

February 8, 2017

A Special Meeting of the Board of Finance was held on this date in the Police Department Meeting Room. Members present were Bryan Bentz, Chairman; Tim O'Brien, Glenn Frishman, Mike Fauerbach, and Blunt White. June Strunk was absent. Also present were First Selectman Rob Simmons; Director of Finance, James Sullivan; Director of Human Services, Leanne Theodore; and many other representatives from outside agencies as well as interested parties.

Chairman Bentz called the meeting to order at 7:22 pm.

Ms. Theodore gave an overview of the services that her department provides to the town. She mentioned that 20% students qualify for free and reduced meals and there are 1,385 food stamp recipients in town. She also mentioned that residents in poverty rose from 2.3% in 2014 to 4.8% in 2016. She said that Human Services served 2,279 individuals last fiscal year and that recreation programs have increased from 43 to 70. She also stated that the Energy Assistance and Summer Food Service Programs have seen an increase.

First Selectman Simmons gave an overview of the outside agencies requesting funding, including Stonington Cemetery, the Mystic Branch of the YMCA, Ocean Community Chamber Foundation, and the local ambulance corps'. Discussion ensued.

Beth Ann Stewart, Executive Director of the Stonington Community Center, spoke regarding the non-profit. She mentioned that they have 174 programs and that 80 of them are youth athletics. She said they are grateful for the support of the Board and hoped that they would consider their request of \$85,000, some of which will be used to reinvest in their aging facility.

Russ Partridge, Executive Director of the WARM Center, in Westerly, thanked the Board for their support. He stated that their soup kitchen serves lunch and dinner seven days a week. He said they served 18 people this year in their 19 bed emergency shelter, and that they are the only overnight shelter in the area serving single adults.

Ryan Girard, Director of the Westerly Adult Day Care Center, thanked the Board for their past support. He mentioned that over 20% of their clients are from Stonington. He said that in lieu of funds, the Town of Westerly covers their lease.

George Sylvestre, from the Stonington Free Library, thanked the Board for their support and mentioned that the three libraries in town are trying to collaborate and work together in the future.

Barbara Nagy from the New London Homeless Hospitality Center thanked the Board for their support and mentioned that Stonington residents have been served in her shelter.

Vicki Anderson, from the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center, said that there are many people who are served by the PNC that are not tracked because they don't complete all of their documentation. She is hoping to be funded at the same level as last year. She mentioned that there are 126 volunteers at the

PNC, 89 of which are Stonington residents.

A representative of the Mystic and Noank Library thanked the Board and mentioned that her library does serve a large portion of the Stonington community. She mentioned that the Town of Groton gives about twice of the funding that Stonington does.

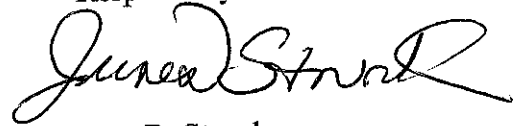
Chris Clark, President of Mystic River Ambulance, mentioned that Masonicare just opened, and this will increase their calls. They are also looking at doing an expansion, as they have had an increase in volunteers and will need to upgrade their facility.

Nishant Sahoo from Stonington Ambulance spoke and thanked the Board for their help with their driveway project. He mentioned that they started a new incentive program to take more calls which has been successful and has increased call volume. They want to expand the program and the majority of the increase they are asking for is to fund this.

Bridgette Hopkins, Executive Director from the Westerly Public Library and Wilcox Park, mentioned that they are celebrating 125 years this year. She spoke of a new teen space they have opened, as well as their successful children's and adult programs.

With no more presentations to come before the Board, Mr. Frishman made a motion to adjourn, Mr. O'Brien seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:39 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



June D. Strunk