

April 4, 2018

A regular meeting of the Board of Finance was held on this date in the meeting room of the Stonington Police Department. 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 Director of Finance James Sullivan, Selectmen Rob Simmons and John Prue, Director of Assessment Marsha Standish, Public Works Director Barbara McKrell, Police Captain Todd Olson, Superintendent of Schools Van Riley, various Town employees and members of the press.

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

Comments from the Public-none

Previous Minutes-Mr. O'Brien made a motion to approve the February 7,14,28 and March 22nd minutes as amended, Mr. Frishman seconded. Voting was unanimous. Motion carried.

New Business

Bid Waivers

- Mr. Frishman made a motion to approve the bid waiver request from Bill King, BOE Facilities Director, to be allowed to purchase security window filming for PMS and MMS off Capital Region Education Council (CREG) bid. Mr. Fauerbach seconded the motion, and voting was unanimous. Motion carried.
- Amended bid waiver request for Barbara McKrell, Director of Public Works, to be allowed to purchase various road projects goods and services off the State Bid List from contractors that are on the State Bid List, and a conditional waiver for those that are not, specifically Wescon Corp, with the understanding that they agree to match the cost on the State bid list. Director McKrell explained that she comes before the Board each year for this waiver as catch basin cleaning is mandated by the state and the town lacks the vehicle to do the job. Janet's Sweeping Co has been contracted for the last two years and is the low bidder under this contract. Atlantic Pavement Markings, the low bidder, is contracted to do center line striping, which is also done yearly. Director McKrell noted that JH Lynch/Wescon is willing to match the low bid price for paving, noting that the Town has worked with them for the last several years. She mentioned that Black and Boucher are also willing to meet the low bid price off the State bid for milling. She noted the successful working relationship that the Town has with the Gorman Group, chosen for Liquid Bituminous Material. Ms. Young made a motion to approve the bid waiver as amended, Mr. Frishman seconded, and voting was unanimous. Motion carried.

Line Item Transfers

- Mr. Frishman made a motion to approve the request from the First Selectman to transfer \$1,500 from First Selectman line item #10101-80100 "Town Wide" to Planning Department line item #10141-80166 "Professional Services" for study of boundary lines between Town and Borough. Ms. Young seconded the motion. First Selectman Simmons noted that the study was necessary

as Borough residents pay more in taxes than people in town, and boundaries are unclear. He noted that the Borough Warden was getting questioned as to where the true border was. Mr. Simmons noted that the cost of \$3,000, for both the historical work and the surveying, should be split with the Borough as the Town has just as much interest. Voting was unanimous. Motion carried.

- Mr. Frishman made a motion to approve the request from Bill King, BOE Facilities Director, to transfer \$28,000 from CIP line item #4022018-88250 "Safety Glass PMS" to CIP line item #4022018-88249 "Safety Glass MMS". Mr. O'Brien seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous, and the motion carried.
- Mr. Fauerbach made a motion to approve the request from Public Works Director to transfer balances between various line items to other line items that are over budget. Mr. O'Brien seconded and voting was unanimous. Motion carried.
- Ms. Young made a motion to approve the request from Police Chief to transfer \$36,952 from dispatcher salary line item in general fund to radio replacement line item in CIP fund. Mr. O'Brien seconded the motion. Chairwoman Strunk noted that this will reduce the CIP request in the new budget. Voting was unanimous and the motion carried.

Budget Presentations

The Board discussed the handout from Dr. Riley explaining the BOE items that Chairwoman Strunk asked to have clarified from the March 28th meeting, including the One to One Computer purchases. The changes made resulted in a BOE CIP reduction of \$224,999.

The Board discussed the continuation of the lease of the police cars. Mr. O'Brien said the Board needs to re-evaluate the program, as these are lean times. He suggested either getting off the lease and reducing the number of cars, or keeping things as they are, knowing that either the number of cars or the lease itself will have to change next year. The Board agreed that this needs to be re-assessed next year.

Discussion ensued regarding how to fund the \$180,000 needed in order to keep the increase in taxes close to what it was last year. Chairwoman Strunk noted that the undesignated fund balance at this point is \$2,850,000. This includes \$850,000 that the Board put aside last year in a contingency fund in case of a reduction in the education grant from the State. It was noted that the funding of \$180,000 had to be found either by cuts, more use of fund balance, or by re-appropriating some of the fund balance. Mrs. Strunk said that since the \$850,000 contingency fund is available, it can be used to offset CIP. She then noted that she does not want to touch the BOE or Town operating budgets, as those departments have already made their cuts. All members did not agree with this. It was mentioned that the Board could look at those numbers again if this budget does not pass. Chairwoman Strunk then suggested keeping \$700,000 in the contingency fund, and moving \$150,000 to CIP to offset the reviewed items. This leaves 1M in the emergency fund. She said that she is opposed to any cuts, and believes that this budget serves the taxpayers, and they will have the opportunity to vote on it. She also noted that taxpayers will have the chance to speak about the budget at next weeks public hearing.

The Board discussed moving \$15,000 from the Westerly Public Library line, and \$5,000 from the Mystic-Noank Library line, into the to Stonington Free Library line to help fund their renovations. Selectman Simmons noted that this was against his recommendation, as the Westerly Library serves a great deal of Pawcatuck residents. The Board did not change these line items.

During discussion, Mr. White raised concerns about the proposed increase in Use of Fund Balance to \$2,850,000 which he thought would result in a second, consecutive loss year. White stated that two consecutive loss years might adversely impact the Town's credit rating. White also raised concerns about the presentation method for booking the Contingency for Loss of State Aid of \$700,000. which was different from what was used in the prior fiscal year.

Director Sullivan noted that as this budget stands, the mill rate is 22.83 and the increase in tax rate is at 3.8%.

Mr. Frishman made a motion to send the following budget to Public Hearing, and Ms. Chesebrough seconded the motion.

General Government	\$21,615,104
Board of Education	\$38,126,336
CIP	\$2,764,365
<u>Debt Services</u>	<u>\$8,146,981</u>
Total	\$70,652,786

Voting was as follows:

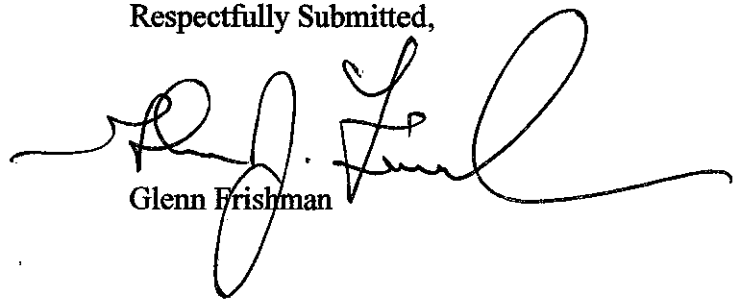
Mr. Fauerbach-aye
Mr. O'Brien-aye
Chairwoman Strunk-aye
Mr. Frishman-aye
Ms. Young-aye
Mr. White-nay
Ms. Chesebrough-aye

Motion carried, 6-1.

Mr. O'Brien made a motion to forgo the liaison reports, Mr. Frishman seconded. Voting was unanimous. Motion carried.

With no further business to come before the Board, Mr. O'Brien made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Frishman seconded, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:31pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Glenn Frishman