

November 2, 2016

A regular meeting of the Board of Finance was held on this date in the Stonington Police Department meeting room. Members present were Bryan Bentz, Chairman; June Strunk, Secretary; Michael Fauerbach, Glenn Frishman and Blunt White. Tim O'Brien was absent. Also present were James Sullivan, Finance Director, and interested citizens.

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

Comments from the Public-there were none

Previous Minutes-Mr. Frishman made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Mr. Fauerbach seconded, and voting was unanimous.

New Business-

- Mr. White spoke of the need to upgrade the BOF website. He said that he and Roger Kizer, IT Manager, will work together on this. The revised website would have links to documents, such as grand lists, as well as town email addresses for each board member. All of the members agreed that this was a good idea and will provide more transparency. Mr. White and Chairman Bentz will form the new subcommittee responsible for undertaking this task.
- Mr. White informed the members and those present of the limited use of the Mechanic Street neighborhood. He mentioned that the Economic Development Committee has been trying to get a zone change in the area to allow for more upside, as the commercial buildings have significant vacancies. He said that the flood barriers, built in 1961, are not accredited, although they are inspected yearly by the Army Corps of Engineers. He recommended bringing it to the attention of the Board of Selectmen, so that they can come up with a plan for this area. Mr. White also suggested that the Town could make better use of this asset so that homeowners and businesses would be more likely to invest in this area. The Board concluded that they would need to know the cost of modernizing the barrier. Discussion ensued. Chairman Bentz advised that they wait to discuss this further once the inspection report becomes available.
- Fiscal Year 15/16 year end budget transfers-Director Sullivan explained that because there were 27 pay periods this year, there was a need to draw from other line items. He stated that this is a typical accounting procedure used to be in compliance with budgeting rules. Mr Frishman made a motion to approve the budget transfers as presented, Mrs. Strunk seconded, and voting was unanimous.
- Additional Appropriations-Director Sullivan stated that he received a letter from the Finance Director in the Town of Groton, stating that the Town of Stonington owed occupancy costs to Groton for hosting probate court for fiscal years 13/14, 14/15, an 15/16. Due to a transition in staff, Stonington had not been billed for the past four years. Director Sullivan requested an appropriation of \$14,066 to cover those years, as well as FY16/17. Mr. Frishman made a motion to approve the appropriation, Mrs. Strunk seconded, and voting was unanimous.
- Mrs. Strunk suggested that the BOF soon draft a letter to department heads with guidelines for the upcoming 2017-2018 budget. She noted that the BOF factors in Social Security and the

growth in the grand list when estimating these guidelines. Director Sullivan said that town employees will be getting raises this year, and that will also have an effect on the budget.

Correspondence-there was none

Liaison Reports-there were none

K-12 Liaison Reports-Mrs. Strunk reported that the project is going well and estimates for work at both DMS and WVSS are \$700,000 under budget at this point. She noted that the roof at PMS is almost finished and came up \$220,000 below budget. She also said that the committee is considering geothermal heating systems at both schools.

With no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Frishman made a motion to adjourn, Mrs. Strunk seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "June D. Strunk".

June D. Strunk

kds