



Town of **North Stonington**
Connecticut



North Stonington Board of Finance

Draft Meeting Minutes of

Wednesday April 27th, 2016

North Stonington Middle School Cafeteria @ 7:30pm

North Stonington, CT

1. **Call to Order;** Meeting called to order at 7:30pm
2. **Attendance; (Including any alternates seated)**
Acting Chair Charlie Steinhart, Secretary Tim Pelland, Carolyn Howell, Emile Pavlovics, Mustapha Ratib, Alternate Chris Hundt. Seated for Chairman Tim Main is Alternate Bob Testa.
Absent; Tim Main.
3. **Pledge to the Flag;** Completed
4. **Public Comment and/or Questions;**
 - a) Darren Robert asked if the BOF was planning on voting on the School Project this evening.
 - b) Van Brown asked if Mill Rates will be presented. Charlie answered that mill rates will be figured out, but will fluctuate depending on State decision on funding. If amount of \$86,000 is deducted from School Budget, the mill rate would increase .18%. If \$ 287,000 is deducted, could be ½ mill. .9% is to balance the Grand List.
5. **BOS Continued Discussion of BOS School Building Project;**
 5. (A) **Public Questions**
 - a) Carolyn asked about reimbursement of \$646,330 of startup cost, would it come back to the town if approved.

- b) Charlie asked about the change in resolution of the BOF. Can it be voted on before the BOS votes on it? Shawn said that it can be done afterwards. Emile mentioned they have approved the “yellow highlighted area” of the resolution. Charlie also questioned the 1.59 million startup cost is part of the 38.55 million dollar project. Charlie also asked if there was a 21 to 23 million dollar project out there. Mike Uργο’s comment to that was “He spoke out of turn and apologized for the comment”.
- c) Carolyn asked about voting on two items; the startup cost and actual School Project. Answer given by Shawn; they are one in the same. Emile commented, “He was ok with the way it is currently presented”.
- d) Bob Testa asked about the High School building that would be vacated by the school. If it is rented out, would the renter pay for repair cost? Answer given by Mike Uργο, “Yes they would”. Bob asked whether we or if we had cost estimates to do the repair work? Shawn says that he does have preliminary numbers. Price to repair, \$272,000. Demo and hazmat removal could be upwards to \$930,000.
- e) Tim Pelland asked if there was a Phase II somewhere down the road on the Building Project. The answer was no.
- f) Joe Gross mentioned that he Tri-Board is a Selecting Board, not an Authoritive Board. Van Brown mentioned that the buildings being turned over to the town have deep restrictions to do something with and would have to be reviewed by the Att. General and Superior Court. Mike Uργο stated that the Library Board is very positive on it and he does not see a problem.

5. (B) Public Comments

- a) Joe Gross believes that the Tri-Board did not address questions to the responsible people on maintenance issues. Mike stated the financial aspects of project have been answered.
- b) Nick Mullane stated the BOE and BOS have worked very hard on this project and supports it with hopes that the BOF passes tonight.
- c) Brian Rathman hopes the BOF will take into consideration the future of the High School building, State Troopers, etc..

- d) Resident mentioned the Tri-Board has been discussing project since 2015 and doesn't want decision to come down to six people.
- e) Mike Urgo requested what the possible increase would be as so taxpayers would have an idea on a mill rate impact.
- f) Charlie gave (4) examples of mill rate. Two without State Aid in which a resident asked that they not be used as it could confuse people. Charlie said okay, and two examples given were;
 - a) With State Aid at 4%- 3.35 Mill
 - b) State Aid and USDA loan- 3.03%
- g) Van asked total payment will be paid in interest if project is in the 23 million range at 2.87%. Answer given, \$7,560,973 million to be paid off in 2037 if funded. Mike Urgo stated that if a Space Standard Waiver was given, price could be as low as 21.6 million.

6. BOS Action on BOS School Building Project;

- a) See attached copy of resolution. Tim Main taking over as Chair as we are on a new topic. For Alternate, Bob Testa who is back in the Alternate slot.
- b) Motion to accept resolution as presented as part of the Building Project. Motion was made by Emile as part of vote. Motion made by Tim Main. Seconded by Mustapha. Vote 4-2-0. Yes vote, Carolyn, Tim Main, Mustapha, and Emile. No Vote; Tim Pelland and Charlie Steinhart.

Meeting was recessed at 9:03pm and Reconvened at 9:17

7. BOF Strategies for 2016 / 2017 Town Budgets

- a) Setup agenda for Wednesday May 4th, 2016.
- b) Carolyn Howell will not be present. Chris Hundt will be seated in her absence.
- c) Mustapha left meeting at 9:23pm.
- d) Budgets will be looked over and started to be gone through.

8. Previous Minutes; (4/20/16)

Minutes accepted as amended. Charlie motioned to accept. Carolyn seconded. Vote 5-0-1. Chris abstained.

9. Public Comments and Questions;

- a) Resident noted that no reporters present. Would like to see the internet used more by the board to inform people about project, to get the word out to educate.
- b) Van brown mentioned he would like to know what the BOE Mill Rate impact will be as well as General Government.
- c) Danial Smith asked if the BOF had received an apology from the First Selectman for outburst at previous meeting. Answer was no.
- d) Joe Gross requested a copy of the draft of the Budget.
- e) Charlie suggested inviting members of the EMS and F.D. Told not to attend meeting of the BOF to discuss things. Charlie said the door is always open. Bob mentioned when you get into Long Term Projects, all aspects need to be looked at. Tim Main suggested looking a 5-year plan.

10. Adjournment;

Charlie Steinhart motioned to adjourn, Bob seconded.
Approved 6-0-0. Adjourned 9:58 pm.

Submitted By: Tim Pelland
