



Town of *North Stonington*
Connecticut



North Stonington Board of Finance

Meeting Minutes of

Wednesday April 5th, 2017

New Town Hall @ 7:30pm

North Stonington, CT

1. **Call to Order;** Call to order @ 7:36pm

2. **Roll Call:**

a) Members Present;

Vice-Chairman Charlie Steinhart, Secretary Tim Pelland, Carolyn Howell.

b) Absent; Chairman Tim Main, Mustapha Ratib, Emile Pavlovics

c) Alternates seated if any;

Alt. Bob Testa seated for Emile Pavlovics

Alt. Chris Hundt seated for Mustapha Ratib

3. **Pledge to the Flag;** Completed

4. **Public Comment and/or Questions;** None

5. **BOE FY 2017 -2018 Budget Presentation;**

Superintendent Peter Nero said the BOE will present a handout and a slide show to follow along the breakdown of the 2017 /2018 Budget. As well with having the different departments explaining the different parts of their budgets. He also acknowledged that it is going to be a difficult year due to unforeseen Budgets cuts from the State that are possible.

Chairmen of the BOE, Bob Carlson mentioned that everyone is aware what is going on at the State level and noted that they made substantial cuts to what was originally proposed. He also said they will be presenting a 2.89% increase due to mostly salary and benefits and noted a decrease in fuel cost. He also noted the success of the students in the schools and the rankings in the State of where they are at compared to other schools locally.

Principal from the Middle School how more and more kids want to join the workforce and different grants applied for. Also the fact that 82% the kids are earning college credits in high school, which helps with cost when they reach the college level if they decide to go that way.

Special Education spoke on graduation rates and grants and how the cost increases are also related to Labor and Benefits as well.

The technology increase is in software, noting that no new equipment will be needed at this time and the amount of security cameras in place at the school now.

Bob asked about pre-buy. Answer given was; Zero at this time point.

Carolyn asked if anyone from the BOE was reaching out to the State to express concerns over the proposed budget. Answer given was; yes, they have been in contact. Bob mentioned even if the school budget was cut to zero to make up for cuts, it would be close to a \$300,000 loss.

Charlie said that the next scheduled meeting for the BOF, we will discuss a plan to bring to the scheduled April, 27th Tri-Board Meeting.

Joe Gross commented that the presentation was well done and any proposed cuts the BOF makes, he would want an explanation of how to we can make up what they cut.

Brian Rathbun mentioned that we need to live within our means. Bob commented that there definitely will be an impact.

***** 2:00 Minute Recess**

***** Reconvened at 9:09pm**

6. Town Government Structure Committee (Report on Recommendations) ;

Members from the committee handed out a brochure with a breakdown of proposed changes in the Town Government. Two different items were identified; 1) Planning 2) Administration, noting the Planning position has been filled by Juliet Hodge. The other is a position to assist the Selectman with day-to-day operations and dealing with different boards. The current salary figured in this year's budget for that position is \$75,000, plus medical benefits. Shawn Murphy said other positions were eliminated to make room for this; in return there would be no extra cost in the budget. Bob asked if this would be a union position or a contracted position. Answer given was; that has not been determined yet. But position does or could be a union position. The committee said they were asked to do a task and performed that task, but they cannot answer some of the board's questions as they would have been answered by the BOS.

7. BOS Request for Added Appropriation ;

The BOS is seeking an appropriation for the amount of \$19,700 for Forestry truck replacement. It was voted in favor by the BOS (2-1). Shawn asked if the board would consider or recommend this go to a Town Meeting. Selectman Donahue indicated that this request was not that of the BOS.

Bob made a motion to approve at the March 28th BOS meeting, the board voted (2-1) to forward a request to the BOF in the amount of \$19,700 to line item C3.33. Volunteer Fire Company Forestry truck replacement.

Chris seconded. Vote 5-0-0

8. BOF Budget Meeting Schedule;

Shawn decided to put the scheduled Town Hall meeting for the 20th on hold and will send a letter for the 27th meeting for a Tri-Board meeting in the Media Center to discuss different options. Charlie said he will post as an agenda item to formulate different scenarios for a possible mill rate to discuss at a future meetings.

9. Review of Previous Minutes; (3/29/17)

Bob motioned to approve previous minuets as amended.

Carolyn seconded. Vote 5-0-0

10. Public Comments and Questions; None

11. Adjournment;

Bob motioned to adjourn.

Chris seconded.

Vote 5-0-0.

Adjourned 10:49 pm.

Submitted By: Tim Pelland
