



North Stonington Board of Finance

Draft Meeting Minutes of

Wednesday April 20th, 2016

New Town Hall @ 7:30pm

North Stonington, CT

1. **Call to Order;** Meeting called to order at 7:30pm
2. **Attendance; (Including any alternates seated)**

Vice Chairman Charlie Steinhart, Secretary Tim Pelland, Carolyn Howell, Emile Pavolovics, Alternate Chris Hundt and Alternate Bob Testa.
Absent; Tim Main and Mustapha Ratib.
Alternate Bob Testa was seated for Tim Main. Motion was made to seat Chris Hundt in place of Mustapha by Bob Testa. Seconded by Tim Pelland. Vote 5-0-0
3. **Pledge to the Flag;** Completed
4. **Public Comment and/or Questions;**
 - A. Brian Rathbun asked if questions will be taken after the School Modernization Plan was presented. Charlie suggested a Special Meeting to discuss project with public.
5. **BOS Presentation of School Building Project;**
 - A. First Selectman Shawn Murphy noted that building project was recommended by the BOE and the BOS, and was approved by Planning and Zoning.
 - B. Mike Urgo of the Ad/Hoc Committee will be presenting to the BOF the proposed project.
 - C. Emile asked about the bond. BOF was not in possession of a copy. BOS will provide one.

- D. Cost to taxpayers would be 23.49 million dollars with State reimbursement. Total project cost is 38.550 million. Cost to taxpayers could go down to 21.680 million if a Space Standard Waiver is accepted by the State.
- E. Chris Hundt asked what would happen to project if State reimbursement was not approved. What guarantee does the taxpayer have if approved that the whole 38.550 million would not be used.
- F. Emile asked if something could be written into the Bonding Statement to say no money will be authorized until State pays money. Bob mentioned that the State is not funding the schools (i.e. Magnet in New London for example)
- G. Tim Pelland asked about future projects related to building project. Is there any money allocated for that in this proposal? No money is allocated for such as the, or what would be the Old High School roof.
- H. Bob mentioned that the public should be made aware that buildings turned back to town ownership in need of repair could require a cost amount at the same point.
- I. Tim Pelland asked about new furnishing if they are included in project cost. The answer is "No", they are not. The old furniture will be utilized as a cost cutting factor.
- J. Charlie asked about how food would be transported in-between kitchens. Answer given was the food service would handle that.
- K. Emile asked about if something could be written in the Bond Package if money could be spent upon approval by the State.
- L. Carolyn asked about a number for the pre-work that needs to be done prior to the beginning of project. Mike believes it would be in the range of 1 million dollars. Shawn had stated that he did not spend any money until money was received from the State.
- M. Charlie asked does the vote of "Yes" entitle them to spend either the 21.680 million or the 23.490 million even if reimbursement is not given. Mike Uργο answered, "Yes" they could. Shawn does not agree with that approach. Mr. Uργο stated a project could be done for the 23.49 million or 21.68 million, but the committee recommended the 38.55 million project.
- N. Rusty, Project Manager Contractor, stated that reimbursement takes a year before they act. If not approved, escalation of cost could be 3% to 4% in that time period.
- O. Interest rate for project right now for 20 year is 2.875% as stated by Mike Uργο.

- P. Emile asked Shawn about changing a resolution about reimbursement problem, as the whole process would have to start over.
- Q. Mike also stated that the State is very concerned about the tunnel that runs under Route 2 to cross the road.
- R. Bob asked if a mailer notice would go out to households for information on project and/or a referendum date. Shawn said that he would take that under consideration.
- S. Van Brown asked when Mill Rate be known on project.
- T. Mike Urgo is going to give the BOF a Cash Flow Statement.
- U. The Ad/Hoc Committee is looking for a statement of Mill Rate so they can inform the public at presentation.
- V. Brian Rathbun asked if the BOF does not approve of project, can it be overridden by the BOS.

Meeting was recessed at 9:41pm and Reconvened at 9:47p

6. BOS 2016 / 2017 Budget Presentation Discussion (Departmental)

- A. Recreation Commission - Not Present
- B. Public Works / Highway Department - Not Present
Shawn answered questions asked about Public Works Budget.
- C. Charlie asked Shawn if they were told not to be present.
Answer was "No".
- D. Shawn answered questions asked about a new plow and mini excavator (used) and plow is (new).
- E. Bob asked about the Ethics Commission formed a few years back.
Shawn said no meetings or discussions have been performed.

7. Monthly Budget Report Reviews; - No Report.

Charlie will ask BOE Chairman Bob Carlson to send us a copy in an email.

8. Appointment of Auditor per State of Connecticut OPM ;

- A. Appointment for Sandra Wellwood LLC for audit year 2015 / 2016 was motioned by Bob Testa. Chris Hundt seconded. Vote - 6-0-0
Authorized Vice Chair Charlie Steinhart to notify State.
Motion to move Item # 11 to Item # 9.
Bob motioned, Chris seconded. Vote - 6-0-0

9. BOS Request for Additional Appropriation of \$25,000 for Town Attorney

- A. Chris asked what budget amount is for Attorneys. Answer from Shawn, \$50,000. Chris also asked is money already spent. Answer "Yes"
- B. BOB suggested money come from within the budget.
- C. BOB made a motion to deny appropriation.
Emile seconded - Vote 0-5-1. Carolyn abstained

10. BOF Future Strategies;

- A. Agenda for next meeting at Middle School or another location, to be posted to get public input on Building Project.

11. Previous Minutes; (4/6/16) and (4/13/16)

Chris motioned to Accept. Carolyn seconded. Vote 5-0-1. Tim Pelland abstained.

12. Public Comments and Questions;

- A. One person commented on how Mike Urgo did not want to answer question about not getting the reimbursement.
- B. Tim Main Sr. was embarrassed by action of First Selectman.
- C. Van Brown suggested a Letter of Proxy to the board and residents that were not present at the time of the outburst.
- D. Danial Smith commented on how the BOF asked the hard questions.
- E. Brain Rathbun worried about using the whole 38 million without reimbursement and that talks with Stonington never happened.

13. Adjournment;

Chris Hundt motioned to adjourn, Charlie Steinhart seconded.
Approved 6-0-0. Adjourned 11:25 pm.

Submitted By: Tim Pelland
