

February 15, 2017

A Special Meeting of the Board of Finance was held on this date in the meeting room of the Stonington Police Department. Members present were Bryan Bentz, Chairman; June D. Strunk, Secretary; Glenn Frishman, Michael Fauerbach, and Blunt White. Tim O'Brien was absent. Also present were First Selectman Rob Simmons, Jim Sullivan, Director of Finance; Darren Stewart, Chief of Police; Douglas Nettleton, Director of the WPCA; John Phetteplace, Solid Waste Manager, and other interested parties.

The meeting was called to order at 7:15pm.

**Budget Transfer-** Mr Sullivan explained the need to transfer \$14,608.79 from the highway equipment account in the CIP budget to the Police Cars account in order to outfit the four new leased police cars that were funded in the 16/17 budget. He noted that the equipment was acquired from a different vendor than the vehicles. Mr. Frishman motioned to approve the transfer as presented, Mrs. Strunk seconded, and voting was unanimous.

### **Budget Presentations-**

Police Department-Chief Stewart gave an overview of his budget, which has a 2.2% increase. This includes the addition of an officer, who would come on board in January. This will bring the total officers to 38. He mentioned the need for more officers in town, considering the aging population, including Stone Ridge, Masonicare and the Perkins Farm Project. He then spoke of the need for a new radio system. Chief Stewart said it would cost 3.5M to get a radio system right now. He mentioned that Waterford built a new system and if we joined their antennae system it would be half that price. He said that the system in use now is 17 years old. Discussion ensued. Mr. Sullivan stated that \$350,000 was set aside last year in Schedule C towards this. Chief Stewart said that if this gets funded again to the halfway point, he will go forward with an implementation plan.

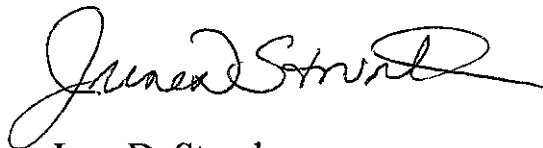
WPCA-Mr. Nettleton, Director, mentioned that the biggest line item besides operations was his billing clerk. He mentioned that operational costs keep going up so they are heading for more steady rate increases. He said Stonington is one of the few towns that have three treatment plants, and they are 40 years old. He stated that there is a development fund, from hook up fees, which he thinks should be set aside in case of a major failure, and should not be used for capital improvements. He also said that their

electrical costs have increased since improvements at the plant, such as going from chemicals for chlorination to UV lights, which is better for the environment. He mentioned that before this year, the department had gone 8 years without an increase. He said that Masonicare and Spruce Meadows projects will increase revenue, as well as the future projects at Perkins Farm and the Mystic Color Lab. Discussion ensued.

Solid Waste-Mr. Phetteplace mentioned that the tipping rate is still \$58 a ton, still the lowest in CT. He mentioned that they renewed their contract with SCRRA waste disposal for ten more years. He stated that Stonington received a grant for recycling achievement for \$12,000. It will be used for an upgrade at the Transfer Station, which will allow them to compact more recyclables for transport. He said that waste generation was up a little bit but is now leveling off. He also said that he budgeted for repairs and maintenance for the roll-off truck, as it is now 4 years old and will start to show wear. He mentioned that recycling revenues are down which hurts the revenue from yellow bags. Discussion ensued.

With no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Frishman made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Fauerbach seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:09 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "June D. Strunk". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

June D. Strunk

kds