

**TOWN OF STONINGTON**  
**BOARD OF FINANCE MEETING**  
**Virtual Meeting/Stonington Police Dept Meeting Room**  
**Wednesday, April 7, 2021**  
**7:15 PM**

The Stonington Board of Finance held a virtual/hybrid meeting on this date at 7:15 p.m. The meeting was also streamed on Facebook live and was available via audio on a conference line. Chairman Tim O'Brien, Mr. Glen Frishman and Mr. David Motherway were present at the Police Dept meeting room. Mr. Michael Fauerbach, Ms. Deb Norman and Mr. Bob Statchen were present remotely. Ms. Lynn Young was absent.

Finance Director Jim Sullivan was present remotely. Chairman O'Brien called the meeting to order at 7:18 p.m.

Public Comments: Mr. Jason Cerniglia, Owner of the Coastal Wealth Management, 56 Williams Avenue, Mystic property called in noting he had submitted information to the First Selectman regarding the flooding and drainage issues at the property. Mr. Cerniglia strongly supports the reallocation of dollars to assist in mitigating water from multiple residential properties on all sides of the building that are causing damage, as well as water from the Town and State.

Previous Minutes: Mr. Frishman motioned to approve the minutes provided to the members via email. Due to the size of the file, two members did not receive the files and it was decided to table the minutes as presented. Mr. Frishman withdrew his motion to approve and the minutes were tabled.

**New Business**

**Annual Suspense Listing:**

Finance Director Jim Sullivan noted the suspense listing shows taxpayers who have been deemed as uncollectible and the current year total real estate, motor vehicle and personal property deemed uncollectible is \$79,358.06. Mr. Sullivan stated these will remain on the taxpayer rolls for 15 years but not appear as taxes receivable in the fiscal report. A motion was made by Mr. Fauerbach, seconded by Mr. Frishman and voted unanimously to approve the current year suspense listing of \$79,358.06.

Additional appropriations: A review of year to date additional appropriations from fund balance remained unchanged from last meeting.

**Line Item Transfers:**

- ☐ Request from Director of Finance to transfer \$18,500 from Tech & Professional line item #10131-80115 to Equipment & Software support #10131-80192 for implementation of g/l software to AP platform.

Finance Director Sullivan stated the move would support the department's general ledger software, moving it from the town's servers to the service provider on the cloud. The move is necessary to upgrade the application in the future. A motion was made by Mr. Motherway, seconded by Mr. Frishman and voted unanimously to approved the transfer \$18,500 from Tech & Professional to Equipment and Software Support. Motion carried.

- Request from Director of Public Works to transfer \$93,000 of available WPCA CIP project funds in #4022021-88325 "WPCA Pump Station Rehab" to Drainage - Town Wide CIP account to address three specific drainage issues in Town.

Finance Director Jim Sullivan informed the Board that the request amount had increased to \$153,000 based on discussion with the First Selectman, Public Works Director Barbara McKrell, Town Engineer Chris Greenlaw and Chairman Tim O'Brien. The increased amount also takes into consideration three additional drainage projects.

Mr. Greenlaw reviewed a list of drainage projects that was submitted to the Board that require funding to support solutions. Mr. Greenlaw informed the Board of the three drainage projects, Lambert Road, estimated between \$9 -\$15,000 to address ponding issues, Taugwonk Road, Phase I, estimated at \$13,000 to enhance the insufficient drainage infrastructure and Williams/Allen Street estimated at \$65,000. Mr. Greenlaw spoke in more detail on the Williams Street ponding and flooding concerns, noting many residents have voiced concern in addition to the owners of the new commercial building on the corner. The Williams/Allen Street location is a highly developed area with no drainage infrastructure within the right-of-way. Mr. Greenlaw notes some residential lots in that area have collectively acted as a sink topographically pre-development. Now ponding or flooding in the rear portion of 7 Allen wasn't recognized until the commercial development of the 54-56 Williams lot was completed. The commercial development added approved design and plans to mitigate their respective on site stormwater, unfortunately, runoff was not observed until the Williams site was nearly completed. Mr. Greenlaw stated it was important to note that pre-construction water collected on the properties. It wasn't until after construction that this was noticed, frustrating for the business owners and area residents.

A motion was made by Mr. Motherway, seconded by Mr. Frishman to approve the transfer of \$93,000 from WPCA CIP #4022021-88325 to Drainage - Town Wide CIP account to address three specific drainage issues in Town. All were in favor. Motion carried.

- Mr. Frishman motioned to amend the agenda to support DPW request of additional drainage funding, Mr. Motherway seconded, all were in favor, Motion carried.
- Mr. Fauerbach motioned to approve additional funding for DPW projects, Ms. Norman seconded.

\$40,000	62 Rivercrest Drive - Cross Culvert
\$15,000	41 Somerset Drive - Catch Basin Reconstruction
\$ 5,000	26 Quanaduck Road - Permitting for concrete pipe outlet cleaning

All members were in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Statchen inquired what the balance of the WPCA CIP fund was after this transfer. Director Sullivan noted a beginning balance of \$412,000 less the \$158,000 in requests nets \$254,000.

**Bid Waiver Requests:**

- ☐ Request from Director of Public Works for six bid waivers for the procurement of various services and supplies per list provided to Board members.

Public Works Director Barbara McKrell stated the department is in the process of planning annual maintenance and paving work for the 2021 construction season. As a part of the planning, Director McKrell requests to take advantage of the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) contracts and State contracts as follows:

Catch Basin Cleaning	Shaw Vac Services LLC	CRCOG 697	2 yr contract
Traffic Guidelines	Atlantic Pavement Markings	CRCOG 713	New
Guide Rail Inst/Rem	Atlas Industrial Services	CT18PSX0147	5 yr contract
Bituminous Materials	JH Lynch/Wescon Corp	CT19PSX0261	Contract Ext
Bituminous Milling	Black & Boucher LLC	CT18PSX0309	Contract Ext
Chip Seal Service	The Gorman Group	CT18PSX0327	4 yr contract

A motion was made by Mr. Statchen, seconded by Mr. Fauerbach and voted unanimously to approve the bid waiver requests. Motion carried.

- ☐ Request from Director of Public Works for approval of a bid waiver for the Lantern Hill Bridge Structural Interim Repairs.

Director McKrell noted that the bridge currently serves the community at a reduced structural capacity coupled with recommendation for closure if repairs are not realized by July 2021. The Bridge was identified for Structural Interim Repairs with funding allocated at the January 2020 Board of Finance meeting. An MOU has been established with the Town of Ledyard in a cooperative effort to expedite the interim repairs. The bid waiver would effectively allow the solicitation of contractors late April, with award and construction commencing early June. The construction schedule is anticipated for 2-3 weeks, meeting the July 2021 deadline.

Mr. Fauerbach asked if Ledyard was completely on board with the consultant soliciting the bids and the timeline process, Mr. Greenlaw stated they were, and also noted that Ledyard would prefer to see the bridge replaced.

Mr. Statchen asked if the contractor who has been approved by the State contracting process. Mr. Greenlaw responded that the consultant, WMC Engineers, were the original designers of the bridge and they have great experience dealing as liaison to the State and working with contractors.

Chairman O'Brien stated what he felt Mr. Statchen and Mr. Fauerbach were alluding to, and he himself was not comfortable with, was a blanket bid waiver without any

knowledge of the contractor or cost. Mr. Frishman concurred, stating he would like to have a special meeting called, upon notice, to discuss the details.

Director McKrell stated it was the intention to obtain the Board's approval of a bid waiver for the project. The Director agreed that when the bids are returned, a special meeting will be requested with the Board of Finance for review and approval.

Polling the other board members, Chairman O'Brien stated it was the consensus of the Board that a special meeting will be called when Director McKrell has the bids in, that the meeting will be held expeditiously, without needing to wait for a regularly scheduled meeting, and the Board would then support a bid waiver.

Mr. Fauerbach suggested the Board withdraw the motion to approve the bid waiver as it was more a process approval. Mr. Statchen withdrew his initial motion to approve. No further action was taken.

- ☐ Request from Director of Finance to approve O'Connor & Davies audit firm for FY20/21 financial statement audit.

Director of Finance Jim Sullivan informed the board that he is seeking formal approval to secure the firm to complete the FY20/21 audit. The firm was previously guaranteed 2 years with the possibility of 5 years. Director Sullivan noted this is O'Connor & Davies 5<sup>th</sup> year. The Director noted the recent change in staff in the Finance Department and felt he gained continuity with having the same auditing firm. The firms fee is \$74,050, up slightly due to additional reporting requirements for the Board of Education.

A motion was made by Mr. Frishman, seconded by Mr. Motherway and voted unanimously to approve O'Connor & Davies as auditing firm for the FY20/21. Motion carried.

**Correspondence:**

Chairman O'Brien acknowledged that the Board had received input from emails from Keith Tomlison, Steven Lee and Thomas Taber along with photos from Alex Mariani regarding the town drainage issues which were addressed earlier and approved for allocation of funds.

**Liaison Reports:**     None

Having no other business, Mr. Frishman motioned to adjourn, Mr. Motherway seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned 8:35PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill A Senior  
Recording Secretary Board of Finance