

March 29, 2010

The Board of Finance held a special meeting on this date at the Stonington 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; First Selectman Ed Haberek, George Sylvestre, Director of Administrative Services; Barbara Dexter, Senior Accountant and Town of Stonington and Board of Education staff and residents.

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

#### Bid Waiver: Police department

Darren Stewart, Chief of Police discussed bids for a Records Management System and negotiations with vendors. Chief Stewart recommended IMC and requested a Bid Waiver for approval by the Board of Finance. Mr. Frishman asked if there were any questions for the Chief. Mr. Bentz made a motion to approve the Bid waiver. Mr. Rines seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

#### Budget Transfer - Edythe K. Richmond project approval of cost

A letter from First Selectman Ed Haberek was distributed to members of the Board of Finance requesting a bid waiver without contingency as well as a budget transfer. Three firms were interviewed by a panel in order to select a vendor to install the Fire Alarm and Call Aid system at the Edythe K. Richmond Housing Authority. Brookside Electric was selected by an interview panel per First Selectman Ed Haberek. Mr. Wheeler reviewed the bid selection information and said this firm was \$100,000 less than the other bidders. The estimated cost of the project includes a 15% contingency in the amount of \$189,403. The Director of Finance explained the Budget Transfer and the use of LOCIP for the project. Mr. Wheeler made a motion to approve the Bid waiver and Budget Transfer. Mr. O'Brien seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

#### Budget Deliberations

- **Board of Education:** Mr. Frishman asked Mrs. MacDonald, Chairperson how the Board of Education was doing with their cuts to the budget. Mrs. McDonald stated the BOE cut an additional \$47,500 with the retirement of teachers and hiring new teachers at a lower cost. Discussion ensued regarding the retirement of teachers and the new replacement's qualifications along with cuts that would not hurt children's education. Mr. Frishman, Mr. Bentz, Mr. Wheeler and Mr. Grimes supported a \$100,000 reduction to the Board of Education's operating budget.
- **Town:** Mr. Frishman asked Mr. Haberek, First Selectman how the progress to sharpen his pencil was going. Mr. Haberek said the Clerical union along with SPAA agreed to no salary increase for the 2010-11 budget. He also stated this is the second year SPAA gave up their COLA to help the budget. Mr. Sylvestre said SPAA was the first union to give up their raises two years in a row and asked for nothing in return. Mr. Frishman thanked

members of SPAA who were attending and said the Board of Finance would accept this contribution from SPAA. The total reduction to the budget for SPAA salaries and fringe benefits is \$38,573.

- Mr. O'Brien made a motion to accept the debt service offset in the amount of \$376,440. Mr. Rines seconded the motion and voting was unanimous. The resulting mill rate would be 15.43, with an increase of .33 and a 2.185% increase in the current mill rate.
- The Board of Finance discussed the mill rate – to get a 0% increase in the mill rate they would have to cut \$1,019,371.
- Mr. Frishman reminded the Board of the need to make whole the Pension fund in the amount of \$300,179. This amount would be taken out of Fund Balance. It will take three years to restore the pension to 80% funded. Mr. O'Brien made a motion to accept the \$300,179 from fund balance to restore the pension. Mr. Wheeler seconded the motion and voting was unanimous. The net effect to the budget will be zero as this will increase revenue to offset the expense.
- Mr. Frishman asked where do we go from here – Send this budget to Public Hearing?  
Yes – 4 members – Mr. Frishman, Mr. Rines, Mr. O'Brien and Mr. Bentz  
No – 2 members – Mr. Wheeler and Mr. Grimes  
Decision - send this budget to Public Hearing
- Mr. Frishman made a motion to send the budget in the amount of \$54,760,545 to Public Hearing with a mill rate of 15.43. Mr. Rines seconded the motion.

Correspondence

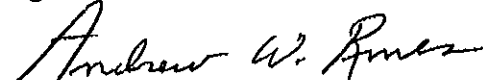
None

Subcommittee Reports

None

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 7:45 p.m.

Signed,



Andrew W. Rines

Secretary