

TOWN OF STONINGTON
BOARD OF FINANCE SPECIAL MEETING
Wednesday, May 6, 2021
4:00 PM

The Stonington Board of Finance held a 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, Mr. Michael Fauerbach, Ms. Deb Norman, Mr. Bob Statchen and Mr. David Motherway were in attendance. Ms. Lynn Young was absent. Finance Director Jim Sullivan was present. Chairman O'Brien called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

Comments from the Public: Chairman O'Brien instructed any public viewing the meeting via WebEx how to be noticed they wish to comment. Those listening by phone were instructed to press star three. No comments from the public were heard.

Previous Minutes: Mr. Fauerbach motioned to approve the April minutes, Ms. Norman seconded. Motion carried. All previous outstanding draft minutes were tabled.

New Business:

Additional appropriations:

Review of year-to-date additional appropriations from fund balance for fiscal year 20/21 saw no change from last meeting.

Request from Board of Selectman for an additional appropriation of \$37,398 from WPCA CIP line item 4022021-88325 to Pawcatuck Sidewalks CIP line 4022021-88278 for additional engineering and design work. Mr. Frishman motioned to approve the request; Mr. Statchen seconded.

Ms. Sue Cullen, Director of Economic and Community Development addressed the Board, noting that the \$37,398 requested is to continue the engineering and legal review of the ongoing project. Ms. Cullen acknowledged that the funds requested would be part of the \$600,000 grant, however those funds are not available until after July 1, 2021 and with the project ahead of schedule, funds are needed now to keep the project moving forward. This advancement of funding does not compromise the grant being received in full. Requesting an appropriation vs. a line-item transfer was discussed and the Board recommended that an appropriation would be the preferred method to provide the necessary funds. Mr. Frishman rescinded the motion. Ms. Norman seconded. Motion withdrawn.

Mr. Statchen motioned to set the mil rate for Fiscal Year 2021/2022 at 23.85 mils. Mr. Frishman seconded. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

Line-Item Transfers:

Ms. Norman motioned to approve a request from the First Selectman and the Chief of Police to transfer \$7,500 from Officers Salaries line item 10161-80045 to Human Services, Community Outreach Specialist, new account to be established, to hire a social worker for June of current fiscal year. Mr. Fauerbach seconded. First Selectman Chesebrough informed the Board members that the new position would start a month earlier than anticipated due to the high volume and increase in calls for both mental health and senior services. The salary money offered from the Chief is a result of retirees and positions being vacated within the department. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Frishman motioned to approve a request from the Director of Economic and Community Development to transfer \$37,398 from WPCA CIP #4022021-88325 to Pawcatuck Sidewalks CIP #402021-88278 for additional engineering and design work. Based on the earlier discussion all members were in favor. Motion carried.

Ms. Norman motioned to approve a request from the Director of Solid Waste to transfer \$35,437.50 from Disposal Fees #10152-80260 to Parts & Labor (\$8,396) and SCRRRA Receptacle/Bags (\$27,041.50) The transfer of funds to the SCRRRA Bag account is to enable an additional order of Stonington Yellow Bags that will be required to finish out the year and into August when the Department anticipates a new and improved "Flex" bag to take effect. The transfer of funds to the Parts & Labor account will facilitate the purchase of foam filled tires for the Loader at the Transfer Station. This purchase had been previously discussed at a March 2, 2021 Board of Finance meeting. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

Bid Waiver Request:

Mr. Chris Greenlaw, Town Engineer, addressed the Board on the latest developments regarding the Lantern Hill Road Bridge. The Department of Public Works original intent was to request a bid waiver for the Lantern Hill Bridge structural interim repairs. However, the three bids received were close in costs but greater than anticipated for the subject repair. Therefore, this provides Bid Quote results, and the department requests approval to increase the anticipated expenditures and award the contract to Dayton Construction Company in the amount of \$160,830, contingent on the Town of Ledyard's approval.

Mr. Greenlaw stated that bid quotes had been solicited in late April to a select group of contractors with competent bridge experience. The bid quotes received were analyzed by a consultant with the low apparent bid quote of \$160,830, a figure vastly larger than the originally estimated \$100,000. Mr. Greenlaw provided copies of all the quotes to the board members.

Mr. Greenlaw presented three options to the board members for consideration:

1. No Bid Waiver - Traditional bid format, the project timeline for repairs will render the bridge closed prior and during the construction schedule. Benefit is to extend timeline into dryer weather for perceived lower cost.

2. No Bid Waiver - Re-Quote the repair work to include a reduced method of structural repair at a lower cost resulting in a lower extended service life of bridge, maybe 2 years. The idea is that this effort would extend the life of the bridge long enough until bridge funding becomes available via the State D.O.T.

3. Approval of the increased project costs to repair the bridge in conjunction with a bid waiver, placing the department on schedule with the caveat that Ledyard also assumes the cost increase via the M.O.U.

Mr. Greenlaw recommended proceeding with the third option and award of the contract to Dayton Construction Company, Inc. pointing out there is an immediate need for the repair of the bridge and failure to proceed with this work will result in closure of the bridge. All bids received were very close in costs and all Contractors that provided quotes have notified the department that they already have significant projects scheduled for this construction season. The CIP Bridge Engineering & Design account has the funding required to address the increase in the project costs.

After a brief discussion, Mr. Fauerbach motioned to approve the bid waiver request for Dayton Construction Company, Inc. and increase in project costs to \$160,830. Mr. Statchen seconded. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

Liaison Reports:

BOE - Mr. Frishman had a conversation with the Chairman of the Board of Ed who states he is awaiting the arrival of the OCA report.

Outside Agencies (Library) - Ms. Norman reports that conversations with the three libraries regarding the budget funding split has the split 50/25/25 (Stonington/Westerly/Mystic-Noank) and all parties are satisfied with the arrangement.

Government (Tax Collection) - Mr. Fauerbach stated that Ms. Linda Camelio, Tax Collector, has collected \$66.6 million to date as compared to last year at this time being \$65.4 million, so the trend is in a favorable direction. Mr. Fauerbach said there is some assertive and determined collection being done by Ms. Camelio and her team and they should be commended on a job well done.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jill A Senior
Recording Secretary Board of Finance