

Board of Finance

Special Meeting

April 7, 2014

Mystic Middle School

BOF members attending: June D. Strunk, Sandy Grimes

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 pm by June Strunk. This meeting was an informal discussion between the BOF represented by June Strunk and Sandy Grimes, Mystic Middle School PTO, teachers, parents, two members of the BOE and Superintendent Van Riley.

At this meeting, time was given to the BOF, followed by time given to the BOE and the superintendent. For the BOF, June Strunk explained the budget process to those attending. The guidelines for budget increases were derived from cost of living increases for 2013, inflation rate for 2013, national GDP increase for 2013. The BOF had an initial guideline increase of about 2%. June also explained that starting the budget cycle, Stonington had lost revenues of 1.1 million which needed to be made up in increased taxes before any budget increases were considered. It was stressed that the issue with lost revenue was just this year. June discussed the fund balance purpose and the importance of the fund balance. She reviewed how the fund balance had been used the past 5 years to offset tax increases. The BOF discussed the possible tax increase and the mill rate increase of 0.49 would represent an increase of just under 2.5%, which is 67% more than what the inflation rate was. The mill rate was chosen so that if passed, the BOF felt the mill rate increase was fair to all residents. The mill rate was not chosen as one that would pass, but as one that was fair to all. A discussion of Stonington's bond rating and the importance of a bond rating also took place.

There were several questions, suggestions, by most attending.

At 8:05 pm, Sandy Grimes made a motion to adjourn. June Strunk seconded. The motion carried.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandy Grimes". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned in the lower-left quadrant of the page.