

April 19, 2017

On this date, the Board of Finance held a public hearing on the proposed budget for fiscal year 2017-2018, at 7:15 p.m., at the Stonington High School auditorium. Members present were Bryan Bentz, Chairman; June Strunk, Secretary; Glenn Frishman, Tim O'Brien, Mike Fauerbach and Blunt White. Also present were Jim Sullivan, Director of Finance; Selectmen Rob Simmons and Mike Spellman; Board of Education members, school administrators, Town Hall staff and interested citizens.

Mr. Bentz opened the public hearing at 7:15 p.m. The budget presented totals \$67,596,480, which corresponds to a 22.98 proposed mil rate. He mentioned that because of the modest attendance, the general public could come forward and ask questions.

**Mark Ginsberg-Montauk Avenue, Stonington**-spoke on behalf of the Ocean Community YMCA. He noted how the facility is well used, however, is very dated. The YMCA is appreciative of the support from the Board and Mr. Ginsberg mentioned the request for \$100,000 allocated over two years. He stated that \$50,000 is recognized in this year's budget, and inquired if the remaining \$50,000 is still being considered in the next year. Due to the small turnout, Mr. O'Brien requested a break from procedure to directly answer budget questions from interested citizens. The Board concurred. Regarding Mr. Ginsberg's question, Mr. Sullivan explained that they are anticipating that the remaining \$50,000 would be in the FY18-19 budget.

**Russ Partridge**-Executive Director of the WARM Shelter. Mr. Partridge thanked the Board for their continued support and stated that without assistance from the town, the shelter would not be able to do the work they do. The shelter is very appreciative of the \$6000 from the Board as they were able to provide assistance for over 200 individuals with various services last year.


**Susie Canning-Old South Road, Mystic**- a member of the Board of Trustees of the Mystic and Noank Library. Mrs. Canning thanked the Board for their support, indicating that the library and patrons appreciate it.

**John McCue- Dover Court, Mystic**- Board Member of the Mystic and Noank Library, reiterated the comments of Mrs. Canning.

**Cindy Nadeau, Cronin Avenue, Pawcatuck**-Thanked the Board for their work, and acknowledged that this was not an easy year. She thanked the Board for leaving the Board of Education budget intact, expressing that it is what the children need, especially the ones in Special Ed programs. Mrs. Nadeau thanked the Board for their support, and stated she hopes it continues.

With no other questions or comments, Mr. Bentz informed the assembly that the Board of Finance would proceed with deliberations immediately following the Public Hearing. The Public Hearing was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Kris D. Slocum