

February 8, 2012

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; Dudley Wheeler; John O'Brien; Bryan Bentz and Sandy Grimes. Also present Maryanna Stevens, Director of Finance; Leslie Packer, Clerk; Board of Selectmen; Town of Stonington staff and residents.

Mr. Frishman called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

### **Comments from the Public – None**

### **Previous minutes**

Mr. Rines made a motion to accept the minutes of the February 1 meeting.

Mr. Grimes seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

### **Budget Hearings FY2012-2013**

Water Pollution Control Authority – James Sisk, WPCA Chairman and Harold Storrs, Director were present. Mr. Sisk stated that the bill volume has dropped 10% over the past 10 years. The use drives the budget. The current contract with United Water is in effect through November 2014. The Directors salary is out of the Sewer Enterprise Fund. The WPCA treatment plant improvements design is at 60%. In consideration of time and cost savings, the WPCA is in the process of negotiating with its engineer, CDM Smith to serve as a project manager and place individual construction items out to bid.

Human Services – Director Beth-Ann Stewart indicated that the only increase in her budget is the contractual salaries. Mrs. Stewart had provided for the members calendar year charts and graphs detailing the services provided by the four divisions in the department. The need for services for both Youth and Adult has grown considerably, which includes a 30% increase in utilization of HUSKY. Many of these programs are Income based using Federal poverty guidelines. She added that the department has worked closely with the high school at the request of Superintendent Leanne Masterjoseph. Members commended the Recreation department on the success of its programs. Mrs. Stewart stated that the Youth & Family Services has been busy in large part to *Rachel's Challenge*. This nonprofit organization addresses all forms of bullying and prejudice in the schools.

- Outside Agencies – Mr. Grimes invited representatives from the Outside Agencies to speak. June Strunk of the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center and Jim Truscio of the Stonington Community Center spoke to the

increased activities and use by residents and non residents in the past year.

- Libraries - Mr. Haberek explained the Board of Selectmen adjustments to the libraries. He mentioned a Connecticut Magazine article that rated Stonington as one of the lowest contributors to libraries. Based on cardholders, number of items borrowed and percentages of operating budgets and total circulation they felt it necessary to bring Mystic & Noank Library more in line with the Westerly Library. Mr. Grimes invited Margaret Victoria of the Stonington Library to speak about the successful Summer reading program. She indicated that the \$35,000 grant used for this program is no longer available. Mr. Frishman asked about fund raising and Mrs. Victoria stated that it is up about \$5000. They use about 4.5 to 5 percent for their operating budget out of the \$1.5 million endowment. Mystic & Noank Library stated that their endowment is \$3 million.
- Ambulances - Mr. Haberek spoke to the increases to the ambulance budgets citing the considerable reduction in Medicaid reimbursements. He added that they were exceptional during the storms, during and after.

#### **Director of Finance**

Mr. Frishman commended Director of Finance Maryanna Stevens on the refunding of the bonds. Mrs. Stevens stated that the savings to the Town is over \$1.5 million with the Aa1 rating.

Mrs. Stevens briefly addressed the impact of the Governor's proposed budget with regard to grants. She mentioned that the Education Cost Sharing has increased and the other grants look good, but it is really too early to tell.

#### **Correspondence**

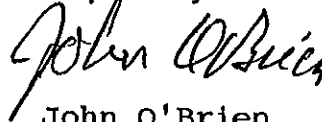
None

#### **Subcommittee reports**

Nothing to report.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Wheeler made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Grimes seconded the motion and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



John O'Brien