

July 10, 2013

The Board of Finance held a special meeting on this date at the Police Department meeting room. Members present were Glenn Frishman, Chairman; Dudley Wheeler; Bryan Bentz and June Strunk. Also present Maryanna Stevens, Director of Finance; First Selectman Ed Haberek and Town residents.

Mr. Frishman called the meeting to order at 7:50 p.m.

Previous minutes—

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

Mr. Bentz seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

SPS – Avaya Phone system financing – Jason Jones, Director of Technology was present to request approval from the Board to finance the cost of the phone system project with Carousel Industries versus financing the project at market cost. Mrs. Stevens added that she would rather not borrow at 4.4% interest. A budget transfer from Schedule C would work and ultimately save the taxpayers. The total cost of the project including network equipment from the RFP process is \$284,100. The Schedule C amounts for the phone system through FY 2017-2018 is \$60,000. The Board unanimously supported the phone system-financing proposal.

Mr. Bentz asked that Mrs. Stevens provide an informational sheet for future budget processes referencing Board approved budget transfers.

Correspondence

Mr. Haberek spoke to the correspondence received from GREEN RECON regarding 27 West Broad Street in Pawcatuck. He stated that this was an informational courtesy. This is not a Town owned property but there is a lien.

Director of Finance

The Town is going to Moody's tentatively July 31, 2013 to issue bonds for the fields and roads and possibly WPCA. She added that depending on WPCA they might issue notes rather than bonds because of the time frame. Fields will be fully bonded and the roads will be phased in. She is working with the Financial advisor.

Subcommittee reports

Mrs. Strunk reported on the K-12 Building Committee. There was data input from teachers and departments. They are a very active, committed group. She added that they might come before the Board in September to request funding for an architect. They also discussed the Towns borrowing capacity and Mrs. Stevens may attend the next meeting.

Rob Marsiglia was also present and agreed with Mrs. Strunk's comments. They are not looking to make any drastic changes.

Mrs. Strunk asked to discuss the Director of Planning position. She is not in support of hiring a consultant. She believes there is sufficient information within the department to assess the efficiency of the office before there was a Director and after. She would also like to research the Board of Appeals and denied applications that result in lawsuits.

Mr. Haberek stated that he does not support a consultant. The Director does not handle day-to-day operations; they are responsible for a larger scope. The Director of Planning will have the overall vision, responsible for checks and balances oversee grants, state monies, work with Economic Development and management of personnel.

John Prue, a P&Z Commission member stated that the Town Hall staff, First Selectman and commission members could not agree on what the problem is.

Mr. Haberek replied that his main concern is that in the past four or five months the only changes have been the members to the P&Z Commission and now there are supposed problems.

Mr. Sternberg spoke to the Stonington Charter (Section 8-2 C.) that recognizes that there shall be a Director of Planning.

Members agreed that this would eventually need to be addressed at a Town Meeting. Mr. Frishman agreed and reiterated that the full Board will make a decision at a future meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Wheeler made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Bentz seconded the motion and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


John O'Brien
Secretary