



**Town of North Stonington : Board of Finance Meeting
North Stonington Education Center & Zoom Meeting January 3, 2024
7:00 PM**

Minutes

1. Call to order: (7:13pm) Mike Anderson, Chairman; Dan Smith, Vice-Chairman; Sarah Nelson, Carl Johnston, Gary Annino, Louis Gingerella, Amy Friend, and Winona Berdine.
2. Public Comments: None
3. Correspondence: King, King and Associates (Town Auditors) will hold presentation of annual audit on Jan 17, 2024 Board of Finance meeting.
4. Selectmen Request for an Appropriation for a used "Quint" Ladder Truck for the NSVFC: Presentation by the North Stonington Volunteer Fire Company to support the value of the purchase of a Quint, 75 ft, full ladder truck; \$50,000 would be moved from the undesignated funds to purchase the used truck from the Town of Colchester; First Selectman, Chief Steinhart, Chief Mechanic Kyle Bergel presented in support of the reasons why the town needs this additional truck in the aging fleet. Some of those reasons included: The increase in population in town, the increase in the size of homes and modernized construction, including solar panel and other roofing materials that can have the tendency to pose challenges; ISO Insurance citation for lack of trucks per low, med and high level response codes; Manpower of the volunteer force is declining and is needed for setting up ground ladders; Increased need of aerial units; and the overall enhancement, safety and efficiency of ventilation, safety, and rescue measures/procedures. Jason Tagg, Chief Engineer for the NSVFC who inspected the 75' Quint from Colchester, confirmed the truck to be in good operating condition with extremely low mileage and hours. It would take approximately \$5,000 in upgrades that will be covered under current budget; Federal inspection is complete. While there is a 2-4 year lead-time for a new fire truck, this one is ready for use upon receipt. Board of Finance discussion over presentations and the exhaustion of all options at this point. Discussion of the balance in Undesignated Funds. Mike Anderson motioned to move the \$50,000 appropriation for the Quint Ladder truck to a town meeting, with Gary Annino in to second that motion, with the appropriation request being approved for town meeting with a vote of 6-0-0.
5. Selectmen Presentation of the 5-year Capital Plan: All Selectmen were present with First Selectman Robert Carlson presenting current plan for capital. Discussion

included ways to achieve capital plan success weighing options over maintenance fees vs payments for new going forward; as well as, discussion of taking items out of capital and going to the option of bonding for current and future needs.
Sarah Nelson is dismissed at 9:34pm. *Winona Berdine seated for Sarah Nelson.

6. Review of Minutes: Dan Smith motions to accept the minutes from 6-28-2023 as written, with Winona Berdine in to second that motion. Minutes are accepted, as written, 5-0-1.
*Louis Gingerella abstained and Paul Simonds' term has since ended.
7. Public Comment: Public comment was heard.
8. Next Meeting: January 17th, 2024
9. Adjournment: Dan Smith makes the motion to adjourn with Carl Johnson in to second that motion, followed by the unanimous vote to dismiss at 9:40pm , 6-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Friend

North Stonington Board of Finance