

**March 1, 2017**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Finance was held on this date in the conference room of the Stonington Police Station. Members present were Bryan Bentz, Chairman, June D. Strunk, Glenn Frishman, Tim O'Brien, Mike Fauerbach and Blunt White. Also present were James Sullivan, Director of Finance, First Selectman Rob Simmons, Public Works Director Barbara McKrell, Chief of Police Darren Stewart, Director of Assessment Marsha Standish, Town Engineer Scot Deledda, Director of Administrative Services Vincent Pacileo, Director of Planning Jason Vincent, and several other town employees and members of the general public.

Chairman Bentz called the meeting to order at 7:15pm.

**Comments from the Public**-there were none

**Previous Minutes**-Mr. Frishman made a motion to approve the February 1, February 8, and February 15 minutes as amended. Mrs. Strunk seconded and voting was unanimous.

**Line Item Transfer Request**-Director McKrell requested the transfer of \$22,547.50 from Highway department accounts to the Repair and Maintenance account to repair the aging vehicles used by the highway department. She stated that 36% of the fleet is past its useful life and at this time two vehicles are out of service. Mr. Frishman made a motion to approve, Mr. White seconded, and voting was unanimous.

#### **Budget Presentations**

- **General Government**- Selectman Simmons began with a budget message highlighting his 20.3 M general operations budget plan, and thanked the Board for their dedication and hard work. He spoke of losing 90% of municipal aid that the Governor is proposing. He mentioned Stonington's largest expenditures, the renovations of Deans Mill and West Vine Street Schools and the Mystic Boathouse Park. Also he noted that the Town Hall staff has requested grants for various projects, including Davis Standard, Mystic Boathouse Park, and Edyth K. Richmond Housing. He mentioned cuts recently made from his original proposed budget increase from just over 3 to 1.87 percent, most of which comes from salary increases for town employees. He also noted the efforts of Jason Vincent, Director of Planning, who has assisted with the increase in developing Stonington. Discussion of General Government items ensued.
- **Public Works**-Director McKrell reminded the Board that her department includes building operations, engineering and the highway department and consists of 23.5 employees. She said that the department is responsible for maintaining the infrastructure of the roads, recreation and playing fields, the fueling station that services all of the school buses, as well as all the town buildings. She mentioned that the department created a Fleet Management System for the first time, which shows town equipment, its uses, and the cost of replacement. She projected the cost of replacement for the vehicles over the next 20 years, which is \$432,000 a year, to keep the vehicles current. She stated that a Pavement Management Program was created to help determine road repairs and costs. She also said she completed a 2016 Department Activity Report which is an overview of department achievements. She said she understood the budget is tight, and wouldn't be fully funded, but hoped that the fleet and the pavement management would get the funding it needs. She presented her proposed budget plan, and mentioned the cuts she recently made to it, bringing it to a 5 percent increase over the current

budget. Town Engineer Scot Deledda discussed changes that were made to his budget, which were the reallocation of funds from line items. Discussion ensued.

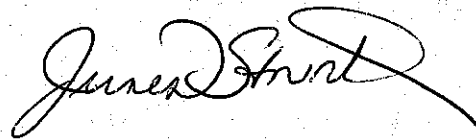
- CIP- Selectman Simmons began with General Operations, and spoke of the importance of integrated document management for the town. He said that he believes that it is a priority for the town, and that work needs to be done to make sure we are going in the right direction with the right vendors. He then yielded the floor to other department heads to discuss the remaining CIP items. Representatives from the Stonington Community Center, Stonington Ambulance and the Ocean Community YMCA spoke requesting funding for their outside agencies. Discussion ensued. Selectman Simmons stated that the town is trying to keep the CIP increase at around 30%, which is the average of the last 7 years.

**Liaison Reports**-there were none.

**K-12 Liaison Reports**-there were none

With no other business to come before the Board, Mr. Frishman made a motion to adjourn, Mr. O'Brien seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:34pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



June D. Strunk

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