

March 10, 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; First Selectman Ed Haberek; Leslie Packer, Clerk and Town of Stonington and Board of Education staff and residents.

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

Comments from Public

Rob Marsiglia mentioned that he had attended the BOE budget workshop meetings and feels their met their goal of a fair budget.

Previous minutes

Mr. Rines and Mr. Wheeler pointed out a correction to who convened the Executive Session. Mr. Wheeler made a motion to accept the minutes of the February 24 meeting with this correction. Mr. O'Brien seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

Budget Hearings FY 10-11

Board of Education – Rob Cary opened stating that their budget had a 1.37% increase over the FY 2009-2010 budget and mentioned that he does not believe there was much more they could do. He introduced the new Superintendent of Schools Leanne Masterjoseph. Ms. Masterjoseph spoke about the various special activities and opportunities for the students. She mentioned the 0% increase in salaries and addressed the expected increases such as health insurance, special education transportation. Mr. Rines asked if the administrative reorganization could cause problems. Ms. Masterjoseph replied that while this is not ideal she believes in these economic times it would work to preserve a healthy climate for learning. Also discussed, Special Education staffing, Reading specialist support teacher, average class size, Athletic director positions and reductions of in town travel and Police services lines. Mr. Grimes questioned why the elimination of paraprofessional as they are valuable positions. Ms. Masterjoseph replied that the goal districtwide over the past few years has been to get certified professionals.

Mr. Rines requested a printout of the added teacher salaries.

Mr. Frishman asked for the net figure for new programs. \$93584.00 which does not include administrative reorganization figures. Mr. Bentz asked about enrollment, he was told it is currently 2500 students. Mr. Grimes stated that he was concerned about the lack of extracurricular activities for middle school children. Mr. Cary replied that this questioned is raised by parents as well but

cost is an issue. The intramural programs currently offered however are very well attended.

At this time William King, Operations Manager stated that the CIP item, Phone System upgrade- district wide is very important as well as the asbestos abatement. Mr. Frishman asked if there was any grant funding available, to which Mr. King replied no. Members thanked the Board of Education members and staff.

Director of Finance

Mrs. Stevens had provided for the members a spreadsheet summarizing the budget as it stands now at a .67% increase and the mill rate and the amounts to cut in order to achieve specific mill rates. 98% of collections. The reduction in Debt Service has been helpful. Members discussed the Fund balance available.

Mr. O'Brien stated that he would like to see the budget go through at least one vote prior to cuts.

Ed Habarek, First Selectman stated that the Board of Selectmen had just ratified a new 3 year Highway Union contract with a 0% increase in salary and insurance for the first year and 2.8% and 2.9% salary increases for the next two years.

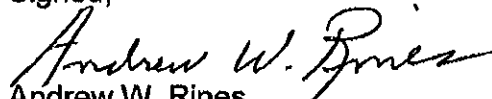
Mrs. Stevens reported that she is still waiting on the Town Aid Road money. It is on the March 26 agenda.

Subcommittee reports

Mr. Bentz reported that he and Mr. Grimes looked at Outside Agencies; there are seven large increases to which they requested additional information. At this time, they have received only two responses.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Grimes made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Wheeler seconded the motion and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Signed,


Andrew W. Rines
Secretary

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