

March 21,2012

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; John O'Brien; Bryan Bentz, Dudley Wheeler and Sandy Grimes. Also present Maryanna Stevens, Director of Finance; First Selectman Ed Haberek, Town and Board of Education staff and residents.

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

Previous Minutes

Chairman Frishman called for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2012 meeting. Mr. Wheeler approved the minutes as presented, Mr. Grimes seconded and voting was unanimous.

Additional Appropriations/Bid Waivers

Wastewater Treatment Facility– Chairman Jim Sisk spoke to the request from the Water Pollution control authority for a **bid waiver**. The WPCA has chosen CDM Smith as General Contractor. Mr. Sisk explained that this would save considerable time and money. CDM Smith has guaranteed a maximum price of \$17.2 million. CDM Smith will prepare, seek and obtain all bids. Members discussed construction management costs as well as possible environmental issues. Chairman Frishman called for a motion to approve the bid waiver for CDM Smith as General contractor to obtain all bids for the construction of the wastewater treatment facility improvements. Mr. Grimes approved the bid waiver, which was seconded by Mr. Rines and unanimously approved.

Recreation Commission – Members received a **bid waiver** request for Dalton Track of Cheshire, CT as well as an approval from the Board of Selectmen for a \$19,500 **Additional Appropriation** to repair the tennis courts in the Spellman Park complex. Recreation Commission Chairman Michael Crowley stated the repairs are guaranteed for three years possibly five. The commission has \$9000 on hand toward these repairs. Chairman Frishman called for a motion to approve the bid waiver to secure Dalton Track of Cheshire, CT and an additional appropriation of \$19,500 to repair the tennis courts located in the Spellman Park Complex. Mr. Grimes approved the bid waiver and additional appropriation, which was seconded by Mr. O'Brien and unanimously approved.

Budget deliberations

At this time, Chairman Frishman stated that the current 2011-2012 mil rate is 15.63. The proposed 2012-2013 budget stands at 16.46, a .83 mil rate increase. Mr. Frishman stated that while the average budget increase over the past few years was only .66%, the average tax increase was 1.63% due to declining revenue from the state, building permits, conveyance taxes and interest income. Members asked Finance Director Maryanna Stevens for the available fund balance. She stated there is \$2.5 million available to offset the budget, yet she advised them to be prudent. Mr. Frishman asked the members for their target budget. Messrs. Rines and O'Brien felt a .50 mil rate increase was appropriate. Mr. O'Brien added that he would like to leave the Board of Education budget to the voters as suggested at the previous budget hearing. Mr. Bentz agreed.

The following adjustments were made:

Schedule of Capital Improvements

Three (3) Police vehicles	Cut	\$ 72,000
Marine Patrol Police Boat	Cut	\$ 14,999.
MDT Laptops	Cut	\$ 9,999.
IP Security Cameras	Cut	\$ 10,000.
Plan of Conservation update	Cut	\$ 5,000.
Lantern Hill Bridge replacement	Cut	\$ 82,500.
Install drainage on Farmholme Rd	Cut	\$ 41,000.
Ston. Free Library chimney replacement	Cut	\$ 15,000.
Elevator Shaft replacement-PMS	Cut	\$ 19,999.
Athletic Field repair-Field Hockey/Soccer-SHS	Cut	\$ 20,000.
Tiling/Carpeting	Cut	\$ 10,000.
Multipurpose practice fields ext.-SHS	Cut	\$ 30,000.
Roof Ladders and cables-SHS	Cut	\$ 10,000.
TOTAL CIP CHANGES		TOTAL (340,497)

General Government

Department of Human Services

Stonington Free Library	Add	\$ 5,000
Mystic & Noank Library	Cut	\$15,000

Health, Sanitation & EMS

Ambulances	Cut	\$30,000
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Department of Public Works

Building Official-Technical Assistance	Add	\$ 15,000
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TOTAL CHANGES TO TOWN **TOTAL (365,497)**

Changes to Revenue

Use of Fund Balance		\$500,000
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The proposed 2012-13 budget currently stands at a mil rate of 16.18, which is a .55 increase over last year . Members agreed at this time to adjourn and continue deliberations next week at its special meeting scheduled for March 28, 2012.

Mr. Frishman commented on the large amount of correspondence the Board has received from businesses within the Town against joining Ledge Light Health District. First Selectman Haberek stated that several towns have withdrawn but he is attending a meeting with Ledge Light tomorrow. He added that the savings to the Town would be considerable.

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 8:30 p.m.

Signed,


Andrew W. Rines
Secretary

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