

April 6, 2016

The Board of Finance held a regular meeting on this date in the meeting room of the Stonington Police Station. Members present were Bryan Bentz, Chairman; June D. Strunk, Secretary; Glenn Frishman, Tim O'Brien and Michael Fauerbach. Board member Dudley Wheeler was not present. Also present were Selectman Michael Spellman, Director of Finance James Sullivan and various town department heads.

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

**Comments from the Public-** Selectman Spellman spoke of a conversation with State Representative Diana Urban that indicated that while not yet definitive, the State will be cutting 1 million dollars in aid from the Stonington BOE. She promised to work diligently to try to get it back.

Kelly Lee, from the Westerly Adult Daycare Center, stated that their numbers have gone up 90% and requested that the Board consider the restoration of the full funding of \$10,000 for the benefit of Stonington's elders and their families.

Don Maranell inquired if the budget cuts would effect bonding for the school projects. Selectman Spellman replied that they could not give him an answer for that.

**Previous Minutes-**Mr. Fauerbach made a motion to table the March 14<sup>th</sup> minutes, Mrs. Strunk seconded, and voting was unanimous. Mr. Fauerbach made a motion to table the March 2<sup>nd</sup> minutes, Mrs. Strunk seconded, and voting was unanimous.

**Director of Finance-** Director Sullivan called on Captain Olson of the SPD to explain the benefits of enhancing the lighting in the police department parking lot, which has been currently deemed hazardous. One of the benefits is that they are LED and will use half of the energy of the current lights. He also stated that they will integrated onto the existing poles.

**Additional Appropriation -**Mr. Frishman made a motion to approve the appropriation request of \$13,276 to Risk Management Safety Program line item from fund balance to fund additional lighting fixtures in the police department parking lot. Mr. Fauerbach seconded, and voting was unanimous,

**Bid Waiver-** Mr. Frishman voted to approve the bid waiver request for the acquisition of and installation of the additional lighting. Mrs. Strunk seconded, and voting was unanimous.

*Bid Waiver*-Request for Highway Department pavement restoration and maintenance services off state bid list. Mrs. Strunk made a motion to approve this, Mr. Frishman seconded, and voting was unanimous.

**Budget Deliberations** Director Sullivan stated that after the last meeting, the Board made \$2,266,587 in cuts to the budget. An additional \$720,000 in cuts were needed to keep overall mill rate increase to 1.0%. The Board sent the budget back to the First Selectman's office and department heads for review, and they as a group were able to identify \$405,000 in the following cuts.

**General Government**

*Administrative Services*-\$8,000

*Assessor's Office*- \$3,400

*Department of Finance*-\$45,099

*Planning Department*-\$25,000

*Highway Department*-\$224,000

*Office of Solid Waste*-\$15,000

*Police Services*-\$21,381

*Human Services*-\$2,000

**CIP**

*Administrative Services*-\$7,500

*Public Works*-\$29,900

*Solid Waste*-\$25,000

Mr. Fauerbach proposed reinstating \$6,250 for the Strategic Plan for the Stonington Free Library. Mrs. Strunk also supported this, with Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Frishman and Chairman Bentz opposed. Mrs. Strunk proposed reinstating \$7,000 to their operating budget, Mr. O'Brien seconded, and voting was unanimous.

Mr. Frishman proposed restoring \$8,000 to Westerly Adult Daycare Services. All Board members agreed.

Mr. Fauerbach believes that the Board came up with a responsible target and proposed they consider funding some of the CIP items and one time expenses by taking advantage of the excess in the outside fund balance.

Mr. Frishman suggested that this would be wise but is concerned with the state budget cuts. He stated that the Board should be judicious in how they apply the undesignated fund balance and thinks it will be unfair for the BOE to sustain a 1 million dollar cut themselves. He also suggested putting \$200,000 in funds aside for the MMS roof.

Mrs. Strunk Agreed in increasing the amount for the roof. She said if there are any increases to the budget she would like it to come out of the undesignated fund balance to get down to a mill, and would like it to go to CIP.

Mr. O'Brien- Agreed with Mrs. Strunk but is also very cautious about state cuts. He suggested putting \$250,000 aside for the roof now, conditionally, subject to what may happen in the coming weeks.

Chairman Bentz- Suggested looking at taking \$550,000 out of the reserve, \$350,000 for CIP, possibly for the SPD radio replacement system, and \$200,000 for the MMS roof.

Mr. Frishman made a motion to approve a request from the Solid Waste Manager for the purchase of a truck off of the state bid list. Mr. O'Brien seconded and voting was unanimous.

Director Sullivan provided the following budget figures

General Operations Government	\$19,919,512
Debt Services	\$5,006,100
Board of Education	\$36,267,121
CIP	<u>\$2,820,280</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$64,013,013</b>

After discussion, a mill rate increase of .99 to 4.64% was decided on to bring the new mill rate to 22.31% mills.

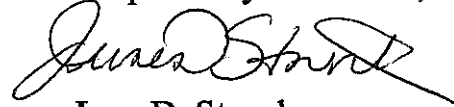
A public hearing was set for April 26, 2016 at 7:15 pm at Stonington High School.

**Correspondence**-There was none

**K-12 Subcommittee Reports**- Mrs. Strunk stated that they will have some information from the state tomorrow night.

With no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Frishman made a motion to adjourn, Mrs. Strunk seconded, and voting was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



June D. Strunk