

March 24, 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; Board of Education and Town of Stonington staff and residents.

Mr. Frishman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He explained that there would be no Public Comments as this was a special meeting for deliberations. He reminded those present of the Public Hearing scheduled for April 19, 2010.

Mr. Frishman asked Director of Finance Mrs. Stevens to go over the Fund Balance summary she prepared for the members. The amount of Fund Balance available to designate to 2010-11 is \$644,411.83. She added that the amount available in the Debt Service Fund is \$498,291. Members discussed the reduction in Revenues and the increase of Expenditures.

Marsha Standish, Assessor informed the members that she had the revised Grand List numbers. Mrs. Stevens stated that this would not affect the figures she provided to the members. Mr. Frishman asked Mrs. Standish for an update of the appeals and the history of the outcome. Mrs. Standish replied that there are 36 still outstanding, the courts processed on average 5 to 6 a year but this year is going much slower.

Budget Deliberations

At this time, Mr. Frishman asked the members for their target budget to send to voters. The budget currently stands at a .68 mill rate increase. Members agreed that the Town and BOE presented responsible budgets. Messrs. Wheeler and Grimes believe a zero increase is best, Mr. Bentz stated that he would consider less than a .50 mill rate increase. Mr. O'Brien stated that he does not believe a zero increase is necessary for the first cut where he feels the voters should decide yet he does agree that some funding could be allocated from Debt Service. He would agree to a .30 to .40--mill rate increase. Mr. Rines agreed with Mr. O'Brien but believes main duty of the Board is to provide the needs for the Town. He would agree to a .50 increase.

The following adjustments were made:

Schedule of Capital Improvements

Priority C

Document Imaging	Cut \$ 10,000
Electronic Requisition	Cut \$ 6,000
Lease/Purchase various equipment-NEW	Cut \$ 136,500
Tiling/Carpeting Districtwide	Cut \$ 10,000
PMS Elevator Shaft replacement	Cut \$ 18,000
Propane Floor Strippers (2)	Cut \$ 15,000
Baseboard heat – MMS Science room	Cut \$ 10,000
Pavement Crack Sealing and Coating	Cut \$ 10,000
Multi-purpose & Practice Fields Fencing	Cut \$ 13,000

Priority B

Repave Rec. & Hum. Svcs. Parking Lot	Cut \$ 18,000
Repair ceiling MMS Gym	Cut \$ 10,000
MMS Field	Added \$10,000
Fiber installation for TH/PD/HS	Cut \$ 14,500

General Government

Department of Human Services

Westerly Public Library	Cut \$ 10,000
Stonington Free Library	Cut \$ 5,000
Mystic & Noank Library	Cut \$ 9,800

Department of Administrative Services

Labor Negotiations	Cut \$ 50,000
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– Health, Sanitation and EMS

Stonington Ambulance	Cut \$ 5,000
Mystic River Ambulance	Cut \$ 5,000
Westerly Ambulance	Cut \$ 5,000

Police Department

Dispatcher Supervisor	Cut \$ 74,927
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Department of Planning

Flood Plain Manager	Cut \$ 3,000
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Department of Public Works

Tree Mgmt. Plan/Tree Planting	Cut \$ 5,000
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Debt Service Fund	Cut \$ 123,560
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Members asked the First Selectman and the Board of Education members present to look at possible cuts for them to address at the next meeting scheduled for Monday the 29th.

Previous minutes

Mr. Wheeler made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 10 meeting.

Mr. Grimes seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

Suspense List

Tax Collector Gisela Harma provided the Suspense list for members review. These are uncollectable property taxes to be transferred to the suspense tax book. Mr. Frishman signed and dated the suspense list.

Correspondence

None

Subcommittee reports

Mr. Wheeler reported that the Edythe K. Richmond project is moving along well.

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

Signed,



Andrew W. Rines

Secretary

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