

# TOWN OF STONINGTON

## BOARD OF FINANCE

### SPECIAL MEETING

District Office Meeting Room

Thursday, February 20, 2020

7:15 PM

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance

#### Human Services Budget Presentation:

Ms. Leanne Theodore, Director of Human Services was first to address the Board and thanked the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen for the continued support of the Human Services Department.

Director Theodore provided handouts to the board members, an Outside Agency Request for Funding Summary and a Human Services Budget Presentation packet.

#### Recreation Budget:

The most notable increase in the Recreation Department's budget is the department's request for the addition of a Full Time Program Coordinator who will work to develop new, and oversee existing, recreation and enrichment programs. Current staffing levels do not support the demand for programs and services. Currently only the one Program Coordinator is managing the COMO Recreational Basketball League and the Flag Football League, which have a combined enrollment of over 500 youths.

Director Theodore pointed out that since 2014, the Recreation department has had a 121% growth in program revenue. Director Theodore also noted that because of this growth in revenue, the Recreation Department has been able to fund infrastructure upgrades at no cost to taxpayers. The replacement of the Stonington Borough Playground and new security camera's at Spellman Park are just a couple of the upgrades the department was able to complete. Ms. Theodore added the addition of the requested Full Time Program Coordinator position, and increased availability of gym space at the District Office previously not available, should allow further development of revenue generating programs.

Office of Human Services:

Minimal increases to the Office of Human Services budget are noted as an increase in postage, to support the Events Magazine mailing, and an increase in furniture and equipment to replace a security window at the facility.

Commission on Aging:

An increase in the Commission on Aging program expense line is reflective of the joint effort of the Human Service Department and the Police Department to implement a safety program for residents in the community that have a cognitive impairment. This voluntary registry system will enable law enforcement and Human Services to obtain critical information, prior to an actual emergency, that would assist in response to calls for service involving an individual with Alzheimer's or dementia. This information proves especially valuable when police are called to locate a wandering individual.

Director Theodore yielded the floor to the Outside Agencies, stating that the Human Services department is grateful for the strong network of non-profit organizations within the community who they work collaboratively with to create new programs or enhance existing programs.

Outside Agencies and Libraries Budget Presentations:

Westerly Public Library:

Brigitte Hopkins - Executive Director

Bill Lancelotta - Assistant Director

- Requesting \$118,000
- 3,419 (23% of total) Stonington cardholders
- Funding would assist with community resources, educational and entertaining programs, outreach programs and an increase hours.

Stonington Free Library:

Micayla Hall - Assistant Director

Denise Eastern - Board of Trustees Co-President

- Requesting \$212,000
- 3,103 (89% of total) Stonington cardholders
- Funding would support an increase in hours, general services, and Adult/Children programs.

Mystic & Noank Library:

Karen Wall - Director

Sarah Lathrop - Finance Chair

- Requesting \$111,500
- 1,498 (40% of total) Stonington cardholders
- Funding would assist in increased programs and services to the community and provide a building maintenance fund.

Stonington Historical Society:

Amy Newell - Executive Director

- Requesting \$5,000
- Funding will support the Stonington Public Schools Outreach Services, maintain and preserve the genealogy resources and expand and diversify programs and collections.

The Chorus of Westerly: Summer Pops Program

- Requesting \$2,000
- Funding will support the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Pops

Visiting Nurse Association of Southeastern CT:

Mary Lenzini - Chief Executive Officer

- Requesting \$20,000
- Provides health care services for acute or chronically ill patients after a hospital stay and provides a monthly wellness clinic at the PNC.
- Funding will support wellness clinics and home health care/wellness visits to senior citizens and others.

Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center:

Susan Sedensky - Executive Director

- Requesting \$200,000
- PNC garden harvested 2000 lbs of fresh produce and the senior citizen transportation program provided over 10,036 rides. Programs include, Wellness clinics, senior programs, baby wellness programs and a thrift store.
- Funding will provide continued support to basic needs programs, senior programs and activities, senior transportation and neighborhood services.

Stonington Community Center:

Eric Garofano - Board of Directors, President

Kathy Adami - Advancement Director

- Requesting \$82,500
- 1700 COMO memberships, 3600 participants enrolled in youth programs. Financial aid is available for programs, child care and scholarships.
- Funding will support community partnerships and enrichment programs and expand youth programming.

Always Home:

Betty Smith - Executive Director

- Requesting \$6,000
- Last year provided support to 252 homeless or at-risk families. The agency deals exclusively with families with minor children.
- Assists the working poor, implemented the Wheels to Work Program, resolving emergency transportation issues,

provides assistance with rent, security deposits and past due utilities.

- Funding will support homelessness prevention and shelter diversion.

Warm Center:

Russ Partridge - Executive Director

- Requesting \$6,000
- Provided food, shelter, clothing and other basic needs to over 3,300 individuals last year.
- The Soup Kitchen provides lunch and dinner 7 days per week, about 35,000 meals last year.
- Funding will support emergency shelter, Attire-for-Hire, Anita's Kitchen, and community critical needs.

PACE RI: (Adult Day Care of Westerly)

Tom Boucher - Chief of Marketing & Development

Jennifer Young - Day Center Manager

- Requesting \$10,000
- A non-profit elderly day care center focusing on the medical needs of clients.
- Allows a safe and monitored environment for the individual, providing care while the family members work. Omits the need for full time nursing home care.
- Funding will support subsidized care for residents living with dementia.

Community Vocational Services: (Olean Center)

- Requesting \$4,000
- Funding will support providing residents with developmental disabilities with supported employment, day program services, residential homes and individual day support.

TVCCA: (Thames Valley Council for Community Action)

Eugene Theroux - Director of Nutritional Services

- Requesting \$8,000
- Meals on Wheels served 10,542 meals last year in Town to homebound residents. 15 volunteers individually donate over 250 hours annually.
- Other social services include energy assistance, WIC, Wellness checks and socialization.
- Funding will further support the Meals on Wheels program.

Stonington Prevention Council:

Kristen King - Dept of Youth & Family Services Administrator on behalf of the Council

- Requesting \$1,000
- Funding will support educational materials and information to increase community knowledge and focus on establishing a safer community with regards to mental health awareness, prescription drug, heroin, vaping, and alcohol abuse.
- Funding will further support the public service announcements such as billboards along Route 1 in Stonington and before movie previews at the Stonington Regal Cinema.

New London Homeless Hospitality Center :

Catherine Zall - Executive Director

- Requesting \$2,700
- Assistance to area residents with securing shelter, treatment programs and mental health programs.
- Daytime hospitality center provides support to individuals to help rebuild their lives to become self-sufficient.
- Funding will support emergency shelter needs.

Safe Futures:

Katherine Verano - Executive Director

- Requesting \$4,000
- Safe Futures saves lives, restores hope and changes the future for those impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and trafficking in southeastern Connecticut.
- 24 Hr. hotlines and Lethality Assessment Program with the Stonington Police Department
- Provides law enforcement council training and recertification for all police in southeastern Connecticut.

Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Eastern CT :

- Requesting \$1,000
- Funding will support victim services

Stonington Cemetery:

Lynn Callahan - Board of Directors, President

Ann Freeman - Board of Directors, Vice President

- Requesting \$3,000
- Cemetery is on the National Register of Historic Places
- Revenue is from the sale of plots and burial services
- Much of the Grounds maintenance, financial management, record keeping and public relations are performed by

volunteers. Paid contractors are responsible for grounds maintenance, tree removal and trimming, snow plowing and burial services.

- Funding will assist with grounds maintenance expenses

Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center :

Davnet Schaffer, Executive Director

- Requesting \$5,000
- Manages a 500-acre greenway in Mystic that is open to the public; donates food grown in the Giving Garden to the Gemma-Moran Program.
- Last year rescued and rehabilitated over 287 animals.
- Funding will continue to support the Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation.

Ocean Community Chamber Foundation:

- Requesting \$2,000
- Funding will support beautification of Pawcatuck, the River Glow Event and seasonal banners for Town use.

Stanton Davis Homestead Museum:

- Requesting \$5,000
- Goal is to restore the 1720 homestead, bring back artifacts associated with the house and open as a museum.
- Fundraising and grants are in the works.
- Funding will support the effort to make the homestead into a viable attraction for the area.

Stonington Volunteer Ambulance Corp :

Nishant Sahoo - Vice President

- Requesting \$40,000
- 1 PT Paid staff, 26 Volunteers.
- Billing write offs and reimbursements continue to be a challenge
- Service calls remain steady to slightly higher
- Funding will support upgrading T200 ambulance and stretchers as well as adding a PowerLoad device.

Mystic River Ambulance:

John Wilson - Member, Board of Directors

Samantha Wilson - EMT

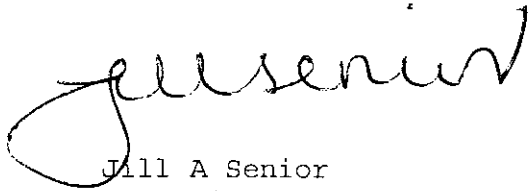
- Requesting \$38,500
- Increases in service calls at Masonicare and StoneRidge.
- Concerns with reimbursement from Medicare/Medicaid shortfalls.
- Funding will support the department

Westerly Ambulance Corp:

- Requesting \$42,500
- Had 7,200 calls last year, 1,151 to Pawcatuck.
- Working with Stonington Human Services in a Community Care Program to effectively reduce repeat customers.
- Funding will support the department.

With no further business, Mike Fauerbach made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:49 p.m., Lynn Young seconded. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jill A Senior". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Jill A Senior  
Recording Secretary  
Board of Finance