April 26, 2016

The Board of Finance held a public hearing on this date in the Stonington High School Auditorium at 7:15 pm. for the proposed budget for fiscal year 2016-2017. Members present were Bryan Bentz, Chairman; June Strunk, Secretary; Glenn Frishman, Dudley Wheeler and Michael Fauerbach. Tim O'Brien was not present. Also present were James Sullivan, Director of Finance, school administrators, Town Hall staff and residents of the town.

The budget presented totals 64,013,013. General Government stands at 19,919,512. Board of Education totals 36,267,121, Debt Service totals 5,006,100 and CIP stands at 2,820,280. These carry a mil rate of 22.31, which is a 0.99 increase.

Mr. Bentz opened the hearing by inviting residents to comment and ask questions at the microphone. He reviewed the budget page by page, asking residents if they had any questions as he proceeded.

Don Maranell, Bayview Avenue, Stonington- stated that he thought it was a bad plan to use the surplus in the budget and he thought it would jeopardize the mil rate. He also thought that the choice of the meeting on a primary night was an unfortunate one.

Elaine Alfiero, Westerly- spoke representing her mother, **Eleanor Oliverio**. She said she appreciated the funds that have been approved for the to Westerly Adult Day Care Center, as her mother has dementia and the Center has been a lifesaver for her.

Ryan Girard-Director of the WADCC also offered his appreciation for the reinstating of funds . He also had correspondence for the Board from families of WADCC participants thanking them for their support.

Harriet Statchen, Briar Patch Road, Stonington -thanked the Board for their hard work and service and asked that the budget be put forward to referendum without further cuts.

Jennifer Herbst, Coveside Court, Mystic-asked why the Denison Pequot Nature Center is not included in outside services.

Mr. Bentz directed the audience to the Board of Education budget.

Kevin Bornstein, Flanders Road, Stonington- read correspondence from **Alexa Pearson**, North Water Street, Stonington, stating that she would like no cuts to the school budget.
Jennifer Herbst, Coveside Court, Mystic-read correspondence from **Alice Brannegan,**

River Crest Drive, Pawcatuck, and **Anna Sawin**, Tipping Rock Road, Stonington, asking the Board to refrain from making cuts to the school budget. She also stated that she has two school age children and would also like no further cuts.

Virginia McCormick, Renee Drive, Pawcatuck- thanked the Board for their hard work and stated that she supports the schools and appreciates that there are no cuts to the budget. She read correspondence from **Brenda Hultgren**, Aimee Drive, Pawcatuck, **Marianne Godard**, Jerry Browne Road, Mystic, and **Lauren and Dustin Yaworsky**, Geiser Street, Mystic, urging the budget be put to vote without any further cuts.

Tim Murray, Geiser St, Mystic-stated that he thought the budget was fiscally responsible.

Liz Hall, Cove Road, Stonington -requested that the education budget remain intact. She said it shows support of students and hardworking administration and faculty.

Ashley Gillece, Moss Street, Pawcatuck- asked that the education budget not be touched this year.

Director Sullivan stated that there was an error in the budget book for CIP under Police Services. He said that the $20,000 listed for the Public Information Message Board should be moved up to Technology Upgrade.

Kevin Bornstein, Flanders Road, Mystic- read correspondence from **Amy Hambly**, Kidds Way, Stonington, stating that the budget should be placed on the ballot as is. He also stated that he thought the BOF did a commendable job and presented a very responsible budget. He said residents should contact their representatives in the State House to assure that we maintain funding levels. He stated that it is the resident's responsibility, not the Board of Finance's.

With no further questions, the public hearing was closed at 7:34 pm.. Mr. Bentz stated that the Board would reconvene at 7:45 in the Commons of the school.

Respectfully Submitted,

June D Strunk
Secretary