

June 22, 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.

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

Previous minutes

Mr. Wheeler made a motion to accept the minutes of the special meetings held on May 25 and June 16, 2011. Mr. Rines seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

Bid Waivers

Police Dept. -- Chief Stewart along with Captain Desmond and several officers was present to request a bid waiver for dispatcher related needs through the 911 monies. He stated that the current recording system that records all 911 calls and radio transmissions is over seven years old. He added that there is roughly \$56,000 in the account. He also addressed the purchase of a Power Phone software Dispatch package that will assist in the handling of 911 calls providing standardized protocols for emergency situations including medical, fire and law enforcement incidents. Mr. Bentz voiced his concern about the lack of human judgment and limited flexibility this software would create. Chief Stewart replied that it is a standard for dispatchers to evaluate the issue and get to the core of the problem expediting the call. Mr. Grimes asked if any other Towns use this system, to which the Chief said no. He added that training will be provided and all dispatchers will utilize the software. The Department is required to perform a monthly review as well. Mr. Grimes asked about future consolidation with the State. Captain Desmond stated that he doesn't foresee this happening too soon as it has been a struggle among the Towns.

Mr. Bentz made a motion to approve the Bid waivers for Cyber Tech International and Power Phone for a new dispatch recording system and a software dispatch program to assist in the handling of calls. Mr. Rines seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

As an FYI, the Chief mentioned his hope for Federal funding for radios. A few minor problems are beginning to crop up. At this time, a discussion ensued as to the Fire Departments' need to buy into the transmitter. Mr. Wheeler stated that his recollection was that they were included. Mr. Jones, BOE Director of Technology stated that the server is set up and included for the Fire Departments but the mobile client is up to each FD.

BOE – Jason Jones, Director of Technology was present to request a annual bid waiver for *Apple* products. He reminded the members that SPS is obligated to purchase Apple branded items only from Apple, Inc., a single source provider. This would expedite purchases needed throughout the fiscal year. He added that he would inform the Board any time purchases over \$5000 were made. Mr. Frishman asked if PC's wouldn't serve the BOE better. Mr. Jones replied that Apple comes ready to go and has a longer lifetime. Mr. O'Brien made a motion to approve the FY Annual bid waiver for Apple, Inc. Mr. Bentz seconded and voting was unanimous.

Public Works – Joe Bragaw, Director was present to request a bid waiver for Pavement Treatments, which include Chip Sealing and Cold in Place Recycle that is an environmentally friendly and lower cost treatment then having to reclaim and repave a road. Mr. Grimes made a motion to accept the bid waiver for Pavement Treatments. Mr. Wheeler seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

Mr. Bragaw requested a bid waiver for materials for the Mystic Middle School field drainage project. He added that the Highway Department would be doing the work. Mr. Rines made a motion to approve the bid waiver to purchase materials from Morrone Trucking Sand and Gravel for the MMS field drainage. Mr. Grimes seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

Mr. Bragaw requested a bid waiver for two New Dump trucks through the State bid process that were included in the CIP portion of the FY 11-12 budget. Mr. Wheeler made a motion to approve the bid waiver for the Cab & Chassis only through Nutmeg International Trucks. Mr. Grimes seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

BOE – Bill King, Operations Manager was present to request a bid waiver to Pearson Curriculum for textbook purchases. Pearson is the sole vendor for the math series. He added that the purchase was delayed to ensure compliance with changes to the State math standards. Mr. Grimes questioned the Math department reviewing the series, as revisions will occur frequently and newer versions will need to be purchased on a regular basis. Also requested, a bid waiver for Vista Higher Learning for Foreign language textbooks. Mr. Rines made a motion to approve the bid waivers for the textbook purchases. Mr. O'Brien seconded and the motion passed. Mr. Grimes was opposed.

Director of Finance Mrs. Stevens stated that she would have the budget transfers for September.

New Business – Stuart Cole of the Conservation Commission was present to request an appropriation of \$8000 from the Open Space fund toward the Stonington Land Trusts acquisition of the 18 acre Grande property on North Anguilla Rd.

The property is adjacent to the 33 acre property the Town gave the Land Trust in 2008. The property is valued at \$41,000 by the Town.

The Land Trust as appropriated \$27,000 to acquire the land. The back taxes on the property are approximately \$15,000. The Land Trust will pay the back taxes at the time of the closing. The cost of the property is \$20,000 plus the back taxes, totaling \$35,000. The \$8,000 added to the \$27,000 will cover the acquisition.

This is another project to leverage our limited funds, while preserving land. The SLT will own the land and the Town will not have any maintenance expenses.

As a bonus the Town will receive \$15,000 in back taxes.

Mr. Grimes made a motion to approve the acquisition. Mr. Bentz seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

Subcommittee reports

Mr. Wheeler reported that the Animal Control facility renovation is 95% complete.

Mr. O'Brien reported that the Pension Committee would be meeting later in the week to review due diligence , fees, funding, etc.

Correspondence

Nothing to report.

Members agreed the next regular meeting would be held September 7, 2011.

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 8:19 p.m.

Signed,



Andrew W. Rines
Secretary

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