

March 7, 2012

The Board of Finance held a regular meeting on this date at the Police Department meeting room. Members present were Dudley Wheeler; John O'Brien, Acting Chair; Bryan Bentz and Sandy Grimes. Also present Maryanna Stevens, Director of Finance; Clerk Leslie Packer; First Selectmen Ed Haberek; Board of Education members, staff and residents. Glenn Frishman and Andrew Rines were absent.

Mr. O'Brien called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Comments from the Public – John Nickerson of Pawcatuck spoke in support of the BOE budget. He has two Stonington graduates but follows the budget process closely and would appreciate the opportunity for taxpayers to vote on any changes to the school budget before any decisions are final.

Rob Masiglia also voiced his support of the school budget.

Previous minutes

Mr. Wheeler made a motion to accept the minutes of the February 15 meeting.

Mr. Grimes seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

Budget Hearings FY2012-2013

Board of Education – Chairwoman Gail MacDonald addressed the Board. Mrs. MacDonald stated that this was a budget based on need not a wish list. The BOE worked very hard throughout the year focusing on improved achievement of all students. This included numerous requests for data, evidence and justification of all school programming. The 4.1 percent increase includes nearly 94 percent contractual items; salaries, transportation contracts, licensing fees and heating fuel. A significant amount of federal funding was lost the past two years. The Board has generated revenue to help offset extracurricular activities and athletics with an estimated \$40,000 in the proposed budget.

Mr. Grimes commented that from a seventy-page budget document only three contain numbers addressing the budget. He added that an increase to the budget will be difficult to pass but expects a more detailed explanation of each line item to make a more informed decision. Superintendent Masterjoseph replied that the budget book presented is a complete accounting. She added that the Stonington Board of Education won an award last year for its budget presentation.

Mr. Bentz asked about projected enrollment, which will plateau or even go down. Mr. Wheeler asked about fuel lock-ins, Mr. King replied that he has locked in Natural Gas and diesel. Members questioned the following increased line items- Professional and Technical Services – Legal cost associated with Labor negotiations

Special Education Transportation – based on current specific needs

Tuition account – Special Education placement

Paraprofessional salaries – contractual and special education

Also discussed, Athletic coaches, fundraising, conference eligibility, middle school athletic programs, RTI-response to intervention and increased teacher positions to aid in numeracy and literacy for struggling students.

Director of Finance

Mrs. Stevens provided for the members revenue projections to aid with the budget deliberations. She pointed out the increase to Building permits which result from the new assisted living complex.

Correspondence

Each member received Ledge Light Health district correspondence.

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 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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