

Feb. 6, 2013

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; June Strunk, and Sandy Grimes. Also present Maryanna Stevens, Director of Finance; Edward Haberek, First Selectmen and George Crouse, Selectman, Town staff and residents.

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

Previous minutes

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

Mr. O'Brien seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

Budget Hearings FY 2013-2014

Solid Waste – John Phetteplace, Recycling and Solid Waste Manager addressed the highlights of the present year. The Transfer Station processed, on site approximately 700 tons of storm debris. They purchased a new CAT Loader and through the bid process, purchased a Roll off truck. Mr. Frishman commented on the SCRRA reduction, Mr. Phetteplace replied that we have the lowest tipping fee in the State @ \$58.00 a ton as well as offering the most ancillary services. There are 11 towns in Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resources Recovery Authority, which have all agreed to go through 2017. Mr. O'Brien commended Mr. Phetteplace on an excellent job.

Department of Public Works-Highway, Building Maintenance and Engineering – Joe Bragaw, Director spoke to specific projects handled by the department including paving, drainage, sidewalks and the storm in October. Objectives for the coming year include preparation for the four-year road paving project as well as regular duties to maintain the Pawcatuck and Mystic Downtown areas. Mr. Bragaw addressed the budget changes for FY 13-14 necessary for Field Maintenance. These will include an annual fertilization program using an outside contractor and seasonal staff to cut grass, stripe the fields and perform all responsibilities required by the new Field Maintenance Memorandum of Understanding. Mr. Grimes commended Mr. Bragaw and Highway Supervisor Lou DiCesare on their dedication to the Fields.

Mr. Frishman asked Town Engineer Larry Sullivan about drainage designs, particularly Meadow Avenue. Mr. Sullivan replied that it is currently draining properly.

Mr. Wheeler asked about the Town Dock facility. Mr. Bragaw replied that there are several issues from the storm. The Stonington Small Boat Association ramp was damaged but has been repaired; it has been difficult to find contractors to repair damage to the Gambardella building. There is also damage to the South Dock.

Director of Finance – Mrs. Stevens provided for the members a list of the impacts of the Governor's proposed budget. She explained that the revenues are the same just distributed differently. Members discussed his proposed \$20,000 automobile exemption which would result in an estimated \$1.9 million loss in revenue to the Town and changes to the Education Cost Sharing criteria. Mr. Frishman asked about the status of the sales tax suit. Mrs. Stevens replied that the Town is waiting on the outcome for Groton, the other town involved.

Subcommittee reports – Mr. Grimes reported that the Fields process is going well. Mrs. Strunk stated that she has yet to attend a K-12 Building committee meeting. Mr. O'Brien stated that the Pension talks are going well particularly with the shift for new Town employees.

Correspondence – 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 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


John O'Brien
Secretary

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