

TOWN OF STONINGTON
BOARD OF FINANCE MEETING
Stonington Police Department Meeting Room
Hybrid Meeting with Remote Attendance/In Person for Board Members Only
Wednesday, November 4, 2020
7:15 PM

The Stonington Board of Finance held a virtual/in person meeting on this date at 7:15 p.m. The in person meeting accommodated board members only and those members not wishing to attend in person had the opportunity to connect remotely. 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 attended in person adhering to all social distancing rules including mask wearing. Ms. Lynn Young, Ms. Deb Norman, Mr. Bob Statchen, and Mr. Michael Fauerbach attended remotely. Finance Director Jim Sullivan was present remotely. Chairman O'Brien called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

Comments from the Public: Chairman O'Brien instructed any public viewing the meeting via WebEx and wishing to make a comment to please raise their hand. Those listening by phone were instructed to press star three. No comments from the public were heard.

Previous Minutes:

A motion was made by Mr. Frishman and seconded by Ms. Norman to approve the minutes dated October 7, 2020. Mr. Fauerbach asked to differ the request and Mr. Frishman withdrew the motion. Mr. Fauerbach motioned to table the minutes. Ms. Young seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried and the minutes were tabled.

New Business:

Additional Appropriations:

A review of year to date additional appropriations from fund balance for FY20/21 shows \$40,000 allocated for the HVAC upgrades and \$317,741 available for additional appropriations before a Town Meeting would be required. This remains unchanged from last month.

Fiscal 19/20 Year-end Line Item Transfers:

Mr. Frishman motioned to approve the line item transfers outlined in the memo packet for FY19/20. Mr. Motherway seconded. Finance Director Jim Sullivan noted the transfers are to replenish department budgets that were overextended during the fiscal year. The total transfer request is \$7,023. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Review of 19/20 General Fund Operating Results:

Finance Director Jim Sullivan noted that FY19/20 expenditures exceeded revenues by \$667,000, but considering there is a budgeted use of fund balance of approximately \$3.2 million the results are very acceptable.

Ms. Young inquired if the FY19/20 expenditures included any of the funds required for the Stillman Avenue project; Director Sullivan noted that those funds were incorporated within the FY18/19 budget.

Mr. Frishman inquired of Director Sullivan the status of the expected COVID-19 aid. Director Sullivan stated that \$80,000 of a \$280,000 grant has been received by the Board of Education, the Town has not received a determination letter as of yet.

Mr. Statchen asked Director Sullivan how much aid the Town asked for in COVID-19 aid. Director Sullivan stated the Town has requested \$280,000 in aid, however, some of the aid is for Board of Ed expenditures that weren't submitted. The Town's portion of that request is approximately \$25,000. Mr. Statchen asked if additional costs are anticipated should there be another surge, and is the Town ready to submit requests through these programs a second time. Director Sullivan noted that the first submission covered March 1st through June 30th and there will be another submission covering July 1st till the end of December.

Review of Board of Education Monthly Line Item Transfers:

Director Sullivan spoke regarding the monthly global report for FY19/20 which showed a surplus of \$596,605 which additionally include two prior year encumbrances that were unused by the Board of Ed.

Discussion of Health Insurance MOU between Boards of Selectman, Education and Finance:

Chairman O'Brien noted that the MOU was worked on over a number of months between the Town and the Boards of Education and Finance, and gave credit to School Superintendent Dr. Van Riley, the new Board of Ed Chairman Frank Todisco, First Selectman Danielle Chesebrough as well as everyone who worked on the memorandum. Chairman O'Brien feels the Town feels confident of the agreement whereas there are commitments and a degree of flexibility, but will operate as a combined unit. The Chairman notes that this MOU establishes a desire to have a single actuarial assumption to follow, as well as an advisory committee to mediate any issue that may arise.

Mr. Frishman motioned to approve and endorse the Health Insurance MOU between the Boards of Selectman, Education and Finance. Mr. Motherway seconded. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

Correspondence: None

Liaison Reports:

CIP - Ms. Young reported that the CIP process is moving along well and the new Director of Administration, Patti Burmahl, has some new ideas about streamlining the CIP process, potentially making the budget cycle easier.

WPCA - Ms. Young noted the WPCA is reviewing a possible issue with the Mystic billing. The problem has been narrowed down to Mystic not being billed adequately for the influent coming into the system on a fairly large scale.

The WPCA is grateful for the bond money, as they now have the funds for repairs, maintenance and moving forward on the diversion project. Ms. Young noted the informal moratorium on development and hopefully diverting flow by late spring 2021 if required parts are available.

Board of Ed - Mr. Frishman will be having a meeting with Board of Ed Chairman Todisco in the coming days. Chairman O'Brien noted that he has spoken with Chairman Todisco regarding the cost of the pandemic. The Board of Ed is working diligently to mitigate costs, but there are many variables and the Board of Ed is keeping the Board of Finance as informed as possible.

Mr. Fauerbach asked if an additional bullet could be added to the usual three Liaison Reports listed (CIP, WPCA, BOE) to add a line Other Liaison Reports. The usual three are called out specifically because they tend to be important items that the Board wants to touch on, however, Mr. Fauerbach noted there are other departments, Police, Highway, Town, that may have noteworthy items the Board would like to discuss.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jill A Senior
Recording Secretary Board of Finance