



Town of *North Stonington*
Connecticut



North Stonington Board of Finance

Meeting Minutes of

Wednesday February 1st, 2017

New Town Hall @ 7:30pm

North Stonington, CT

1. **Call to Order;** Call to order @ 7:35pm

2. **Roll Call:**

- a) Vice-Chairman Charlie Steinhart, Secretary Tim Pelland, Carolyn Howell, and Alt. Bob Testa.
- b) Absent; Chairman Tim Main, Mustapha Ratib, Emile Pavlovics and Alt. Chris Hundt.
- c) Alternate Seated; Alt. Bob Testa seated for Tim Main.

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

4. **Public Comment and/or Questions;**

Joe Gross commented that the Annual Report put together by the BOF is a step in the right direction. Joe also said a blank page in the report from those who did not submit anything should be a blank budget. He also noted a copy of the Auditors Report that was attached to it is a good thing to have there. Charlie mentioned that he had (12) hard copies made at no charge as it or they were done by the school. Joe also pointed out (3) items on page #3 of the report that he BOF should review.

5. **Communications;**

Charlie said the bill from the Auditor had to be reviewed and paid and mentioned that there was a \$500.00 extra charge for the delay of the original meeting date. The amount of the bill also included the School side of the audit. So, the actual cost to the BOF is \$7,900. Charlie made a motion to pay the Auditor's bill at a submitted cost of \$17,000. The Town part is \$7,900. Bob Testa seconded. Vote 4-0-0

The Grande List and the Tax Collectors Reports were presented. Charlie also mentioned the fact that the emails were sent regarding a review schedule for Boards and Commissions containing a draft letter for them to come before the BOF. Charlie also mentioned the draft letter sent by email concerning the loss of revenue and comment on and add to at BOF meeting. Chairman Main sent a letter in an email to First Selectman Shawn Murphy concerning the Jet Shed being constructed at the Town Garage, and how it's being funded, as it was removed from last couple of budgets. Further requesting both the Selectman and Highway Foreman to be available to answer some of the questions the BOF has concerning some of the funding issues. The meeting is scheduled for the 15th of February at 7:30pm. Charlie also presented a power point presentation for the BOF to review.

6. **BOF Stance on Reductions in Outside Aid Related to 2017/2018 Budget Communicate to BOE and BOS;**

Charlie mentioned at the Tri-Board Meeting we had mentioned about a loss in revenue for outside sources would be absorbed in the budget of that Board or Commission. Bob said we can't do anything with the existing budget. But if a Board or Commission knows of a reduction coming, they need to adjust to it. Bob also wanted to be clear that the 2016 / 2017 Budget will not be affected, but all future budgets will be. Charlie said the BOS will be ready to present budget on March 15th, 2017, so the meeting needs to be scheduled. Bob said if they are anticipating any issues, they can make adjustments as necessary. Charlie suggested the BOF propose Loss Revenue as a part of a BOF Policy. Charlie made a motion to a letter dated February 1st, 2017 as read by the BOF to the BOS and the BOE and also Co-Chair Charlie Steinhart to sign it. Bob seconded. Vote 4-0-0

7. **BOF Discuss and Adopt Initial Departmental Budget Interview List;**

Charlie mentioned that the BOS would like to come on March 15th to present the BOS Budget. Also mention of BOE could come in sooner with Selectman approval. Charlie also mentioned also bringing in two or three Boards or Commissions a night to present their portion of the budget with half hour time slots for each. Time is a factor as the BOS hearing date is a factor as the BOS hearing date is scheduled for May 8th, and Mill Rate scheduled for June 14th. Charlie also suggested we should have the process down by April 26th in order to do so; we could schedule some special meetings on different nights if we have to. Bob also suggested those that failed to add anything to the Annual Report should try to do so when they come in. Bob also wanted it to be clear that Boards and Commissions come before us we are not approving anything. It is strictly to gather information. Charlie also said that any correspondence should be done by email and all the Selectman need to be CC'd on it.

Charlie had written a draft letter for review by the BOF to send to the BOS, BOE and all the other Boards and Commissions for review, dates and locations to be determined. Bob mentioned adjusting the agendas so people coming in can go before Public Comment. Carolyn made a motion to adopt letter regarding Interview List for upcoming Budget and to have Vice-Chairman, Charlie Steinhart sign it and distribute.

Bob seconded. Vote- 4-0-0

8. BOF Discuss Fiscal Year Expenditures and Monthly Reports;

Charlie proposed postponing to February 15th meeting. Also the BOE needs to get the BOF a copy from December 2016 and January 2017 to get the correct expenditures up to date. Also about funding for Jet Shed.

9. Short and Long Range Goals, Including Capital;

Charlie mentioned about putting a policy together for Expenditure Losses and also following up on Capital Item Long Term Sheet that was distributed by the BOF last year to the BOE and the BOS. He will email both as a reminder to get that filled out so we can review for future projects and items needed. Discussion of Fire Trucks and other capital items ensued, as to how the items are going to be more than was previously thought. Charlie suggested putting Long Range Capital on future agendas. Resident, Joe Gross said that Planning and Zoning need to be involved in this.

10. Review of Previous Minutes;

Carolyn made a motion to accept minutes as amended.

Charlie seconded. Vote 4-0-0

11. Public Comments and Questions; None

12. Adjournment;

Carolyn motioned to adjourn.

Bob seconded.

Approved 4-0-0.

Adjourned 10:00 pm.

Submitted By: Tim Pelland
