

February 13, 2013

The Board of Finance held a special 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; Board of Selectmen, 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 February 6 meeting.

Mr. Grimes seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

Budget Hearings FY 2013-2014

Water Pollution Control Authority – James Sisk, WPCA Chairman and Tom Gilligan, Director were present. Mr. Sisk stated that theirs is a reactive business and the storms have had a tremendous impact on operations. There is no change to the budget request from the previous year. Mr. Sisk stated that there will be some challenges during the rehabilitation with regard to diverting between plants. There is no timetable on how long this will take but it will be a money saver. The United Water contract is in effect through November 2014.

Human Services – Mr. Haberek informed the members that he spent time at the Human Services building after the Director resigned to view operations and make any adjustments necessary. He stated that he decided not to replace the Human Services Director. He introduced Leanne Theodore, Youth & Family Services Administrator stating that she will continue in her current position and will now be administering the personnel, programming and budgetary responsibilities of the department. Mrs. Theodore introduced the Human Services staff present. Mrs. Theodore addressed the highlights of the present year adding that they work closely with the schools. She addressed the supportive programs, particularly the Computer lab that assists in job searches and resume assistance, and the Energy Assistance program. New to some programs, is the increase in clients that are two parent-working families. Mr. Haberek commended the department for the many services offered to residents in the aftermath of Super storm Sandy including ready-to-eat meals, bottled water and travel shower kits. They worked closely with the Red Cross for the emergency shelter and hosted FEMA to streamline damage reporting. He added that some of the changes he would like to implement are a combining of the preschools, transform the Human Services conference room to a resident computer room and seek new cultural opportunities for the residents.

Mr. Grimes asked why the Recreation numbers were down. Mr. Mendonca, Recreation Director replied that it is due to decreased numbers and elimination of some Adult exercise classes. Space, teachers and class times all played into this. Mrs. Theodore stated that the numbers for the summer programs were up but so was the scholarships offered. The scholarships were based on the Federal poverty levels.

At this time, Mr. Frishman recognized Beth Ann Stewart and commended her on her fine work for the Town as Human Services Director.

Outside Agencies – Mr. Haberek explained his funding to the Libraries, Outside Agencies and Ambulances. A new line item is for the Sexual Assault Crises Center of Eastern CT. He introduced Bob Holdsworth. Mr. Holdsworth handles the billing for the Mystic River and Stonington Ambulance corps. He provided backup explaining the additional expense requested to fund the new bundle billing agreement with Lawrence and Memorial paramedics. He stated there are 1300 licensed paramedics in the State. The funds are community specific. Tom Gibney, Westerly Ambulance Treasurer spoke in support of their increased budget request stating that technology has advanced yet it is difficult to keep up with the improvements.

At this time Mr. Grimes, asked if any of the Outside agency representatives would care to speak in support of their budgets. The Mystic & Noank Library replied that they use a proportional formula for usage.

Chief Kenneth Richards informed the members that \$5000 has been requested for outside instructors to visit the Town and address school shootings. He would like to include all Emergency Services as well as teachers for very specific training. Mr. Haberek stated that he has an itemized breakdown and will provide copies for the members.

Beth-Ann Stewart, Director of the COMO stated that they host multiple organizations in their facility and have acquired the Prom Shop from the H.S. Department. She added that there has been a reduction in Kinderfun program numbers.

Vicki Anderson of the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center stated that they have not increased staffing in over eleven years.

Russ Partridge of the Westerly Area Rest and Meals and Joe Petroff of Big Brothers/Big Sisters thanked the Town for their support.

Representatives of the Stonington and Mystic River Ambulance corps stated that revenue is down and calls are up. They added that they could not operate without their volunteers.

Director of Finance – Nothing to report


New Business – Mr. Bragaw had provided for the members a summary sheet showing the Snow budget to date. The account is over budget. Mrs. Stevens added that the Town is FEMA eligible for the snow and emergency operations of Blizzard 2013.

Subcommittee reports - Nothing to report.

Correspondence – Nothing to report

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Wheeler made a motion to adjourn. Mr. O'Brien seconded the motion and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


John O'Brien
Secretary

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