

TOWN OF STONINGTON

152 Elm Street • Stonington, Connecticut 06378

BOARD OF FINANCE

LIBRARY SUBCOMMITTEE

SPECIAL MEETING

TOWN HALL 1ST FLOOR MEETING ROOM

4:00 PM Wednesday, June 26, 2019

Board of Finance Members in attendance: Lynn Young, Danielle Chesebrough and June Strunk
Members of the Public: Mystic and Noank Library: Karen Wall; Stonington Free Library:
Allegra Griffiths, Denise Easton, and Micayla Hall; Westerly Public Library: Brigitte Hopkins,
Bill Lancellotta and Rob Holland.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm.

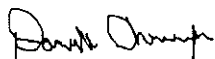
The meeting opened with Danielle Chesebrough noting that the Board wanted to address concerns and answer questions about the 2019 budget process. Board members shared that the goal for the library sub-committee was- and is- to find a way to address the sustainability of libraries in our community broadly. The concept of the funding formula was put forward in an attempt to find a fair and transparent process to address the funding challenges the SFL is facing, while balancing additional concerns from member of the BoF to limit spending. However, the Board also wanted to acknowledge the understandable concern and even frustration from how communication on potential funding changes were taken forward. The floor was opened for questions and feedback in regard to the past budget process. Key points shared included ensuring that the libraries be included in establishing a funding formula and also that the core issue of the sustainability of libraries more broadly not be lost in the process. All libraries agreed that funding was a challenge and any changes could critically impact the services they could offer.

The group went on to discuss potential proposals for the 2020 budget. The objective was shared that the sub-committee could report back to the rest of the BoF key areas of consensus and shared input by the October BoF meeting.

Next Steps were identified with a focus on having at least two more meetings to see if a funding formula could be agreed upon and to address the key points that should be shared with the full BoF.

Upon motion duly made and seconded the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm

Respectfully submitted



Acting Secretary