

December 2, 2009

The Board of Finance held a regular meeting on this date at the Police Department meeting room. Members present were Glenn Frishman, Chairman; Andrew Rines, Secretary; Dudley Wheeler; John O'Brien; Bryan Bentz and Sandy Grimes. Also present Maryanna Stevens, Director of Finance; Ed Haberek, First Selectman; Leslie Packer, Clerk; Town of Stonington and Board of Education staff and residents.

Mr. Frishman called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Public comments

None

Previous minutes

Mr. Wheeler made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 4 and 19th meetings. Mr. Rines seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

Bid Waivers

BOE – Bus contract – Bill King, Business Manager asked for the board members support of a previous Board of Education action with regard to the Bus contract. They had received a proposal for a 0% increase then 2.5% for the next two years. This does not exceed the state statute that says no contract can extend past 5 years. The BOE has also received statements from the Town and Board of Education attorneys that the Town Charter has not been violated. Mr. O'Brien made a motion of concurrence with the Board of Education action with regard to continuation of the Bus contract. Mr. Bentz seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

Director of Finance

Mrs. Stevens informed the members that the Finance Technical & Professional services line is overextended. Since the Assistant Assessor was hired late, Vision Appraisal had to be hired to complete necessary tasks. She added that a budget transfer would take place in January with funds available from the Assistant Assessor salary line.

Mrs. Stevens reported that as of 30 November building permits are up, 74% collected, as well as conveyance tax and Town clerk fees.

Mrs. Stevens added that she has received no updated information from the State.

Old Business

Stonington Ambulance Corps. – Mr. Frishman asked Victor Lima, President and Glenn Riffe, Vice President if they had the information requested by the Board at the last meeting. Mr. Lima stated that he did, however due to HIPPA laws this could only be disclosed in Executive Session. The members did not feel they could proceed without documented situations with the dispatchers. Mr. Lima stated, "I hope the Board is ready for what may come. Hopefully, nothing bad happens to get results." Mr. Frishman asked for Mr. Habereks' opinion. Mr. Haberek replied that his first priority is safety. He added that following the meeting held November 19 with members of the Fire Departments, Ambulance corps, and the police there are concerns with dispatch but is aware that Chief Stewart has a plan. At this time, Chief Stewart provided for the members a 'thumbnail sketch' of his plan. He stated that he fully supports his dispatch staff. The two issues to be addressed are technology and personnel. He feels that a Dispatch Supervisor with raise the professionalism to oversee all aspects of the center. At this time the members agreed that without any official request from the Selectmen no action was necessary. The Stonington Ambulance Corps. has made it clear that they are going to leave.

Correspondence

Memo from Karen Weiss, Sanitarian detailing October 2009 activities.

Letter from George Sylvestre, Director of Administrative Services inviting a representative from the Board to join the GIS team in the development of the next phase of the Town's GIS strategic plan. Bryan Bentz agreed.

New Business

Animal control facility update – Chief Stewart reported that part of the roof blew off during the last storm. Lou DiCesare, Highway Supervisor has stepped forward with his crew to do the repairs. Funding will come from the operational budget. He added that it might be necessary to come before the Board later for additional funding. The Chief added that they have received donations that have helped with the cost of painting and the purchase of a washer and dryer.

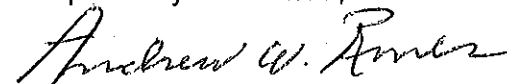
Subcommittee reports

Mr. O'Brien asked the BOE members present about the status of the CO for the High School. Mr. King stated that the final contractor is to complete work over the holiday break to include electrical modifications to the emergency lights.

Mr. Grimes reported that he met with Beth-Ann Stewart, Human Services Director as is pleased with her progress.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Wheeler made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Grimes seconded the motion and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Andrew W. Rines".

Andrew W. Rines

Secretary

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