

TOWN OF STONINGTON

BOARD OF FINANCE

Stonington Police Department Meeting Room

Wednesday, August 4, 2021

7:15 PM

A meeting of the Board of Finance was held on this date at the Stonington Police Department Meeting Room. Members present were Chairman Tim O'Brien, Glenn Frishman, Lynn Young, Michael Fauerbach, and David Motherway Jr. Bob Statchen was absent.

Chairman O'Brien called the meeting to order at 7:21 pm

Public Comments: None

Previous Minutes: Mr. Frishman motioned to approve the June 2nd draft minutes; Ms. Young seconded. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

New Business

Additional appropriations:

Review of year-to-date additional appropriations from fund balance for fiscal 20/2 reflected no change from last meeting

There were no recorded additional appropriations from fund balance for fiscal 21/22

Line-Item Transfers:

Request from Director of Finance to transfer funds from line items and department surplus to line items in deficit for fiscal 20/21 year end. Director Jim Sullivan provided a schedule to the members for the details. Mr. Motherway motioned to approve the transfers; Mr. Fauerbach seconded. Director Sullivan, attending through conference line, noted that the transfers were to replenish lagging accounts within a departments budget, however a few were recovered from other departments. Director Sullivan pointed out salary transfers that were completed to realign how the accounts were broken out in the budget and payouts to cover overages for vacated positions where vacation pay out was provided. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

Director of Public Works requests transfer of \$20,000 from WPCA CIP Project "Treatment Facility" #4022021-88325 to Highway Dept Sewer Pump Station #4022022-XXXXX to replace two pumps. Mr. Frishman motioned to approve the transfer; Ms. Norman seconded. Director Barbara McKrell informed the board members that the wastewater collection system at the Highway Garage is collected in a wet well. The wet well contains 2 pumps that pump the wastewater up to the Town Hall where it is then gravity fed out to the road where there is a wastewater collection system on Elm Street.

On July 12th, an alarm went off showing one of the pumps had turned off. Upon inspection it was determined that these original pumps, both installed in 1996,

had indeed both failed. By connecting a sump pump, approximately ¾ of the collection system was pumped out and the department is minimizing the use of the facilities.

Director McKrell also stated that in addition to the pumps failing, the bracing that attaches the bars the pumps move up and down is failing. The Director does not have a specific estimate from a contractor but acknowledged that a replacement pump would have a one month lead time and an estimated cost of \$4,553 plus labor. Additionally, a complete clean out of the collection system would be required. Director McKrell suggested completing one pump replacement at a time with a project cost of approximately \$20,000.

Mr. Motherway inquired should the lead time of the equipment be longer than anticipated would the department have funding available to cover continual pump outs of the sump until the equipment is installed. Director McKrell felt that during the summer they can limit the amount of pumping required but come winter when the trucks and equipment are washed, more frequent pumping would be required.

Mr. Frishman asked Director McKrell if she intended on ordering both pumps at the same time due to the lead time. Director McKrell stated that was her intention.

Ms. Young encouraged Director McKrell to install one pump at a time as installing and fitting the pump on the rail system can be tricky especially when installing a new pump that is configured differently. Ms. Young suggested discussing the project with WPCA Director Doug Nettleton.

Chairman O'Brien asked the board members if they wanted to approve the \$20,000 or if the board wants the project to be completed but would like more information on the costs. Mr. Motherway asked Director McKrell if she required the money upfront to get the pumps on order and she said she did not.

Chairman O'Brien stated that based on the boards discussion, it would be the boards opinion that if Director McKrell could complete the project within the department budget for now, she could then come before the board, and the board in full support of the project, would approve the transfers.

Mr. Frishman withdrew the motion to approve the transfer, Ms. Norman seconded.

Request from Director of Public Works to transfer \$88,162 from WPCA CIP Project "Treatment Facility" #4022021-88325 to Town Hall Roof Project #4022021-88344. Director McKrell stated the Town had received bids in late June for the replacement of the roof of the Town Hall and Human Services building. The bids were higher than estimated and a discussion with the low bidder identified a few factors that were COVID related and the bidding climate. Director McKrell pointed out that the material cost and availability continue to fluctuate and the lead abatement estimates were very difficult to obtain along with the subcontractor quotes being high.

Mr. Fauerbach motioned to approve the transfer; Ms. Young seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Bid Waivers:

Request from Stonington Police Department to purchase Mobile Data Terminals from Glacier Computer for \$40,146.21 Ms. Young motioned to approve the request; Mr. Frishman seconded. Lieutenant Bryan Schneider informed the board that this request is part of the necessary upgrades required to support the upcoming body cam and camera system for the Police Department. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

Discussion:

First Selectman Danielle Chesebrough discussed the \$5.23 million ARPA Grant funding and possible uses. Stating that this was just an informal conversation outlining the 24 items chosen for funding, Selectman Chesebrough asked the board to include a request for a formal presentation on their September agenda to review and discuss each of the items presented for consideration adding that she would like to follow a condensed budget process as the approach for granting the funds.

Chairman O'Brien added that through the recommendation of the Town Attorney it was decided that following the budget process for allocating the CIP money made the most sense, providing public input and oversight by the Board of Finance and Selectman's Office. The Chairman asked the Selectman to invite all those requesting this money come and do a brief presentation where questions could be asked and answered. Later in the month a public hearing followed by deliberations would take place, much like the budget process. In October, a town meeting would be held. Chairman O'Brien noted the transparency and collaborative effort with all involved.

Correspondence: Mr. Fauerbach mentioned he had received an email from Tax Collector Linda Camelio that as of July 22nd, the collection rate was essentially 100%, an incredible accomplishment. The board agreed the figures were impressive given the present circumstances.

Liaison Reports:

Chairman O'Brien as Liaison for the Board of Finance for the Boathouse Committee, expressed his congratulations to Selectwoman Deb Downey and everyone who worked on the grant application for the Brownfield. The Town received the grant, a huge win for the Town and the project is running again.

With no further business, Mr. Frishman motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Mr. Motherway seconded. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Jill A Senior
Board of Finance Recording Secretary