



**North Stonington Board of Finance**

**Meeting Minutes of**

**Wednesday May 11th, 2016**

**North Stonington Elementary School Library @ 7:30pm**

**North Stonington, CT**

**1. Call to Order; Meeting called to order at 7:30pm**

**Attendance; (Including any alternates seated)**

Tim Pelland, Carolyn Howell, Emile Pavlovics, Mustapha Ratib.

**Absent;** Tim Main and Charlie Steinhart. Motion made for Emile to Chair meeting in Tim Main's absence by Tim Pelland. Bob Testa sitting in for Charlie Steinhart.

Mustapha seconded. Vote 4-0-1

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

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

**4. Review School Budget Numbers for School Modernization Project;**

**A.** Emile asked the board to move Item # 4 to after Item #9.

Bob motioned and Carolyn seconded. Vote 5-0-0 Motion made by Emile.

**5. Future Budget Strategies;**

**A.** Carolyn suggested about how divided the public is over the School Project and has nothing to do about educating the children. She suggested sharpening our pencils to make less of a tax burden for a 5-year period. Bob suggested the boards all work together to cut cost. Emile suggested to be put on the Tri-Board agenda to discuss a plan for the next 5 years. Mustapha asked how to get more businesses to come to town and other ways we can make more revenue.

Emile said businesses like certainty. If they know what the taxes will be they more comfortable, as well as the tax payer. Bob suggested limiting taxes per year by capping them as this would give them a sense of security. This will be discussed at the next Tri-Board meeting. Carolyn will lead the conversation for May 26<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

Motion by Emile to bring this plan to the Tri-Board for discussion.

Tim Pelland first, Mustapha seconded. Vote 5-0-0

#### **6. BOF Budget 2016 / 2017 review and Preparation;**

- A. Emile asked if there are any alterations on the BOE 1.97% increase budget. Bob Carlson said there are no changes. Emile asked if the Operation Cost will be cut to help leverage the Building Project. Peter Nero said "No". Bob asked what impact would there be if there was a 0% increase for 5 years. Peter Nero mentioned the Capital Tech. Plan can be figured, but it is very difficult to figure Labor Cost.

**(Tim Main took over as Chairman for Emile at 8:20 pm)**

#### **7. BOF Future Strategies;**

- A. Mustapha mentioned at the last BOF Meeting that members of the media were requesting a copy of the Draft Budget. Emile mentioned draft documents should not be made public as not to be misleading. Bob mentioned it is an ongoing work product because it is not complete. Emile said when the Selectman has the Budget to go to voters, that is the final that should be released. Emile mentioned Emile motioned to not release a Draft Copy of a Budget. Bob seconded. Vote 6-0-0

Joe Gross said that he is entitled to a Draft Version and provided a copy of a State Statue.

**(Charlie Steinhart showed at 8:51 pm to replace acting Vice Chair Bob Testa)**

**8. Previous Minutes;** Will be gone over at next meeting.

#### **9. Public Comments and Questions;**

- A. Joe Gross asked about a copy of a Draft Budget Plan again. Mustapha will send it to the Town Hall and can be viewed as a Public Document that way.

**B. Review School Budget Numbers for School Modernization Project;**  
(9a moved from Item #4)

1. Numbers put out by the BOF for Town Meeting were incorrect and were corrected by the BOF for the impact Mill Rate increase. The high end and lower end were included in the new Mill Rate for a range that the taxpayers can use to figure their own impact. The BOE was concerned that releasing these numbers could have an impact on voters. Peter Nero said the numbers should have been 3.03 for the high and 2.87 for the low are the proper numbers. Bob stated the 2.87 never came from the BOF. Shawn Murphy stated the mill increase on the school should be the 21 million dollars and the USDA 2.87% interest should have been used. Emile stated the document released with the numbers at the Town Hall Meeting should have been approved by the BOF. He feels that the paper released at the meeting was deeply deceptive and that the worst case scenario was used. Charlie stated he sent it to BOF members for changes and got no response. Mustapha felt the paper was misleading as well. Mike Uργο stated the 2.87 is the number to be based on the facts. Mark Donahue suggested giving a best case and a worst case scenario based on new numbers. Shawn Murphy also stated the 2.87% should be figured in for new mill rate, not the 4.0%.

**Meeting was recessed at 10:27pm and Reconvened on**  
**Thursday May 12<sup>th</sup> @ 1:05 am**

Motion made to accept projection of Mill Rate impact and estimate of School Modernization Project made by Tim Main. Seconded by Emile. Vote 6-0-0

- 10. Adjournment;** Emile motioned to adjourn, Charlie seconded.  
Approved 6-0-0. Adjourned 1:07 am.

**Submitted By: Tim Pelland**

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