

March 28, 2018

A Special Meeting of the Board of Finance was held on this date in the cafeteria of Mystic Middle School. Members present were Chairwoman June D. Strunk, Secretary Glenn Frishman, Tim O'Brien, Blunt White, Mike Fauerbach, Lynn Young and Danielle Chesebrough. Also present were Finance Director Jim Sullivan, Director of Assessment Marsha Standish, Tax Collector Linda Camelio, SPS Superintendent Van Riley, SPS Director of Finance Gary Shettle, BOE Chairman Frank Todisco, Assistant Superintendent Mary Anne Butler, Director of Operations and Facilities Bill King, and several school administrators and Board of Ed members.

Chairwoman Strunk called the meeting to order at 7:15pm.

A motion was made by Mr. O'Brien to approve the Suspense listing for 2016 and prior list years, which was presented by Tax Collector Linda Camelio. Mr. Frishman seconded and voting was unanimous. Motion carried.

Director of Assessment Standish presented the 10/1/17 Grand List. She noted that while additions to the grand list are undetermined, it has increased by 4.64%, and asked the BOF to keep in mind that the number involves 8 nonprofits that did not file, totaling 4.7 M. Those taxes will likely be abated through the First Selectman's office, which will deem them non-collectible. She said increases were due in part to revaluations, changes to the Forestry and Farm Program, new subdivisions, newly discovered home improvements, transfers, and new mobile homes. She noted that reductions are due to companies relocating (DeKalb), fire damage, damaged buildings and gutted properties, mergers of lots, etc.... She said that she normally gets 1000 permits per year, and mentioned that Grand List potential for next year includes the Perkins Farm property, Spruce Ridge Affordable Housing and the Mystic Armory improvement. Director Standish also mentioned that there are 111 appeals in front of the Board of Assessment Appeals at this time.

Budget Presentations

Board of Education Mr. Todisco stated that the final Budget approved by the BOE carries a 2.94% increase. He noted four subject areas driving more than half of the increase are Health Benefits, Special Ed Tuition, Non-Special Ed Transportation, and Magnet School Tuition. He noted the Board's decision to consolidate the middle schools, mentioning it will take place in September 2019 and will coincide with the opening of the 2 elementary schools. He said that there will then be a reduction of buildings from 7 to 5, which will culminate in a \$700,000 annual savings.

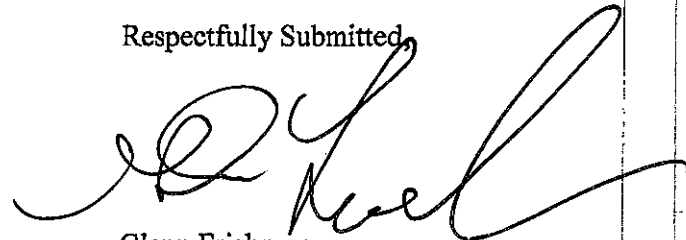
Dr. Riley noted that when he came to the district he changed the format of the budget to have every school list each of their line items separately, in an effort to be more transparent. He stated that every year, due to declining enrollment, he has reduced staff by 3.5 teaching positions, 1 secretarial position and 3 paraprofessional positions. He noted that there will be fewer Special Education evaluations due to lower enrollment, and that he reduced the Special Education outplacement line item by 103K, due to programs created to keep students in district. He mentioned that the Energy Costs budgets have gone down due to decreased rates and energy savings due to such things as LED's. Dr. Riley noted the revenue generating opportunity when Central Office moves to the Pawcatuck site, noting that there will be opportunities there to have regional programs that will attract students from other districts. He then highlighted some changes in the budget. He noted the increase in the school nurse line item, as this

included summer hours which in the past were not budgeted correctly. He said that they were asking for one additional position, for technology, which is short staffed. He said that the overall increase for Health Insurance line is 9.15% due to several different components. Allison Van Etten, Director of Special Services, noted that the cost for outplacement tuition runs between 55K-120K per student, not including transportation. Mr. Shettle mentioned that in order to get any State reimbursement for a student, the cost has to be at least 4.5x the per student expenditure. Dr. Riley said that student transportation went up due to the new contract with First Student. Discussion ensued.

BOE CIP Dr. Riley discussed the BOE CIP, pointing out the expenditures that were necessary for student safety and building operations. He also noted the computer leases cover Apple computers for teachers, and the student Dell Chrome books that are required by the State for testing. He mentioned that the portable classrooms at WVSS will not be needed but there is an associated cost to remove them. Dr. Riley noted there is a line item added to replace furniture and equipment in the various schools. He said that if there are funds allocated that are not used, the money will go back to the Town budget. Discussion ensued.

With no further business to come before the Board, Mr. O'Brien made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Frishman seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Glenn Frishman', is written over the typed name and title.

Glenn Frishman
Secretary

3/28

Memorandum—Department of Assessment

To: June Strunk, Chairwoman Board of Finance

CC: Robert "Rob" Simmons, First Selectman, Jim Sullivan, Finance Director

From: Marsha Standish, CCMA II, Director of Assessment

Dated: February 28, 2018

Re: October 1, 2017 Net Grand List Information prior to Board of Assessment Appeals as filed.

The October 1, 2017 Net Grand List is \$2,771,030,190, an increase of 4.64% over the October 1, 2016 Grand List prior to the Board of Assessment Appeals.

	2016 Net Grand List	2017 Net Grand List	Difference	% Change
Real Estate	\$2,399,749,689	\$2,515,6681,044	\$115,931,355	4.38%
Personal Property	\$105,718,672	\$109,460,646	\$3,741,974	.14%
Motor Vehicle	\$142,566,330	\$145,888,500	\$3,322,170	.13%
Total	\$2,648,034,691	\$2,771,030,190	\$122,995,499	4.64%

A mill is equal \$2,771,030

Eight non-profit organizations failed to file or filed late and they were removed from the tax exempt grand list. The assessments total \$4,797,928 and are included in the 2017 Net Grand List totals. It is estimated that the taxes will be abated for these organizations. The total percentage of change with this reduction is 4.46%.

	2016 Tax Exempt RE	2017 Tax Exempt RE	Difference	% Change
Tax Exempt Real Estate	\$242,482,129	\$266,238,920	\$23,756,791	9.80%

Senior Living by Masonicare LLC is the major increase to the tax exempt Grand List (see below the PILOT payment)

The Town no longer receives a manufacturing reimbursement from the State.

	2016 Net Grand List	2017 Net Grand List	Exemption Increase/Decrease
Manufacturing Ex.	\$10,725,799	\$10,409,452	-\$316,347

Income and Expense penalties are also included in the Grand List totals. These are cyclical. The total assessment penalty for non-filing of such income and expense forms for 2017 is \$1,206,210. The total assessment for non-filing, omissions, and late filing of personal property declarations for 2017 is \$1,784,466.

Senior Living by Masonicare LLC is presently exempt and not reflected in the Grand List totals. The exempt property is subject to a pilot payment in lieu of property taxes, multiplied by the Town's mill rate, less the number of mills attributable to the Board of Education portion of the budget for operating, debts service and capital improvements of the Town's entire budget. A deduction will also be made for the capital improvements portion of the budget attributable to

outside agencies. The 2017 real property assessment is \$27,483,300 and personal property assessment \$2,116,490 multiplied by last year's estimated rate 8.79 equals an estimated pilot payment of \$260,182.



TOWN OF STONINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF ASSESSMENT

152 Elm Street • Stonington, Connecticut 06378

(860) 535-5098 • Fax (860) 535-5052

TOP TEN TAXPAYERS

OCTOBER 1, 2017 GRAND LIST

	<u>NET ASSESSMENT</u>
1. CONNECTICUT LIGHT & POWER CO.	\$40,069,760
2. MYSTIC CT SENIOR PROPERTY LLC (Stone Ridge & ROC Seniors)	\$24,069,379
3. AQUARION WATER CO OF CT	\$15,267,502
4. SENIOR LIVING BY MASONICARE (Pilot-General Government Mill Rate)	\$29,599,790
5. DDH HOTEL MYSTIC LLC (Mystic Hilton)	\$11,274,567
6. MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT TRIBE	\$10,973,997
7. VIII-HII-WHITEHALL AVENUE LLC (Residence Inn)	\$10,128,738
8. RESNIKOFF JOYCE O TRUSTEE (Olde Mistick Village, Mall Inc.)	\$9,360,369
9. SPIRIT MASTER FUNDING X LLC (David Standard)	\$8,402,263
10. YANKEE GAS SERVICES CO.	\$8,346,110