

March 20, 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; Sandy Grimes; June Strunk and Bryan Bentz. Also present Maryanna Stevens, Director of Finance; 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 March 13 meeting as presented. Mr. O'Brien seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

Suspense List-

Tax Collector Gisela Harna provided the suspense list for the members review. These are uncollectable property taxes. Mr. Grimes made a motion to accept the suspense list to be transferred to the suspense tax book. Mr. O'Brien seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

Budget Deliberations

At this time, Mrs. Stevens provided for the members a recap following previous deliberations. The proposed 2013-14 budget is \$58,295,072; an increase of \$1,561,376 or 2.75% over the current 2012-13 budget. The mill rate is 20.52, a 1 mill increase over prior year or a 5.12% increase in the amount to be raised by taxes.

Mr. Frishman started with the Outside Agencies and asked the members for their input. Messrs. Frishman, Bentz, Wheeler and O'Brien were in support of level funding for all Outside Agencies. Mrs. Strunk and Mr. Grimes stated that they would like to stay with the First Selectman's' proposed. Mr. Grimes added that he would like additional funding for the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center. After a vote was taken and Mrs. Strunk recused herself, maintaining level funding passed, members agreed to retain the Selectman's proposed increase of \$2000.00 to the PNC for daily living supplies as this figure was transferred from the Selectman's budget.

After continued discussion the following budget reductions were made:

Schedule of Capital Improvements

- Plan of Conserv. & Dev. Update CUT - \$10,000
- Police-Technology upgrade CUT - \$10,000
- MDT Laptops CUT - \$10,000
- BOE-Pavement Crack Sealing & Coating CUT - \$50,200

TOTAL CIP CHANGES (80,200)

General Government

Department of Human Services

- Mystic & Noank Library CUT - \$16,810

Department of Public Works

- Town Hall General Maint. CUT - \$ 5,000
- Pavement Treatments CUT - \$ 5,000
- Solid Waste General Ops. CUT - \$ 1,000
- Solid Waste Water Testing CUT - \$ 2,000
- Solid Waste Disposal fees CUT - \$ 1,000

Department of Planning

- Director of Planning CUT - \$70,000

Police Department

- Unleaded Gasoline CUT - \$12,500
- Consumable Supplies CUT - \$ 1,000
- Canine Expenses CUT - \$ 500
- Postage CUT - \$ 500
- Police Commission clerk CUT - \$ 500

TOTAL CHANGES TO TOWN (106,810)

Members discussed the fund balance, which is healthy at \$2.6 million over 2 months operating. After discussing with the Director of Finance various different financial scenarios, members voted to **reduce the Fund Balance** by the following: Mr. Grimes and Mrs. Strunk -\$1.3 million, Messrs. Bentz, Frishman, Wheeler and O'Brien-\$1.2 million. The final vote 4 to 2.

Mr. O'Brien felt the budget as it stands now should be presented to the voters. Members discussed the Board of Education budget. All members agreed it was a well-prepared, responsible budget but further reductions were necessary. Members voted to **reduce the BOE budget** as follows: Messrs. Frishman, O'Brien, Bentz, Wheeler and Mrs. Strunk -\$250,000, Mr. Grimes-\$200,000. The final vote 5-1.


Mr. Frishman called for a motion to send a budget in the amount of \$57,848,062 to Public Hearing with a mill rate of 19.88. Mr. O'Brien approved the motion, Mr. Bentz seconded the motion. Messrs. Frishman, Wheeler and Mrs. Strunk approved the motion while Mr. Grimes was opposed.

Director of Finance – Nothing to report

Subcommittee Reports – The bids are out for the Athletic Fields.

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 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


John O'Brien
Secretary

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