

**TOWN OF STONINGTON**  
**BOARD OF FINANCE SPECIAL MEETING**  
**Virtual Meeting**  
**Wednesday, October 7, 2020**  
**4:00 PM**

The Stonington Board of Finance held a special virtual meeting on this date at 4:00 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, Ms. Lynn Young, Ms. Deb Norman, Mr. Bob Statchen, and Mr. Michael Fauerbach were remotely in attendance. Mr. David Motherway Jr was absent. Finance Director Jim Sullivan was present. Chairman O'Brien called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

Comments from the Public: Chairman O'Brien noted that the Board had received a letter on September 23<sup>rd</sup> from Miss Tracy Swain sharing concerns with both the Board of Finance and Board of Ed activities relating to the Chokas investigation. A copy of the letter will be attached to the minutes to be referenced.

Previous Minutes:

A motion was made by Mr. Fauerbach and seconded by Mr. Frishman to approve the minutes dated September 23, 2020. Noting a correction, All were in favor and the motion carried.

New Business:

Chairman O'Brien noted that the Meeting Schedule for 2021 needed to be set and submitted to the Town Clerk. Chairman O'Brien suggested to the Board members that he would like to keep the normal meeting hours of the first Wednesday of each month at 7:15pm at the Stonington Police Department meeting room but noted that should virtual meetings be a requirement due to Covid concerns, the virtual meetings could take place on the same schedule with a 4:00pm start time.

Additional Appropriations:

A review of year to date additional appropriations from fund balance for FY19/20 show no changes from last meeting.

A review of year to date additional appropriations from fund balance for FY20/21 Shows the \$40,000 allocated for the HVAC upgrades.

Discussion of draft MOU with the Board of Education to establish a "BOE Non-lapsing Account" for fiscal year 19/20 BOE line item surplus

Chairman O'Brien acknowledged that Finance Director Jim Sullivan and Town Attorney Londregan worked diligently putting the MOU together. Chairman O'Brien stated he had a discussion with the Chairman of the Board of Ed, who has informed Chairman O'Brien that he does not anticipate needing money before January 1<sup>st</sup>, therefore the MOU will not need to be put in place. After January 1<sup>st</sup>, the Board

of Finance will be able to do a line item transfer within the budget. Director Sullivan noted that WPCA projects will be funded with bond money, leaving available funds in the WPCA CIP fund.

Ms. Young inquired to Director Sullivan if the Board of Ed still anticipates returning \$470,000 of surplus funds. Director Sullivan stated that based on his conversations with BOE Chairman Gary Shettle, the figure is more like \$596,000.

Mr. Frishman expressed concern of transparency should the Board of Ed request funds after January 1<sup>st</sup> and would the Board of Finance be able to use their discretion regarding those requests. Director Sullivan noted that the Board of Ed would come before the Board of Finance to specifically request funds and at that time the Board of Finance would decide whether to take those funds from the WPCA CIP account.

Chairman O'Brien stated at this point there is no action required by the Board of Finance on the MOU, which was to provide emergency funding prior to January 1<sup>st</sup>. Since the Chairman of the Board of Ed has relayed to Chairman O'Brien that he does not anticipate requiring funds prior to that date, any requests from the Board of Ed would be discussed by the Board of Finance and funded through a line item transfer.

#### Board of Education Cares Act Grant Receipt

Finance Director Jim Sullivan notified the Board of Finance that the Board of Education has been awarded \$280,000 of federal funding thru the Cares Act for unanticipated expenditures due to the COVID-19 crisis. The money is directly accessible and accounted for by the Board of Ed and with the availability of that funding the Board of Ed may not need to come back to the Town for additional appropriation.

#### Correspondence:

Chairman O'Brien noted the correspondence mentioned during comments from the public and brought attention to the verbiage noted on the agenda that correspondence received as a public comment needs to be received by hard copy or email to the Stonington Department of Finance no later than 2pm on the day of the meeting.

#### Liaison Reports:

WPCA - Ms. Young reports that the WPCA is anticipating that by the Spring 2021 the diversion project will get going to help both the Borough plant and lift the moratorium in Mystic.

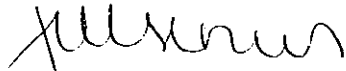
BOE - Mr. Frishman reports that he has meet with Board of Education Chair Frank Todisco and discussed actions that are being taken to address many of the current issues. Mr. Frishman will also be having a conversation with Mr. Pete Anderson, Director of Operations and Facilities regarding the changeover of the Gym lights to LED. Mr. Frishman will share the outcome of that discussion at the next meeting.

GENERAL GOV'T - Mr. Fauerbach reports that Tax Collector Linda Camelio has closed Quarter One on collections and the trend continues to be positive. Collections were up \$929,436 compared to the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of last year.

With no further business, Ms. Young motioned to adjourn, Mr. Frishman seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jill A Senior  
Recording Secretary Board of Finance