

North Stonington Board of Finance Meeting  
Meeting Minutes, Wednesday, Mar. 17, 2021  
Zoom Meeting @7:00pm  
North Stonington, CT

1. **Call to Order:** 7:01pm, Board of Finance members present: Chairman Dan Spring, Vice-Chair Paul Simonds, Dan Smith, Carolyn Howell, Mike Anderson, Anne Akin Alternates Brett Mastroianni and Sarah Nelson
2. **Public Comments:**
  - a) NS BoE- Clarification on \$250K other expenses- email sent to BoF detailing items in the budget line item. \$126.5K of this is software and licenses. Also cautions BoF that BoE Feb P/L statement being discussed tonight has not yet been reviewed by the BoE
  - b) Brian Rathbun – Has reviewed the BoE and BoS proposed budgets. Cautions BoF to review with eye to one-time expenses to be sure these costs aren't made a permanent part of the budget going forward. Feels all one-time expenses should be brought to the BoF as an appropriation not put in the budget..
  - c) Shawn Murphy-has a general comment about the appropriation request under consideration tonight. Appropriations are usually for unexpected things that come up during the year, they have never been used to take things out of the budget to make the budget more palatable. These appropriations haven't covered the \$150K that will need to be appropriated for 298 NW Rd.
  - d) Christine Wagner-BoE is very aware of one-time expenses and their effect on the budget. This is one of the reasons they pushed to get the RISA account approved.
  - e) Joe Gross – Reiterates Brian's comment. Also cautions that personnel aren't a one-time expense, they get added into the budget and then stay there. Adding the per diem FF as an appropriation means it isn't in the budget for next year.
3. **Correspondence:** Chairman Dan Spring submitted a BoF update for the NS Quarterly first quarter issue.
4. **BoS Addition Appropriations:**
  - a) C3.47 Financial Software- \$60,325 for implementation of Infinite Visions financial and human resources software. Presentation by Nick Haas. Discussion followed. Motion by Mike Anderson to send to town meeting the request for an additional appropriation for C3.47 financial software for the implementation of Infinite Visions in the amount of \$60,325. 2<sup>nd</sup> Paul Simonds  
Vote: Aye-Paul Simonds, Mike Anderson, Dan Spring Nay-Dan Smith, Anne Akin, Carolyn Howell 3/3/0 Motion does not pass
  - b) C3.50 NSVFC radio replacement-\$35,000 for new radios for NSVFC. Discussion. Motion by Chairman Dan Spring to approve the asked appropriation by the BoS for \$35,000 for new radios for the NSVFC. 2<sup>nd</sup> Dan Smith. Discussion  
Vote: 6/0/0 Motion passes
  - c) B26.01 NSVFC- \$55,000 for per diem staff  
Motion by Mike Anderson to send to town vote the request for an additional appropriation in the amount of \$55,000 to be moved into line item B26.01 with the direction to the FC that funds are to be used for per diem staff for 1 year from date of hire. 2<sup>nd</sup> Paul Simonds. Discussion.

Vote: 0/6/0 Motion does not pass

5. **BoS Revised Budget Presentation-** Presented by 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Mike Uργο. Discussion followed.
  - a) \$123K increase in Govt. Operating expenses, 2.4% increase.
  - b) \$179K increase in Debt Redemption, 14.84% increase.
  - c) \$39K decrease in Capital, -12.16% decrease
  - d) Total increase of \$262.5K or 1.27%
  - e) With denial of requested appropriations, these numbers may need to change.
6. **Reports- BoS P/L, BoE P/L, Tax Report, Check Register, Undes. Fund report:** Tabled
7. **Reports-Old M/H School- 6 month Expenditures Report, Audit Services Survey Report:** Tabled
8. **Previous Minutes:** Tabled
9. **Future Strategies- 2021-2022 Budget Schedule, Budget Review to Date, BoF Members Reports, FOIA Training Monday March 29<sup>th</sup> at 7pm:** Put 2 failed appropriations back into discussion
10. **Public Comment:**
  - a) Shawn Murphy- questions governor's orders regarding town voting, Stonington had a town meeting with drive up voting.
  - b) Pam Potemri- attended BoS and BoE meetings to observe budget preparation process. It is the job of the BoS and the BoE to put forward budgets that are reasonable and fiscally responsible, it is not the job of the BoF to question them. The BoF has been given two budgets that are ready to be moved forward, should not be obstructed.
  - c) Brian Rathbun-Both BoS and BoE budgets need to be sent back for cuts.
  - d) Shawn Murphy- Disagrees with Pam Potemri- It is the job of the BoF to put forward to the town fiscally responsible and reasonable budgets, not just to forward what they are given.
  - e) Pam Potemri- It is very disheartening to boards that put in time to develop budgets to not have them presented as developed.
11. **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn at 10:48 by Chairman Dan Spring, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan Smith.

Approved 6/0/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Akin  
BoF Secretary