



Town of *North Stonington*
Connecticut



North Stonington Board of Finance

Meeting Minutes of

Wednesday March 29th, 2017

New Town Hall @ 7:30pm

North Stonington, CT

1. **Call to Order;** Call to order @ 7:30pm

2. **Roll Call:**

a) Members Present;

Chairman Tim Main, Vice-Chairman Charlie Steinhart, Secretary Tim Pelland,
Carolyn Howell.

b) Absent; Mustapha Ratib, Emile Pavlovics

c) Alternates seated if any;

Alt. Bob Testa seated for Emile Pavlovics

Alt. Chris Hundt seated for Mustapha Ratib

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

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

Representatives from the Blue Lake Association and Billing Lake Association were on hand to discuss the Mill Foil Weed problem in three lakes. As in the 2017/2018 budget, there is a line item for \$15,000 to add a chemical to each lake to battle the Mill Foil Weed that they say are growing out of control. Bill Ricker noted that he has explored private and State funding for this, and also noted that the State does pay 50%. Bob asked why the State stopped funding the whole amount. Answer given was; lack of funds. Joe Gross commented that people choose to live on a lake and they are State owned, but it is private property. So, the town should now be responsible and he also noted that he felt like a third-class citizen the way they presented their concerns.

5. Communications;

A letter sent by Richard Ried inquiring if the town had used a certain bonding company that was under investigation. First Selectman Shawn Murphy said, No, the town did not use that bonding company. Bob Carlson inquired from the Selectman about a Tri-Board Meeting date to discuss different options concerning possible State Budget cuts. Shawn set a date for April 20th at 7pm in the North Stonington Elementary School gym and Shawn also suggested he would like set a Mill Rate by June 15th.

6. North Stonington Fire Co., North Stonington Ambulance & Public Works Budget Review;

Tim Main motioned to add EDC to agenda Item # 6, to discuss the EDS Project
Bob seconded. Vote - 6-0-0

Juliet Lemming Hodge presented the EDC budget. Nothing that it was less than originally planned. Some savings included; internet service at the office in Holly Green and website maintenance. Bob asked about update on development as some updates given were different projects were discussed. Both Juliet and Shawn said that we need to work with our Planning and Development Plan adopted by the town.

Chief Charlie Steinhart V presented North Stonington Fire Dept. budget noting that he had said that would work within this budget. Shawn mentioned that the increase is capped at 4%, which is \$6,000. Chief Charlie Steinhart V noted that some capital into maintenance. Total budget is \$147,420. Capital Budget total is \$281,130. He also noted the cost of insurance rose 1 ½ % -2% and that he had applied for some grants, but did not get them for certain equipment. He also noted that the Company Car went from \$65,000 to \$55,000. Questions about the Brush Truck from Bob and Charlie were discussed. Shawn said he would have some information for the BOF at a future meeting.

North Stonington Ambulance, Brian Elias presented their budget as he noted an increase in Billing Revenue of \$12,000 and not much change in expenses. Payroll expenses do have an increase to go from Per-Diem to Part-Time employees with Sick and Paid Time-Off. He noted (2) people, (2) Shifts, (12) hours a day would be covered. Salary was \$18,170 with adjustment of \$11,040 to cover that. Carolyn asked about current response times and Brian noted that on a per-diem basis, it is very hard to cover shifts. Brian noted they budget for 85% of coverage time. Tim Main noted it was more like 97. Shawn noted that increasing the budget, does not mean it will get better for coverage. Question about single coverage and why single coverage person does not respond. Shawn asked why they don't respond to assist Fire Dept. Tim Main Sr. asked if someone from out of town gets billed the same as a Town Resident. Answer; Yes.

****At this point the tape recorder stopped working as it was full.**

Joe Gross noted the problem with the Ambulance Service has been a problem for 35 years.

Highway Dept. Steve Holiday was present to present the Town Highway budget. Shawn mentioned a \$14,611 increase in Highway Budget due to LOCIP Funding cuts. Public Works had a decrease \$24,502. Also in the Budget are two separate line items for Overtime. He also noted that Snow Removal was lowered from \$57,000 to \$55,000 due to milder winters. Also the Transfer Station went from (3) employees to (2) employees. SCRRA Tipping fees which is based on tonnage, increased to \$18,000. Bob asked about \$1,000 for a weather app. that informs the highway foreman of impending weather. Says that it is more precise and town crews won't have to be sent out too early.

Bob also noted that a total of \$54,000 was spent in Contractual Services and questioned some other things should be done in-house or contract out.

Shawn handed out an attached list of pending upcoming projects. Charlie asked about chip sealing of roads. Steve said we will know better in a month or so. Steve noted that they use past budget numbers when trying to figure contractor services. Chris noted that they should have a system in place to track where man hours are going. Capital Items were discussed, one being the Cat 9638 Bulldozer that will be rebuilt this year. Shawn talked about forming a committee to review Capital Projects before they are brought to the BOF.

7. BOS FY 2017 -2018 Budget Presentation;

Tim Main will be absent from meetings on the 5th and 12th.

Meeting on the 5th will have the BOE presenting their Budget. Charlie suggested a possibility of a couple Saturday meetings.

8. Center for Emergency Services Project; (Question from Auditor about CNR)

Shawn handed a Recommend Motion for the BOF to consider the \$415,000 for EMS payment be moved from Capital to Debt Reduction. To move this, a Town Meeting is requested. Question was asked, What if this isn't done. Shawn answered; 'The money won't be used'. Charlie motioned, "I move to recommend that the \$415,000 appropriation included under Emergency Services Center (EMS) capital in line item C 6.00 ESC Capital CNR be transferred to Redemption of Debt new line item D 1.21 ESC Ban Principal Payment. Vote - 6-0-0

9. BOF FY 2017 -2018 Budget Preparation;

Tim Main said we are due for a Auditor if the BOF wants to choose a different one. Shawn suggested sending the current Auditor an email asking for a one year extension for consideration. Tim Main agreed to contact them.

10. BOF Review of Monthly Reports (BOS,BOE ,Tax Collector);

Shawn handed out two Profit and Loss Reports. Charlie suggested the board look them over and prepare any questions or email them to Shawn.

11. BOF Future Strategies for Upcoming Meetings ;

Tim Main will not be present for upcoming meetings. Charlie suggested the Board may want to consider a couple of Saturday meetings. Shawn said he is scheduling a Tri-Board meeting for April 20th at 7pm at the Elementary School to discuss State Budget issues.

12. Review of Previous Minutes;

Charlie made a motion to accept from March 22nd minutes.
Carolyn seconded. Vote 4-0-2 Bob Testa and Charlie Hundt abstained.
Minutes from 1/11/17 still need completion.

13. Public Comments and Questions;

Shawn suggested that the BOF listen to a presentation of the Government Committee for a new position they recommend to the BOS. Bill Ricker also noted that the Conservation Committee sells calendars and has contributed \$6,000to the General Fund. Shawn also noted he did not hear anyone refer to Mr. Gross as a third rate citizen.

14. Adjournment;

Bob Testa motioned to adjourn.
Tim Main seconded.
Approved 6-0-0.
Adjourned 11:15 pm.

Submitted By: Tim Pelland