



North Stonington Board of Finance

Draft Meeting Minutes of

Wednesday April 26th, 2017

New Town Hall @ 7:30pm

North Stonington, CT

1. **Call to Order;** Call to order @ 7:42pm

2. **Roll Call:**

a) Members Present;

Chairman Tim Main, Vice-Chairman Charlie Steinhart, Secretary Tim Pelland, Mustapha Ratib, Alt. Bob Testa and Alt. Chris Hundt.

b) Absent: Carolyn Howell and Emile Pavlovics

c) Alternates seated if any;

Alt. Bob Testa seated for Emile Pavlovics

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

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

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

The Board started out deliberations with Bob stating that all the boards need to be fiscally responsible. Bob also stated that there should be a zero Budget increase if State cuts happen. He stated we have to force some change. He also stated the financial position in the Selectman's Budget should be cut out of this year's budget, making a reduction of \$100,000 out of the Town Government Budget. He also mentioned contributing to the Undesignated Fund for preparation of impending School Project. Bob also said that we could use money put aside for Undesignated Fund in the upcoming budget to help with State cuts if made. Chris said setting money aside for the future is smart and we need to protect financial responsibility to the town. Chris also mentioned if the School Project is not going to happen, the town needs to stop spending money on it.

\*\*\* Carolyn showed at 7:56pm

**(a) Discussion about School Re-imbusement Rates;**

Charlie mentioned the School Budget is up 2.89%. That is what the BOE is requesting. He also mentioned that the Teacher Retirement Fund should be a separate line item in the Budget. Bob stated that if the Scholl Project does not move ahead, the money that is in the Project Fund now could be put toward the BOE Budget. He suggested sending a letter to the BOE suggesting that.

**(b) Talk of the EMS Project;** Charlie mentioned the payment loan interest rate is 2.375% with a payment of \$335,000 is in the Budget and did not cause a mill rate increase. That also includes a grant of \$295,000 already figured in, and noted we have already paid over 1 million dollars on the EMS Project.

He also noted that he BOF has to add \$250.00 to their budget for additional Audit Services. Charlie also mentioned the financial position in the Town Budget should be considered to combine with the school for future savings. Chris asked with everything in the Budget, what is the Mill Rate Impact? Charlie mentioned the Mill Foil Weed problem and also noted we have a Gypsy Moth problem as well and would we be responsible for that also. Bob mentioned to make sure if cuts are made, they also include Town Government position of financial person.

**\*\*\* Break at 8:57pm**

**\*\*\* Reconvened at 9:00pm**

Discussion continued on the Mill Rate impact. Carolyn mentioned what the mill rate was without any State cuts. Answer given; Approximately 28.5 , with a 1.5 mill increase to include both budget increases from both the BOS and BOE. Bob mentioned he would increase mill rate for Undesignated Fund and not for Budgets. Mustapha said we need the final Grand List number as of 4-27-2017 and see if we can reduce expenses and keep mill rate down. Chris suggested a 2 Mill increase without cutting anything to keep operating normally. It is noted that the State cuts are already figured into the Budget and some of the numbers will change. Talk of trying to get a Budget without State cuts to have a couple of different scenarios.

**6. Adjournment:**

Charlie motioned to adjourn.

Bob seconded with other agenda items to be discussed at next meeting.

Vote 6-0-0. Adjourned 10:43 pm.

**Submitted By: Tim Pelland**