

February 1, 2012

The Board of Finance held a regular meeting on this date at the 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 Edward Haberek; Police Commission members; Police Department and Town Hall staff and Town residents.

Mr. Frishman called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Comments from Public – None

Previous minutes

Mr. Wheeler made a motion to accept the minutes of the January meeting. Mr. Rines seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

Bid Waiver

Public Works Department – Joe Bragaw, Director requested an adjustment to the bid waiver granted at the January 18, 2012 meeting for the replacement of four tires on the loader. There had been an oversight in the quote process and it has been determined that Pete's Tire Barn is indeed the vendor to use for this purpose instead of Toce Bros. as the quoted price was for the wrong size tire. Mr. Rines made a motion to approve the bid waiver for Pete's Tire Barns, Inc. for the tire replacement. Mr. Grimes seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

Director of Finance

Mrs. Stevens had provided for the members confirmation from Moody's of the Towns Aa1 rating. The Moody's report cited the town's stable tax base and healthy fund balance and was very complimentary of the town's financial management practices. Mr. Bentz asked if there were reports from other rating agencies. Mrs. Stevens replied that she prefers to remain with Moody's.

She added that February 7, 2012 will be the pricing call. This could potentially save the taxpayers \$1.3 million over several years.

Budget Hearings FY 2012-2013

Solid Waste – John Phetteplace Recycling/Solid Waste Manager stated that the FY12-13 budget is down 1.15%. He addressed the issues of the past year particularly Storm debris from Hurricane Irene, the installation of the new scale which will save considerably on maintenance fees; new 3 yr contract for commercial trash collection. Mr. Frishman asked about the pending lawsuit with

regard to the taxability of commercial trash pickup. Mrs. Stevens stated that the Attorney has advised the Town to go ahead with appeal and seriously consider merging with the Town of Groton.

Police - Several members of the Police Commission were present along with Chief Darren Stewart, Captain Jerry Desmond Lieutenant Keith Beebe and Sergeant Bryan Schneider. The Chief covered highlights of the present year and referenced the increase in medical calls. He added that criminal incidents have decreased. The animal control facility is completed and activity there has increased. He then addressed the increased line items: building maintenance-batteries; training - CT. Police Academy now charging for new candidates and fees for in-service training; Animal Control Profession Services and Building Maintenance – new building. Mr. Rines asked about the number of positions and the work schedule. There are two Lieutenants, 6 Sergeants, 26 Regular Officers and 1 one-half Janitorial positions. Mr. Grimes asked about the Unleaded Gasoline budget and Chief Stewart stated that Captain Desmond watches this very closely. At this time, Captain Desmond informed the members that he is working with the Port Authority to obtain grant funds to help with the replacement of the Police boat. He is looking into the timeframe of reimbursement and working with other Towns that have used the grant funds.

Highway - Public Works Director Joe Bragaw was present with Highway Supervisor Lou Dicesare. Mr. Bragaw addressed some of the projects the department was involved in over the past year: storm response and clean up; Highway personnel work on the renovation of the Animal Control facility; MMS field; milling and paving, installation of drainage and reclaiming and sidewalk replacement. Mr. Wheeler questioned the increase in the Diagnostic Equip. & Tools line. They replied that these costs cover the diagnostic software, these used to come out of the Repairs & Maintenance line.

Mr. Bragaw also addressed the Engineering and Building Maintenance budgets. He stated that the Clerical position has been split by Engineering and the Building Official and is for FY 12-13 to be completely funded by the Building Official. There is an increase in the Highway Garage #1 line because they would like to add a third bay and lift. Mr. Wheeler asked about the oil servicing of the Police vehicles. Mr. Dicesare replied that from October to April the oil changes are done at Newman's and April to September they are done by the Highway mechanics. There was also an increase for the Pawcatuck Dike. Mr. Bragaw explained that the Army Corps of Engineers has been looking at this.

Correspondence

Marsha Standish, Assessor provided for the members the October 1, 2011 Net Grand List Information. There is an increase of .548% over the 2010 Grand list. She also provided a list of the Top Ten Taxpayers. She mentioned the hotels in arrears. Mrs. Harma stated that she cant collect if they are in bankruptcy.

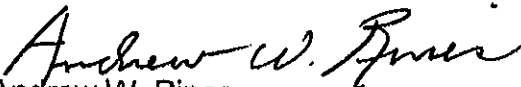
Mr. Haberek informed the members of the new Mystic Senior housing.

Subcommittee reports

Nothing to report.

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 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Andrew W. Rines
Secretary

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