

February 15, 2012

The Board of Finance held a special meeting on this date at the Police Department meeting room. Members present by were Glenn Frishman, Chairman, Andrew Rines, Secretary, John O'Brien, Dudley Wheeler, Bryan Bentz and Sandy Grimes. Also present Maryanna Stevens, Director of Finance, Board of Selectmen, Town of Stonington staff and residents.

Mr. Frishman called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Comments from the Public – None

Previous Minutes

Mr. Wheeler made a motion to accept the minutes of February 8, 2012 meeting. Mr. Rines seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

Budget Hearings Fiscal Year 2012-2012

General Government – Glenn recognized the First Selectman and asked him to present the General Government portion of the Town budget. Mr. Haberek updated the Board on the status of the State of CT deficit and reviewed an article in the Day about SE Connecticut's slow recovery. Mr. Haberek stated that the proposed General Government budget excluding debt service is up 1.45% and general government including debt service is down 1.65%. He stated that the budget presented meets previously set goals and maintains current services. Ed highlighted various completed projects and initiatives.

Mr. Rines asked Mr. Haberek why he increased the funding for the libraries and ambulances. Mr. Haberek explained that he brought Mystic-Noank Library up to par with Westerly. When he looked at the information provided by the libraries Mystic-Noank library's activity was similar to that of Westerly Library.

With regard to the ambulances, reimbursement rates are going down and they were a big help to the Town during the flood and the Hurricane. He brought their level of funding back to the 2010-11 fiscal year.

Mr. Grimes asked about Heart and Hypertension and Retiree Healthcare. Mrs Stevens explained that Heart and Hypertension is a disability payment made to a an officer based on State Statute. Mrs. Stevens also explained that the Retiree Healthcare line is a contractual obligation under the Police Collective Bargaining agreement whereby the employee contributes 2% of base pay and the Town matches. Mr. Pacileo stated that it is similar to a Health Savings Plan.

Mr. Frishman asked the First Selectman the status of the health district. Mr. Haberek reported that the new district proposed last year is a dead issue. Mr. Haberek also stated that as a courtesy the Board of Selectmen are holding a Public Hearing to have Ledge Light make a presentation. Mr. Haberek is concerned because of the increased fees to the taxpayers.

Capital Improvements Program

The Board reviewed the items in the proposed CIP. Mr. O'Brien and Mr. Grimes questioned the classification of the Fleet upgrade as an A. It was decided that they would discuss it further during deliberations. Mr. Haberek told the Board of Finance that he will have a special meeting to discuss bonding for the roads. Mr. Bragaw told the Board that there may be BIA funding available to pay for the Lantern Hill road project.

Correspondence

None

Subcommittee Reports

None

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 8:08 p.m.

Signed,



John O'Brien

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