

March 29, 2018

A Special Meeting of the Board of Finance was held on this date in the meeting room of the Stonington Police Station. Members present were Chairwoman June D. Strunk, Secretary Glenn Frishman, Tim O'Brien, Mike Fauerbach, Blunt White, Lynn Young and Danielle Chesebrough. Also present were Finance Director James Sullivan, First Selectman Rob Simmons, Selectman John Prue, SPS Superintendent Van Riley, various Town Department heads and representatives of outside agencies.

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

Chairwoman Strunk opened the first night of budget deliberations by mentioning that the Board had given each town department guidelines for budget increases. She said that in order to do this, they considered inflation, social security increases, contractual salary increases, any increases in the Grand List, and the needs of the town in respect to staffing and maintenance. She stated that all departments and the BOE were given a guideline of a 3% increase, and mentioned that while every year the budget is a challenge, this year the challenge is due to the bonding and debt service related to the elementary schools' project.

Mrs. Strunk gave a K-12 liaison report, stating that the K-12 Committee chose to accelerate the project by one year to save 5% of the overall construction cost, which is 3.4M in savings for the 69M project. She spoke of the four contingency funds available, which include one each for the PMS roof, DMS, WVVS, and the construction manager's funds, all totaling 3.8M. She noted that there is still remediation to be done, but there is plenty of money to complete the projects. She said that in order to save this money, new debt was added this year, and it has to be handled in a way that will be manageable to taxpayers. She noted the other commitment the BOF took on in the 15/16 budget, which was the Vehicle Replacement Program. She said that in the winter of 14/15 the National Guard was called on to help Stonington out after a snow event, and it was clear that the town needed to replace their vehicles and equipment. The Town then entered in a lease to buy program to replace trucks, police cars, backhoes etc...She noted that Stonington is still in the replacement phase and due to the debt service of the new schools, this will have to continue for the next few years. She mentioned that although this was not ideal, it was necessary.

Chairwoman Strunk mentioned that the undesignated fund balance can be used to offset Capital Improvements, since it belongs to taxpayers. This is the amount over and above two months operating expenses. In the past this has been used for unexpected emergencies. It is projected that the undesignated fund balance will be 3.8 M at the end of this fiscal year.

Chairwoman Strunk suggested that since the BOE and General Government budgets came in under 3%, they should be left intact and the CIP funds should be reviewed

Multiple line items were discussed and modified in the CIP budget including the Nova Time System Upgrade, Emergency Operations Center Generator, Police Camera System Replacement, Town Wide Drainage, Highway Equipment Vehicles, Human Services HVAC Replacement, Pawcatuck Pump House Roof Repairs, DPW Equipment Protection Facility, WPCA Projects and Streetlight Upgrades. Within Outside Agencies, the Board reviewed and modified funding for Como Thrift Shop and PNC

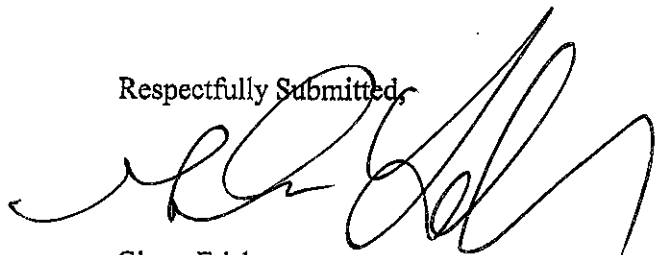
Upgrades, Stonington Ambulance, Westerly Ambulance, Ocean Community YMCA, and Stonington Free Library.

Chairwoman Strunk mentioned that she asked for clarification from Dr. Riley on line items in the BOE CIP, including Security Cameras, One on One Computer Purchases, and whether or not there will be a credit for the new technology purchased by the K-12 technology budget. The Superintendent said he would get that information, and then made adjustments to the BOE CIP. These included modifications of the line items including Storage Tank Removal, Classroom Furniture, Replacing Damaged Light Poles at SHS, and District Tiling and Carpeting.

After all modifications were completed, the net increase to the budget stood at 54K. The Board will continue deliberations at the regular meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, April 4. There will be a continuation of deliberations on Thursday, April 5 at 7:15pm at PMS if needed.

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 10:03pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Glenn Frishman
Secretary

kds