

February 17, 2010

The Board of Finance held a special meeting on this date at the Wequetequock Fire 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; Leslie Packer, Clerk, First Selectman Ed Haberek and Town of Stonington staff and residents.

Mr. Frishman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Comments from Public**

None

**Previous minutes**

Mr. Rines made a motion to accept the minutes of the February 3 meeting.  
Mr. O'Brien seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

**Budget Hearings FY 10-11**

Human Services – Director Beth-Ann Stewart introduced her staff present Leanne Theodore, Carol Umphlett, Joe Mendonca and Recreation Commission Chair Mike Crowley. Mrs. Stewart provided for the members a regional and departmental overview. She reported that Connecticut's cost of living is the second highest in the U.S. The number of Stonington residents now homeless and those receiving food stamps has increased dramatically. She commended the Youth & Family Services Administrator and Recreation Director for increase in number and quality of programs offered to residents. Mr. Rines questioned how revenues were handled from the Recreation programs. Mrs. Stewart replied that they have created self-sustained programs and it goes back into the infrastructure, i.e. Playground equipment. Mrs. Stewart also addressed grants received by the department, outside agencies and libraries. Salaries were discussed briefly and Mrs. Stewart stated that those with increases were step increases and longevity only.

Rec. commission chair Mike Crowley commended the schools and town staff for their cooperation to ensure success for the Recreation department.

General Government – First Selectman Haberek introduced the Town Supervisors and Department Heads present. He stated that the total Government budget has a .34% increase. Director of Finance informed the board of an increase to the total expenses for Elections of \$2200.00 for State mandated inspections. The Town clerk will now accept Debit/credit for fees and

services. Mr. Haberek mentioned that the Southeastern Regional Probate Court at Groton would open officially January 1, 2011.

George Sylvestre, Director of Administrative Services spoke briefly with the members regarding the Pension Fund.

Dr. Michael Blefeld, Health Officer came before the board to discuss the increased potential for liability and legal issues which he addressed in his letter dated February 1, 2010. These issues are present in the department due to the elimination of staff last year as well as changes in the environment and increased public health laws have greatly affected the department. The Town sanitarian has been submitting monthly reports that address the issues faced and it is evident that one report of illness could significantly influence the status of all complaints and inspections. Dr. Blefeld indicated that to offset costs of State-mandated inspections, license fees could be assessed. First Selectman Haberek at this time mentioned that he would be meeting with his colleagues from neighboring towns to discuss putting together a separate health district. Dr. Blefeld stated that he does not support this. Members asked that Mr. Haberek keep them informed of his meetings.

At this time, William Haase, Planning Director spoke covering his department staff and responsibilities. Members questioned the Flood Plain Manager line at \$3000. Mr. Haase explained that Mr. Joe Larkin had attended training and that these duties would be performed along with his current job as Zoning Enforcement Officer.

Mr. Haberek at this time commended the Special Projects team with the implementation and expansion of multiple projects.

Mr. Rines asked for a copy of the First Selectman's budget address.

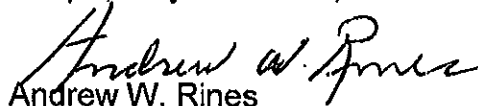
Mrs. Stevens stated that the Town Aid Road funding is at risk.

#### **Subcommittee reports**

Mr. Wheeler stated that he and Mr. Grimes met with the WPCA and the Bio Mag process is working well.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. O'Brien made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Wheeler seconded the motion and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Andrew W. Rines  
Secretary

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