

February 3, 2010

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

Mr. Rines called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**Previous minutes**

Mr. Wheeler made a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting.

Mr. Grimes seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

**Budget transfer – WPCA**

Request from First Selectman dated 01/05/2010 to transfer \$250,000: \$30,000 from #4022004-88022 Infiltration/Inflow Study and \$220,000 from #4022005-88022 Infiltration /Inflow Study to #10156-80189, Water Pollution control Authority, Operations (Town Share). Mr. Wheeler made a motion to approve the transfer. Mr. Bentz seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

**Director of Finance**

Mrs. Stevens provided for the members a 2010-11 estimate of State aid to Municipalities showing the impact of the Governor's proposed budget to Stonington. She informed that there is no updated information on the Tax relief to the Elderly or the Veteran's exemption.

Mrs. Stevens provided for the members the October 1, 2009 Net Grand list information. Marsha Standish, Assessor stated that it is up .697% indicating some growth in the Town.

Mr. Rines at this time asked about the status of tax collections. Mrs. Stevens stated that she would look into this.

First Selectman Haberek mentioned that the Health districts have been asked to regionalize. He said a meeting is planned for next week and he will keep the members updated.

**Correspondence**

- Copy of Memo from Karen Weiss, Sanitarian detailing the December 2009 activities.
- Letter from Renee Drive resident-this will be addressed by Director of Public Works

## **Comments from the Public- none**

### **Budget Hearings**

**Police Department-** Members welcomed Chief Stewart and Captain Desmond. Captain Stewart introduced the officers and Police Commission members present. The Chief covered some highlights of the present year operations; there has been a successful end to several significant cases, medical calls and burglaries are way up, there is a growing heroin problem in town and the canine unit is considered one of the best in the State. There has been an increase in request for police at special events, pistol permit have almost doubled, motor vehicle accidents and DWI's are down.

Objectives for the coming year include videotaping of confessions and two dash cams. The State has offered a free version, EVERBRIDGE to replace the current reverse 911 system that should reduce the annual costs. He discussed his plan for dispatch to keep up with the ever-changing technology.

Mr. Frishman asked about the grant status. Captain Desmond stated that with the help of the Finance Director and IT Manager there is a very good chance of getting a funding for an EOC upgrade, fiber optics.

Mr. Rines was pleased to see 0% increases for the non-union employees.

Mrs. Stevens reminded the members that the Police retirement was just a projection based on March 2009 letter from the State Employees Retirement Commission. Police negotiations are currently ongoing.

Other items discussed: traffic situation turning into and out of High school, State mandate for reflective signs, overtime increase and addition of a trained reserve officer to help with increased special events.

**Highway Department-** Joe Bragaw, Public Works Director and Lou DiCesare, Highway Supervisor were present and introduced Highway staff present. Mr. Bragaw covered the highlights of the current year. They stated that the new T5 leaf box has made a significant difference.

Mr. Rines asked if the department has received any compensation from Yankee Gas or CL&P for damage to roadwork. Mr. Bragaw stated no. He stated that there is a 3 page long list of drainage problems, therefore more funding is requested. The biggest increase is for tree trimming, tree removal and a new line items for "Tree Mgt. plan/tree planting".

Mr. Bragaw stated that he will be meeting with his staff and hopes to have salary information by deliberations.

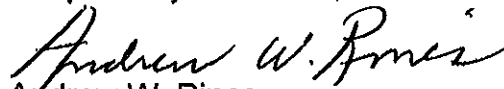
### **Subcommittee reports**

Mr. Rines mentioned that he met with the CIP Committee and the Board of Selectmen last week and was pleased with the final outcome.

Mr. Frishman mentioned that he, Mr. Rines and Mrs. Stevens recently attended a Finance seminar. The economic situation is worse than they had thought.

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 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrew W. Rines

Secretary

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CYNTHIA LADWIG  
TOWN CLERK