

March 23, 2011

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; John O'Brien; Bryan Bentz, Dudley Wheeler and Sandy Grimes. Also present Maryanna Stevens, Director of Finance; First Selectman Ed Haberek, Town and Board of Education staff and residents.

Mr. Frishman called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Bid Waivers

Marine Sewage Disposal Facility – Town Engineer Larry Sullivan informed the members that the Town recently received a grant from the CT DEP through the Clean Vessel Act. The disposal facility will be located alongside of the pier recently constructed along the west side of the WPCA facility in the Borough. The grant allows for 75% reimbursement of eligible costs up to a max of \$43,200. The environmental group Clean Up Stonington Harbors (CUSH) will cover the "town match" by charitable donations. This is a specialized piece of equipment so there were only two vendors/installer in the area. Mr. Wheeler made a motion to approve the bid waiver for the purchase and installation of the marine sewage pump-out station from LA Management. Mr. O'Brien seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

Budget Deliberations

Mr. Frishman reminded those present that this was a deliberation meeting; therefore, no comments would be heard. The Public Hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, April 13, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the High School.

Mrs. Stevens stated that the budget is currently at 15.73 which is a .30 mil rate increase or 1.914%. At this time, First Selectman Haberek covered his summary of cuts to budget requested last week. They are as follows:

SELECTMAN'S OFFICE

National League of Cities	(1,266.00)
Westerly/Pawcatuck Joint Dev Task Force	(1,000.00)
ICLEI	(600.00)
Economic Development-Advertising	(2,000.00)
Prof/Technical Services-EDC	<u>(1,134.00)</u>
	(6,000.00)

<u>ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES</u>		
FICA	(3,131.00)	
Pension	(3,899.00)	
Health Insurance	(7,254.00)	
Employee Travel	<u>(5,000.00)</u>	(19,284.00)
<u>FINANCE OFFICE</u>		
Special Audit		(5,000.00)
<u>PLANNING</u>		
Zoning Enforcement Officer	(31,193.00)	
Longevity	<u>(1,000.00)</u>	(32,193.00)
<u>HIGHWAY</u>		
Tree Planting	(4,000.00)	
Garage Diagnostic Equip	(2,000.00)	
Training	(1,000.00)	(7,000.00)
<u>SOLID WASTE</u>		
Advertising	(1,200.00)	
Reproduction and Printing	(1,000.00)	
Equipment	(100.00)	
Road Maintenance	(3,000.00)	
Cap Maintenance	(3,000.00)	
Repairs/Maint (roll-off)	<u>(2,000.00)</u>	(10,300.00)
<u>ENGINEERING</u>		
Professional/Technical Services		(2,000.00)
<u>BUILDING OPERATIONS/MAINTENANCE</u>		
General Maintenance – Town Hall	(3,000.00)	
General Maintenance – Pawcatuck Dike	<u>(1,000.00)</u>	(4,000.00)
<u>WPCA</u>		
Operations-Town Share		(10,000.00)
<u>POLICE</u>		
Communication Specialists		(35,000.00)
<u>HUMAN SERVICES</u>		
Youth Services Program Coord	(11,223.00)	
Equipment & Repairs	(1,000.00)	
COA-Postage	(1,000.00)	
Recreation-Other Salaries	(2,500.00)	
Recreation-Officials & Instructors	(2,500.00)	
Recreation-Parts/Labor	<u>(1,000.00)</u>	<u>(19,223.00)</u>
TOTAL		(150,000.00)

This constitutes an 81.33% cut.

Members discussed the proposed cuts. Mr. Grimes stated that he is opposed to anyone losing his or her job or a reduction in hours. The Communication Specialist position is 100% offset by the E911 grant. Zoning permits have reduced considerably.

Mr. Wheeler stated that he wants the Leaf removal out of the budget. Mr. Haberek defended the program and Mr. Bragaw added that the work is not meant to be overtime. Mr. Grimes believes there is a safety issue by putting the leaves in the street and thinks the program is out of hand. After further discussion, Mr. Bragaw stated that the department would try to limit pickups only to the more urban areas with drainage issues. Mr. Frishman asked that he work with the Selectman's Office to set up a map and schedule to monitor the program. Members agreed with this action.

Members spoke with Glendon Riffe, Vice President of the Stonington Ambulance Corps. , he stated that their charges are set by the State. Members reviewed their *Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Assets* as of April 30, 2010. The unrestricted Net assets are down but still healthy. After a consensus of the Board, an additional \$10,000 was cut from each of the three Ambulance Corps.

After a discussion, regarding the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center and its growing demands from residents the consensus of the Board was to add \$20,000.

During a discussion and comments from Town Engineer Larry Sullivan regarding drainage on Collins Road, it was mentioned that maybe 10 properties are affected by this. Mr. Sullivan stated that the pipe is too small; codes were different prior to these houses being built. Members were divided on how to proceed; Mr. Frishman said they would defer to the Public Hearing.

With regard to the drainage issues on Meadow Ave., there are easement issues that must be addressed; members agreed to cut \$17,500 from the 11/12 CIP line and adjust FY12/13 and 13/14 to \$31,250 each.

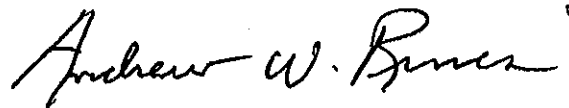
The Board of Education budget increase is \$701,075 or 2.23% over last fiscal year. Mr. Frishman asked members for their input on a reasonable amount to cut. Members supported a \$275,000 reduction to the BOE operating budget.

Mr. O'Brien made a motion to send a budget in the amount of \$55,276,098 to Public Hearing with a mil rate of 15.63. Mr. Rines seconded the motion. Two members were opposed.

Mr. Grimes had prepared for the members a detailed list of possible cuts totaling over \$350,000 in the Board of Education budget that would not directly affect the children. He presented this to the BOE Chairwoman Gail MacDonald.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Wheeler made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Bentz seconded the motion and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrew W. Rines". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Andrew W. Rines
Secretary

Lp