



Town of **North Stonington**
Connecticut



North Stonington Board of Finance

Draft Meeting Minutes of

Wednesday May 10th, 2017

Wheeler High Media Center @ 7:30pm

North Stonington, CT

1. **Call to Order;** Call to order @ 7:34pm

2. **Roll Call:**

a) Members Present;

Vice-Chairman Charlie Steinhart, Secretary Tim Pelland, Mustapha Ratib and Carolyn Howell, Alt. Bob Testa and Alt. Chris Hundt.

b) Absent: Chairman Tim Main and Emile Pavlovics

c) Alternate(s) seated if any;

Bob Testa seated for Emile Pavlovics and Chris Hundt for Tim Main.

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

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

Charlie noted that First Selectman Shawn Murphy was in attendance. Resident Brent Woodward asked about Scholl Project numbers to date. What has been spent? Shawn noted that an update would be given at an upcoming Selectman meeting. Mr. Woodward also asked the Boom Bridge Road Bridge Project as far as a timeline to start. Shawn said it should be going out to bid sometime in July or August. Chris also noted that some Teachers are saying to some kids in school that they don't have money for toner for printers at school. Shawn said they tend to freeze spending this time of year.

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

Mustapha presented numbers in the Budget with a one mill rate added to existing mill of 27. Shawn Murphy went through numbers in the Budget with the BOF as some numbers were not correct. Chris said we have to decide what we are doing in order to give the BOE and the BOS some guidance. Shawn mentioned the Budget was figured in using the

Governor's proposed budget numbers. Chris mentioned if the Teachers decision is not covered by the State as it has been where it is going to come from. Shawn suggested using last year's numbers, but increase ECS by \$600,000. Bob mentioned the one mill increase for the School Project if the Budget fails, we could be looking at some very tough times ahead. Charlie asked if the BOE holds off on setting a Mill Rate until after the State Budget is approved and the BOS sees it before June 30th, 2017, would the people get to vote on it first. Shawn answered, No. Charlie asked about any word from Hartford on School Project. Shawn answered, No. Discussion on a Mill Rate of 28 was talked about using actual numbers. Currently the loss in proposed budget for ECS is \$1.6 million. Shawn said we can't take an \$850,000 cut, half as proposed, without some kind of impact on the Budget. Charlie mentioned that if the BOE absorbs some of the cuts now, we could try to find a way to give some back in future years. Mustapha thinks we should go with an increase to 28.5 mills, a 1.5 mill increase. The BOF agreed to \$265,000 or zero increase for the BOE taking into account 1 mill of increase will go toward Scholl Building Project, and the BOS cut \$130,000.

Motion made by Bob Testa to send a letter to the BOE and the BOS with an explanation detailing our conversation of a reduction of \$387,684 to the BOE Budget and the BOS \$132,000 reduction letter to be sent by Vice Chairman. Carolyn seconded this based on cuts of \$265,000 from the State. Vote -6-0-0

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

Charlie mentioned he has the Suspense List to go over next meeting and will put it as an agenda item.

7. **Review of Previous Minutes;**

Motion made by Carolyn to accept minutes for 5/3/17 as amended.
Chris seconded. Vote 4-0-2. Bob Testa and Chris Hundt abstained.

8. **Public Comments and Questions;**

Joe Gross offered to help the BOF with (3) policies he has for review.

9. **Adjournment;**

Chris motioned to adjourn.

Bob seconded

Vote 6-0-0.

Adjourned 9:35pm.

Submitted By: Tim Pelland