

February 28, 2018

A Special Meeting of the Board of Finance was held on this date in the cafeteria of Mystic Middle School. Members in attendance were Chairwoman June D. Strunk, Secretary Glenn Frishman, Tim O'Brien, Blunt White, Mike Fauerbach, Lynn Young and Danielle Chesebrough, Also in attendance were Finance Director Jim Sullivan, Police Chief Darren Stewart, Captain Todd Olson, WPCA Director Doug Nettleton, Solid Waste Manager John Phetteplace, members of the Police Commission and interested citizens.

Chairwoman Strunk called the meeting to order at 7:22 pm.

Comments from the public-none

Previous minutes-tabled

New business-

Budget Presentations:

- Police Department-Chief Stewart thanked the Board for their support and gave an overview of Police Services. He noted that Stonington welcomes about 3 million visitors a year, in addition to the 18,000 residents in town. There are 1,200 hotel rooms, 15 marinas, and the area hosts about 50 special events annually. He said there were 630 accidents and 821 arrests in 2017. He also noted that the number of medical calls that the department goes on has doubled since 2006. He said that officers did over 1000 safety checks in schools last year. He mentioned that there are now 51 full time and 17 part time employees in the department, including 39 full time officers, and 5 part time reserve officers. He added that the department would like to improve video capabilities. Regarding the telecommunications line item, he stated that the budget was done before the approval of the new radio system, so there are extra funds in the account. He suggested lowering that line item and moving \$5000 of it into the school safety line to have more personnel in schools, in light of recent events. This would result in \$12,000 off the budget. Discussion ensued. Chief Stewart said that his budget increase stands at 2.84%.
- WPCA-Director Nettleton stated that Stonington is the only municipality with three separate, small, wastewater plants. There are 16 pumping stations and only 4,400 accounts. He noted that a company called Suez has been contracted since

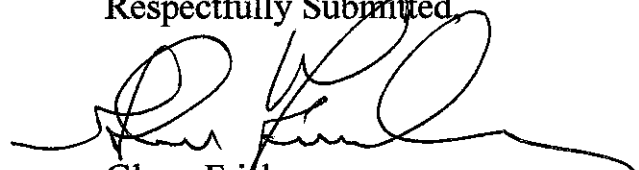
1999, helping to operate and maintain the plants. He said that the WPCA raises funds through connection charges and also through user rates. He said that they have raised rates by 17 % over the past 11 years and may have another increase. He mentioned the expense of repairing the equipment for three separate facilities. He also noted that because they eliminated chemicals to de-chlorinate, and now use UV lighting, their energy costs have gone up considerably. He stated the importance of the annual \$300,000 from the Town for operating expenses and said that the WPCA has not asked for an increase. He said that he employs 1 ½ clerical staff and will be taking out the \$5000 consultant line item.

- Solid Waste -Manager Phetteplace mentioned his new and longtime employees. He discussed their computer and software upgrade, which helps them relay data from the Transfer Station more quickly. He said that through the grant used to upgrade the compactor, they are seeing a reduction in the number of pulls needed for recycling, which results in cost savings. He also noted that a second collection vehicle has been added to the Pawcatuck route as a precaution due to last summer's rodent infestation. He stated that tipping fees still remain at \$58 per ton, the lowest in the area. He said that their revenue comes from both commercial trash and the yellow bag program. He also noted that he would like an increase in Training and Education so that his employees can be certified to weld the roll off boxes when necessary, rather than outsource. Also, he is anticipating repairs for the roll off truck as well. Lastly, he said that after receiving bids, there will be an increase in the cost of the yellow bags.

Line Item Transfer-Request from First Selectman to transfer \$4,562 from Highway Dept. line item #1015180230 "Material Disposal" to line item #10151-80055 for merit pay increase for Highway Supervisor. After discussion, Chairwoman Strunk asked for a motion to withdraw the line item transfer. Mr Frishman made a motion to withdraw, Ms. Young seconded, and voting was unanimous. No action taken.

With no further business to come before the Board, Mr. O'Brien made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Frishman seconded, and voting was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 pm.

Respectfully Submitted



Glenn Frishman
Secretary