



Town of *North Stonington*
Connecticut



North Stonington Board of Finance

Meeting Minutes of

Wednesday May 3rd, 2017

North Stonington Vol. Fire Co. Inc.

Meeting Hall @ 7:30pm

North Stonington, CT

1. **Call to Order;** Call to order @ 7:38pm

2. **Roll Call:**

a) Members Present;

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

b) Absent: Emile Pavlovics Alt. Bob Testa and Alt. Chris Hundt

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

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

Brent Woodward stated that a resident he knows say that he would not vote for a Budget any more than it is now. Saying this person or persons would not support a budget increase.

5. **BOE FY 2017 -2018 Budget Deliberations;**

Tim Main opened up discussions with talk about numbers from the Grand List. Charlie asked what our new Grand List has created for a Mill Rate or how it has affected it. Mustapha asked if we should just figure on the Governor's proposed Budget, or should we figure it halfway? Tim Main said that we should explore the GOP Budget proposed. Charlie mentioned that the GOP Budget has not need presented yet, as the Governor's Budget is submitted, and is the worst case scenario. Charlie noted that he Governors Budget does not include the impending School Project and we need to start putting money aside for that. Mustapha went through the budget

numbers and noted that the ECS is down 1.6 million with the proposed Governors Budget. He also noted that Special Education was listed as a separate line item this year. Charlie mentioned if the BOE could use money from the State for other things if not used. Mr. Donahue (Selectman) said unused money goes in the General Fund. Mustapha suggested adding a line item for Teacher's Retirement Contribution if that materializes. Mr. Donahue said it is not a loss of revenue at this point. Charlie said that we should commit to one Mill for impending School Project, as it will be phased into the Mill Rate slowly. He also said if we Level Fund it, it will help with taxes later. Carolyn said we should put a Half Mill for the project and split a Half Mill between both boards. Tim Main mentioned we don't know where we are with the School Project. Charlie said if we go over a Mill for an increase, we are wasting our time. Mustapha went over different case Mill Rates ranging from 28 mill to 30 mill. Charlie said the Teachers' Pension Fund probably won't happen; ECS Payment will be cut in some way. Talk cutting ½ Mill from the Budget next meeting was mentioned with the financial position in the Town Government as a possible cut to start with. Mustapha said to go with the 28350 Mill, then we have room to make more cuts if it failed. Charlie mentioned with the unapproved construction of the Jet Shed, they found money to do it. So there must be some room in their budget for cuts as it was built out of Highway Maintenance Line. Tim Main suggested at looking at both departments and make proper adjustments to reach a desired Mill Rate. Mustapha questioned what Mill Rate to figure on, so we can figure how much to cut. The BOF decided to use 28.5 as the number to use as Mill Rate. Talk about the Financial Manager Position continued with Bill Ricker stating that other positions were eliminated to fund that position. Carolyn responded with we were looking to cut those positions anyway.

6. **March 2017 Monthly Reports (BOS,BOE ,Tax Collector);**

Did not discuss.

7. **Review of Previous Minutes;**

Motion made by Charlie to approve amended minutes for 4/26/17 as amended.
Carolyn seconded. Vote 5-0-0

8. **Public Comments and Questions;**

Resident Anthony Pizzello asked if any elected official from any board had asked our Representative and Senator about the School Project Reimbursement Rate for School Project. No BOE member had, so he handed the board paperwork with his findings for the Board to review and discuss if they want to.

9. **Adjournment:**

Tim Pelland motioned to adjourn.

Charlie seconded

Vote 5-0-0.

Adjourned 9:50pm.

Submitted By: Tim Pelland
