$7,095 for Human Services HVAC project. Mr. Fauerbach seconded. This HVAC project of replacing the boilers was completed in October. This additional appropriation is required as a firm cost was not provided in the early stages of the repair and these funds pay the work already completed. Voting was unanimous. **Motion carried.**

Chairman O'Brien took a moment to go over the process of additional appropriations with the new members on the Board and explained there is .5% of the annual budget available for additional appropriations before it is required to go to a Town Meeting.

**BOE Monthly Line Item Transfer Review:** Discussion regarding the global reporting of the Board of Education took place with Mr. Farouk Rajab, Board of Ed member in attendance.

Mr. Fauerbach informed the Board that he had conversations with some of the members on the Board of Education regarding the challenges the Board of Finance faces in understanding the Board of Ed line item transfers and global reporting. The Board of Finance, while recognizing they do not have line item authority, would like to increase the dialogue and have more transparency between the two Boards. Mr. Fauerbach expressed his appreciation of Mr. Rajab and Mr. Jack Moorehouse's receptiveness to this idea.

The Board of Finance and Mr. Rajab discussed options of how to proceed forward and how to better open the lines of communication between the Boards. Ultimately the Board of Finance would like BOE Administrators, who are responsible for the line item transfers come before the Board of Finance and have an open dialogue. Chairman O'Brien added that he had a meeting with the First Selectman and the Board of Ed Chair, who was very receptive to fostering this dialogue and very receptive to opening up communication.

Both Chairman O'Brien and Ms. Young had questions about the BOE global reporting regarding encumbrance's and how those figures are presented and why they fluctuated so much within the budget. Mr. Rajab suggested directing specific questions directly to him to help him better understand the specific concern at hand and to enable him to address it quickly and correctly. Mr. Fauerbach stated he had already noted some questions from previous transfers and would put together a list of those, and other Board member questions for Mr. Rajab and Mr. Gary Shettle.

The Board thanked Mr. Rajab for his time and looked forward to communicating and working with him further to address concerns and questions and open up a direct dialog with the Board of Education.

**Budget Hearing Dates:** The Board discussed the presented budget hearing dates as noted on the distributed memorandum dated. After a brief discussion and a couple of changes, the Board agreed on the scheduled dates. A revised schedule will be emailed to the members.

**Stonington Middle School Roof Replacement:** The budget and funding for Stonington Middle School roof replacement was discussed by the Board members during the line item transfer request to fund the project. No further discussion.

**Police "A" Day Accrual Liability:** Potential liability for Stonington Police Officers "A Day" accrual was discussed. Finance Director Jim Sullivan informed the Board that an "A Day" was a compensated paid day off that an Officer can accrue for not taking sick time. An Officer accrues one and 1/2 "A Days" each quarter the Officer does not use any sick time and a new provision in the current contract allows for "A Days" to be paid out. Previously "A Days" were accrued and available to use in the future as paid time off. Under the current contract, Officers can request to be

paid out for any "A Day" accrued.

Director Sullivan noted that the liability for payout as of 12/31/2019 is \$222,228.61 of which \$35,630.27 was requested for a January 2020 payout. Ms. Young inquired if this liability was in the Police Department budget and Director Sullivan stated that he has a \$1.00 placeholder in the upcoming budget. The \$35,630 of requested compensation payout will be paid out of a fund reserved for compensated absences. Going forward, Director Sullivan stated the Police budget should account for the amount the Officers are accruing each year as an expense. If it does not get paid out, the money will be placed into reserve.

The consensus from the members of the Board was that, at a minimum, the full liability should be funded in the upcoming budget as well as any liability incurred in the coming year.

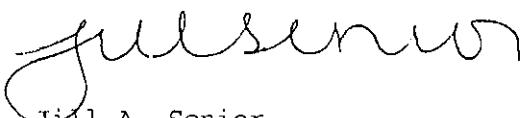
**Correspondence:** Director of Assessment, Marsha Standish provided the Board of Finance with a memorandum dated December 5, 2019 noting the 2018 Supplemental Motor Vehicle totals. Chairman O'Brien noted that he had received an email from Director Standish showing the percent of grand list for the fire districts and tax and mill rates. He will forward the email to the other members. There was no discussion.

**Liaison Reports:**

**BOE Report:** Chairman O'Brien notified the Board that he had received an email from Board of Ed Chairwoman, Alexa Garvey, formally inviting the Board of Finance members to attend their budget deliberation hearings. BOF members will be allowed to ask questions and have an interactive discussion during the debates in an effort for the Board of Ed to be more transparent and collaborative with the Board of Finance. The first meeting is January 9<sup>th</sup> and Ms. Young will attend the meeting. Chairman O'Brien noted any more than one BOF member present at the meeting will need to be recorded as a special meeting and called to order at the same time as the BOE meeting.

With no further business Mr. Fauerbach made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 p.m, Mr. Statchen seconded. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,



Jill A. Senior  
Recording Secretary