

July 11, 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; Sandy Grimes and Bryan Bentz. Also present Maryanna Stevens, Director of Finance; First Selectmen Ed Haberek; Police Department, Board of Education and Town Hall staff and residents.

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

Mr. Frishman asked how many members of the audience were present to discuss the Magnet School Transportation issue. There were not many and Jim Turner spoke for all the parents asking that the Board of Finance return the funding.

#### **Previous minutes**

Mr. Wheeler made a motion to accept the minutes of the June 6 and June 27 meetings. Mr. O'Brien seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

#### **Potential Federal Grant – Police Boat**

Captain Jerry Desmond stated that as of one month ago the SPD was not interested in a matching grant. The initial indication at this time is \$375,000 with no match. Mr. Frishman asked when this would be official and Captain Desmond replied that he is still awaiting final word. He reminded the Board that this would be a pay up front with full reimbursement grant.

#### **Bid Waivers**

Stonington Public Schools – William King, Operations Manager requested a bid waiver to Pearson Curriculum for instructional materials for grades K-5 and a three (3) year license agreement for grades 1-4. Mr. Grimes questioned why Pearson. Nikki Gullickson, Asst. Superintendent of Schools replied that is the sole vendor for this math series. She added that they meet standards and the program is well written. Mr. Grimes made a motion to approve the bid waiver for Pearson Curriculum. Mr. Rines seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

SPS – Jason Jones, Director of Technology requested a bid waiver to purchase Apple branded items, as it is a single source. This will facilitate any Apple purchases during the fiscal year of 2013. He added that items purchased are budgeted and necessary for replacement of classroom and staff computers. Mr. Wheeler made a motion to approve the bid waiver for Apple Inc. Mr. Bentz seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

Mr. Jones requested a bid waiver for Hewlett Packard. Hewlett Packard has been named as the selected vendor by the State of CT from their procurement of desktop PC's per contract 11PSX0247. The bid waiver will be for 25 workstations, 20 for the High School and 5 for the Business Office. Mr. O'Brien made a motion to approve the bid waiver for Hewlett Packard. Mr. Rines seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

Director of Public Works - Joe Bragaw requested a bid waiver to purchase a new F350 truck to replace the Highway foreman's truck. He plans to use a state contract through UCONN with favorable pricing. Mr. Wheeler made a motion to approve the bid waiver to use the UCONN state contract with Interstate Ford to purchase the Foreman's truck. Mr. Rines seconded and voting was unanimous.

**West Broad Street School sprinkler system** – Ken Donovan and Bill King were present to address the issue at WBSS. Interim Superintendent Smotas stated that this has been a problem for some time and had asked that it be addressed immediately. There are 138 children at the school and if the code issues are not addressed it could delay the start of school. After a discussion, Director of Finance Maryanna Stevens asked what they wanted, adding that an additional appropriation for the estimated cost of between \$85,000 and \$100,000 would require a Town meeting, which will take time. After continued discussion, Mr. Frishman asked for written consent from the Board of Education on letterhead that they support moving ahead with the upgrades and code repairs to the WBSS Sprinkler system and would cover costs if there was no support from the Town residents at a Town meeting. Mr. Frishman asked for a motion for a bid waiver for \$75,000 for Standard Sprinkler Corp. with the proviso that the Board of Finance and Director of Finance receive the BOE consent letter and a final written quote. Mr. Bentz made the motion. Mr. Rines seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

Mr. O'Brien asked how this happened. Pawcatuck Fire Marshall Kevin Burns replied that routine inspections were done but reports did not identify any problems. The flow test that Mr. Burns requested last week determined the obstructions.

**Magnet School Transportation discussion** – Mr. Frishman spoke to the room explaining how the process works with regard to the \$42,900 grant from the state. This is a reimbursement from the state to the general fund for the busing of 35 students to the magnet schools. As required by law this is paid for through the BOE budget. Gail MacDonald, BOE Chairwoman confirmed that the board cut this as a part of the budget cuts and described the necessity for a principal at WVS and WBSS. Members questioned Mrs. Macdonald as to why the BOE cut something that SPS is responsible for and why cut an item that is reimbursed by the state. Mrs. MacDonald stated that they asked the parents of magnet school students if they would be willing to drive their children and only a small number responded. At this time, Mr. Frishman stopped the discussions and asked the members if they would support a supplemental appropriation. Mr. Grimes, Mr.

Frishman and Mr. Rines stated no; Mr. Bentz and Mr. Wheeler felt it would be a bad move and Mr. O'Brien stated yes. Mr. Frishman stated that the issue remains with the Board of Education.

**Director of Finance – Budget Transfers**

Mrs. Stevens provided for the members budget transfers for fiscal year 2011-12 for the General Fund as well as the Capital Improvements Fund. She stated that the first budget transfer in the CIP is an attempt to clear out the various #1 line items no longer needed and reallocate to the MMS fields, which is over expended. She added that she is projecting expenditures will be approximately \$1.2 million under budget. This is mainly due to the savings from the bond refunding, savings in the solid waste department, police department and various other departments. She informed the members that she recommends using some or the entire surplus to pave some of the roads indentified by the Public Works Director. This would reduce the amount the Town would need to borrow. The BOF would need to transfer from the GF to CIP; she will provide the final figure in September.

Mr. Wheeler questioned why there was still clerical overtime in the Planning and Zoning office. Mr. Haberek stated that a meeting with the P&Z staff had been scheduled to address this and there would be no more clerical overtime.

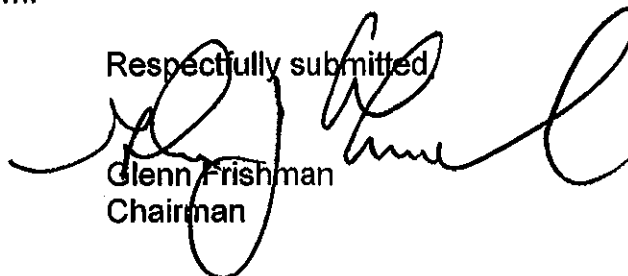
Mr. Bentz asked if a budget transfer could be used to help with the WBBS sprinkler issue through CIP. Mrs. Stevens stated that she would look into it.

At this time, Mr. Haberek asked about the state of the other schools, could this happen again. Mr. Burns replied that it should not but he is concerned about the portable classrooms at WVS. There is a limitation and they have been there awhile.

Mr. Grimes made a motion to approve the budget transfers as presented. Mr. O'Brien seconded and voting was unanimous.

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 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Glenn Frishman', is written over the typed name and title.

Glenn Frishman  
Chairman