

June 5, 2013

The Board of Finance held a regular meeting on this date at the Police Department meeting room. Members present were Glenn Frishman, Chairman; Dudley Wheeler; 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—

Mr. Wheeler made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 8 meeting as presented. Mr. Grimes seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

Director of Public Works – Bid Waiver request-

Mr. Bragaw explained that the Highway Department is planning summer work. They would like to take advantage of the Capital Region Council of Governments applicable contracts with bid waivers. Mr. O'Brien made a motion to approve the bid waivers for Shaw Vac Services (Catch Basin Cleaning) and Atlantic Pavement Markings (Traffic Guidelines). Mr. Wheeler seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

Stonington Public Schools- Bid Waiver request-

Jason Jones, Director of Technology was present. He reminded the Board that as an education institution SPS is obligated to purchase Apple branded items only from Apple, Inc. as a single source. He also informed the Board that SPS is purchasing 240 Chromebook computers. He added CT Schools utilizes PEPPM Contract for technology purchases. After discussion, Mr. O'Brien made a motion to approve the bid waivers for Apple Inc. for FY 13-14 Apple products and PEPPM Contract for the purchase of Chromebook computers. Mrs. Strunk seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

Mr. Jones stated that he had originally submitted a bid waiver request for Carousel Industries as well but wished to withdraw the request at this time as he has received a competitive bid within \$10,000 and would like to evaluate further. Members agreed to table the request and asked that he present at the July meeting.

Nikki Gullickson, Asst. Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction was present to request a bid waiver for the "Wonders" Reading Series (Grades: K-4). This program has research based strategies from several states and was written specifically to align with the Common Core State Standards. After discussion,

Mr. O'Brien made a motion to approve the bid waiver for the "Wonders" Reading Series. Mr. Grimes seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

Correspondence

Members acknowledged the BOE transfers. No action required.

Police Commissioner Chairman Bates addressed the State 911 monies approved by the Board of Police Commissioners. Chief Stewart explained that these funds are usually addressed at the end of the fiscal year. He requested that for FY 2012/2013 \$49,820 in State 911 monies be placed in the Dispatcher line item then transfer to the CIP MDT, Camera system and Car accounts.

Captain Desmond replied that necessary items were cut and these transfers can address necessary goods and services as well as save the taxpayers. For FY 2013/2014 an anticipated \$52,584 in State 911 monies could be transferred from the Dispatch line item to Dispatch console computer operating system and school safety. Mr. Frishman stated that these items do not affect the taxpayers and next year's Schedule C could be reduced by addressing them now. Mrs. Strunk and Mr. Grimes questioned why these 911 funds are not being used for dispatch as intended. Mr. Grimes added that he has an issue with funds being transferred into lines cut by the Board of Finance to pass the budget; he felt this should go back into the General Fund. Captain Desmond explained that with cuts to CIP items, priorities of the department shift requiring these transfers. Mr. Grimes did not approve of the transfer for school safety. He stated that the State would be providing funding for this. Several members of the Board and Chairman Bates disagreed with Mr. Grimes' statements. Mr. Frishman believes the proposals as presented make a lot of sense and that the transfers for critical items are logical and wise moves.

Mrs. Strunk addressed the FY 2013/2014 anticipated State 911 monies. She asked if it wasn't premature to allocate these funds. Chief Stewart stated that he felt the department was being prudent. This could prevent them having to come before the Board in the next fiscal year and asking for a special appropriation for school safety. Mr. O'Brien stated that this is an evolving issue. Mr. Frishman made a motion to approve the transfer for FY 2012/2013 as presented that will accomplish necessary goals. Mr. O'Brien seconded the motion. At this time Mrs. Strunk mentioned, as Mr. Grimes had that these funds are being transferred into lines cut by the Board of Finance to pass the budget; shouldn't they accommodate these funds into the 13/14 budget? A Board of Police Commission member answered that when items are cut from the budget it requires that the department reallocate funds where needed. The motion as seconded passed with 4 Ayes, 1 Nay and one abstention.

Appointment of Auditors

Mr. O'Brien made a motion to reappoint Cohn Reznick as auditors to the Town of Stonington. Mr. Wheeler seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

Director of Finance

Mrs. Stevens addressed the discussion last month regarding what constitutes a legal meeting that needs to be posted. She spoke with Kathleen Ross of the FOI Commission and was told the following:

- *A caucus is of the same party, same board does not require posting*
- *Multiple boards – same party addressing public business needs to be posted with the Town Clerk*
- *More than one Board member of a same board meeting with a Town employee where public business is addressed must be posted.*

Mrs. Stevens added that there are differing appellate decisions with regard to this final matter.

She also wanted to give the members a heads up that the First Selectman would be proposing an additional appropriation of \$35,000 for the Town Planner line.

Subcommittee reports


DPW Joe Bragaw was present to provide an update on the progress of the fields. All is going well and is on time. He informed the members that the MMS field installed two years ago is stressed. It hasn't been watered and he would like to install an irrigation system now. Outside organizations have also played a part in the deterioration.

Mr. Bragaw also informed the Board that the Highway and Facilities budget will be under and he would like to hire Seasonal help earlier as well as address work necessary at the Pawcatuck Dike, Town dock fencing at the open space used as a dog park and to repave and address drainage issues at the Town Dock.

Mrs. Strunk brought to the Boards attention findings of the EDC regarding contributions to the Town economy from non profit organizations.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. O'Brien made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Grimes seconded the motion and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


John O'Brien
Secretary

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