

February 26, 2014

The Board of Finance held a special meeting on this date at the Police Department meeting room. Members present were John O'Brien, Chairman; Glenn Frishman, Secretary; Dudley Wheeler; Sandy Grimes and June Strunk. Also present Maryanna Stevens, Director of Finance, Selectmen, Town staff and residents.

Mr. O'Brien called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Previous Minutes**

Mr. Grimes made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Mr. Wheeler seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

**Budget Hearings FY 14-15**

Director of Administrative Services Vincent Pacileo introduced the new Director of Public Works Barbara McKrell.

Department of Public Works- Highway, Building Maintenance, and Engineering –  
First Selectman Haberek presented the budget and the following questions were discussed: Tree trimming increase – Highway Supervisor Lou Dicesare explained that CL&P had done an aggressive tree trimming program, some areas included historic Town trees that are under the wires and conductors- there was a public outcry to not totally remove the trees, the Highway department will now maintain these trees as they sit. Mrs. Stevens stated that \$5000 has been moved from Selectmen's budget to the Tree trimming line. Gasoline increase is based on actual usage. SPS Operations Manager Mr. King provided an estimate on rates that are comparable to Capital Region Council rates also in past years, usage had not been not taken into account when budgeting. Mr. DiCesare added that they are also making a transition from diesel trucks to gasoline.

Field Maintenance is same.

Mr. Dicesare informed the members that the Snow removal is over in Labor and materials. They are over \$47,629.22 over in Labor and \$42,500 over in Materials. These overages are generally covered through Budget transfers. Mr. Haberek explained that the Engineer had requested \$6000 for the Flood Plain Manager duties. These duties are increasing with FEMA digital maps and there is a lot of work required. He cut that down to \$3500. He stated that he would like to outsource Engineering work as they prepare to hire a new Town Engineer. Operations and Building Maintenance – the 4th district voting hall, Human Services building and Pawcatuck Dike need to be addressed as they are in bad shape. Mr. DiCesare elaborated on conditions with the Pawcatuck Dike the pump house, which protects the commercial entities there is without permanent power. A generator is in place now but the Army Corps of Engineers will most likely not accept that. An easement is required to restore power to the

pump house; this results from setup with the old businesses that are no longer at this location. He has gotten some preliminary pricing which could be about \$20-25K; the roof is also in bad shape, which could cost \$34-40K. The Army Corps of Engineers built the site, and back in 1964 the Town signed off and is responsible to maintain. They are tested on a regular basis.

Building Official had requested an increase to \$30K in the Technical assistance line; Mr. Haberek stated he reduced this to \$5000. Two years ago funds were put in the budget in anticipation of the Mystic Senior Living project. It is now coming forward so an additional appropriation may be required if the project goes through.

Mrs. Strunk asked about buildings covered by the Janitorial/Maintenance salary. Mr. Haberek replied that he maintains the Town Hall, Human Services and Highway buildings as well as routine duties at the PNC as needed and courier duties.

General Government-Mr. Haberek stated that he would like to make a change to the First Selectman's budget, line #5, Expenses (First Selectman). Cut the budget amount from \$9000 to \$6000 then remove line # 5 and place the \$6000 in the Department of Administrative Services budget line #43 Employee Travel expense. He added that he would be using an iPhone app Mile tracker using GPS, which can monitor usage. Lines addressed included Town wide technical and professional services, Payments to Other Civil Divisions reduction, Tactical Operations Director, Town Attorney. Mrs. Stevens explained that the Payment to the Borough is a formula based on actual Highway expenditures, in FY 13-14 \$900,000 was used to pave the roads thereby causing the fluctuation.

Director of Administrative Services Vincent Pacileo addressed his budget drawing attention to the \$142,000 increase overall, stating that \$121,000 is related to line #46 Health Insurance account. This is the first full year of the Affordable Care Act fee, which is a per capita assessment by member, \$63 per member. Half of the increase is driven by these fees. Claim experience was very favorable last year. Plan is no longer substandard eliminating copays for various medical visits, again driven by the Affordable Care Act. To offset these costs in the future, through negotiations the Town has introduced a High Deductible Health Plan as well as a 401a, cash balance plan.

Mr. Frishman asked Mr. Kizer, IT Manager about the changes to the broadband, AT&T has sold out to Frontier. Town internet service is Point-to-Point access. Mr. Kizer stated that the copper T1 line is leased through AT&T, which will not be supported by Frontier.

Mr. Grimes asked about the line #39 Heart & Hypertension (lifetime payout), he stated there are more people receiving this but the amount has not changed.

Mrs. Stevens replied that this is statutory, Statutes have changed over the years so anyone hired after a specific date are placed in Risk Management in the Finance budget.

Line #53 GASB 45 (net budget liability) required to account for post employment benefits, such as health insurance. We allow retired employees to stay on our plan at their own cost, which then requires the Town to account for an implicit rate subsidy.

Line #54 Risk Management-stipend, Mrs. Stevens had requested an increase to the line due to the volume of work and to meet level of predecessor. Line #55 Property & Liability includes

Heart & Hypertension claims (paid on a degree of injury rating)-estimated - \$93,000, Town Dock: Piers and Wharves - \$45,000, Self insurance-Flood - \$60,000, Liability Automobile Property insurance - \$215,000, Workers Compensation - \$180,000, Pollution-underground storage tanks-\$12,000, Crime insurance- \$5000, Public Officials and bonds -\$300, various other liabilities \$20,000.

Debt Service - Mrs. Stevens stated that the fields are fully bonded. Roads and WPCA upgrades are half funded with short-term notes.

Mr. Haberek stated that the FY 14-15 budget is a .66 decrease.

The Town plans to start interviews for the Director of Planning in the next few weeks. Mrs. Strunk asked about Advertising costs and if it was possible to post in just one local newspaper, Mr. Haberek said yes he would look into this further for the next meeting. Mrs. Stevens added that the State is looking into a change to legal posting.

Police - Chief Darren Stewart introduced Police Commission Chairman Mel Olson as well as other Commission members present. He brought the Boards attention to the line #17 School Safety Personnel line.

Mr. Olson stated that the Department has investigated 2000 criminal incidents, made 542 criminal arrests and investigated 661 motor vehicle accidents. 854 total motor vehicle summons issued for various violations with 67 DWI arrests. They also responded to 11,183 miscellaneous calls, which 1900 were medical calls and 932 were security alarm calls. A total of 1483 motor vehicle stops were made in accordance with the State of CT profiling law.

Mandated Retirement Fund increase of \$15,000 Overall 1.4% increase. The Police Union is still in negotiations but increases are covered under the Administrative Services line. A new dog has been purchased with donations and funds encumbered from the previous year as well as money from the Canine expenses line. Captain Desmond spoke regarding the pleasantly high estimate (\$17,100) received on the old boat; they plan to go out to bid. The new boat should come sometime early April. They also discussed boat operation training and who would operate the vessel, this would be based on ability.

Capital Improvement Projects - Fleet upgrade -Captain Desmond distributed a handout listing each vehicle and its mileage. Chevrolet and Ford have replaced the Crown Victoria. Equipment -Highway Operations -Lou Dicesare stated that the 3 large 6 wheel dump trucks are 16 to 19 years old and parts are hard to get. Drainage issues were also discussed.

#### **Director of Finance**

Mrs. Stevens addressed the many emails received supporting the \$50,000 supporting the K-12 Design Architect. Design presentation provided by Rob Marsiglia.

October 1, 2013 Net Grand List with an increase of .32% over the October 1, 2012 Grand List.

Mrs. Stevens also discussed the revenues. Last year it was based on the Governors proposal but she would recommend using the actual this year.

Mr. O'Brien stated that with three nights of deliberations he would like to set certain departments and topics for each night to notify the public. A preliminary schedule had been determined but after discussion among the members it was decided that since these were Special meetings it would be best not be specific leaving discussions open. Mr. Haberek stated that this limits the departments time wise to make final adjustments. The deliberation agendas will state Budget deliberations and posting in the newspapers could be more specific.

March 12, 2014- General Government, CIP, WPCA, Human Services

March 19, 2014 – Board of Education, Police, Outside Agencies

March 26, 2014 – As needed

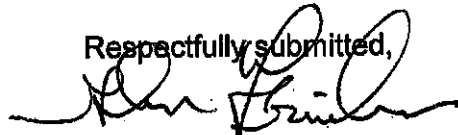
Mrs. Strunk added that she would like to hold the meeting to set the mil rate at least 24 hours after the Public Hearing. After discussion, members agreed to keep the meeting immediately following the Public Hearing. The timing just will not work to meet all preparations necessary to set the call for Town meeting.

#### **Subcommittee reports**

Fields - Mr. Grimes stated that he only knows what he read in the paper- \$5.00 an hour for use of the fields. He asked Mr. Haberek who was in charge of this. Mr. Haberek replied that all non-school affiliated groups will make a recommendation, the Recreation Commission will give their recommendation to the Athletic Fields Task force who will then go to the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Haberek stated they need to come up with efficient way to work this, it will take time. He is waiting on okay from the Town Attorney regarding Town meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Frishman made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Grimes seconded the motion and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Glenn Frishman  
Secretary

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