

March 30, 2017

A Special Meeting of the Board of Finance was held on this date in the Stonington Police Department Meeting Room. Members present were Chairman Bryan Bentz, June Strunk, Glenn Frishman, Tim O'Brien, Mike Fauerbach and Blunt White. Also present was First Selectman Rob Simmons, Finance Director James Sullivan, Police Captain Todd Olson, and various department heads.

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

Chairman Bentz suggested the Board go through each line item in the proposed budget as to ask questions and clarify any expenditures.

Discussion ensued regarding salary increases for department heads. Mrs. Strunk noted that she would like to cut increases as a last resort.

Selectman Simmons noted that after initially cutting support, the State had gone back to funding the SEAT program.

Selectman Simmons also mentioned that since losing the sanitarian, the town is in negotiations with the Ledge Light Health District for these services. Since being approved by both town boards, it will go to town meeting on April 11. If Stonington joins Ledge Light, it will result in a cost savings for the town.

Public Works Director Barbara McKrell said that she would like efforts made to increase her budget for paving. She later noted that if anything had to be cut, she would rather it be from pavement management first, rather than vehicles and equipment, as they are essential to her efficiency.

Mr. Fauerbach inquired about the update for the new police radio system. The Board was told that the police department is maintaining the radio system but is hoping to move forward with the funding for a new system as soon as possible. It was stated that all of the portables are failing, and that the console is on its way out as well. There is a new mandate that states that the town needs a system that is inter-operable with all mutual aid agencies. Mr. Fauerbach asked what the cost would be, and the Board was told 1.2-1.8 million.

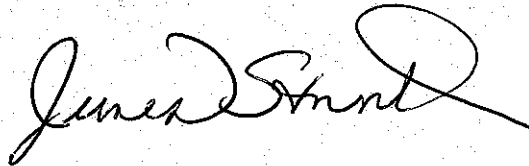
Discussion ensued regarding other general government and CIP line items.

With the cuts that have been made so far, expenditures are up 4.08 percent over last year, with the mill rate up just over 5 percent. Mr. White said that the debt service for the school bond is included in that number. He said that if you took the debt service out, the mill rate would be 23.31, and the actual increase over last year would be 2.6 percent.

Deliberations will continue at the April 5th regular meeting.

Mr. Frishman made a motion to adjourn, Mrs. Strunk seconded, voting was unanimous, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:05pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "June D. Strunk". The signature is fluid and stylized, with a large loop at the end.

June D. Strunk

kds