

October 3, 2012

The Board of Finance held a regular meeting on this date at the Police Department meeting room. Members present were Glenn Frishman, Chairman; John O'Brien, Secretary; Dudley Wheeler; John O'Brien, Bryan Bentz; Sandy Grimes and June Strunk. Also present Maryanna Stevens, Director of Finance.

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

**Previous minutes**

Mrs. Strunk made a motion to accept the minutes of the September 25 meeting. Mr. Wheeler seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

**Bid Waiver – Borodell Avenue project**

Joe Bragaw, Public Works Director was present to discuss the project. He explained that there has been a major drainage issue on Borodell Avenue for quite awhile. In the winter, at night, the road becomes nearly impassable due to ice from the days melted snow. With help from the Town Engineer this summer a plan was started to address the situation but his department is running out of time to get this done before winter. Three quotes were obtained from local contractors with the low bid coming from Mad River Construction. He added that the funds are available. Mr. O'Brien asked if the quote was a fixed price. Mr. Bragaw replied no, it was unit cost. Mr. Wheeler made a motion to approve the bid waiver for Mad River Construction on the Borodell Avenue project. Mr. O'Brien seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

At this time Mr. Bragaw informed the members that painting of the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center has been completed and the contractor did a great job. The job was also finished under budget.

**Director of Finance - Review Fund balance policy**

Mrs. Stevens stated that a few years ago the Board of Finance adopted a Fund Balance policy; last year the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) made some definition changes that resulted in the need for an updated Fund Balance policy to keep the Town in compliance. Members were provided with a draft. Mrs. Stevens addressed one addition in the *Use of Surplus Funds* section. She believes it a good idea to include #5 Debt Service. After a brief discussion, Mr. Grimes made a motion to accept the updated and revised Fund Balance policy as presented. Mr. O'Brien seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

Discussion of Debt Service policy - Mrs. Stevens informed the members that she would prefer to meet with the Town financial advisor to work on the debt service draft as it can be quite complicated. She added that though it is not necessary to have a policy in place, rating agencies look favorably on having one. In response to a question from Mrs. Strunk, Mrs. Stevens stated that the guideline of debt to expenditures is no more than 10%; the Town of Stonington is at 7-8%.

**New Business - None**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mrs. Strunk made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Wheeler seconded the motion and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
John O'Brien  
Secretary

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