

North Stonington Board of Finance Special Meeting
Meeting Minutes, Wednesday, April 1, 2020
North Stonington Zoom Meeting @7:00pm
North Stonington, CT

1. **Call to Order:** 7:04pm, Members present: Chairman Dan Spring, Dan Smith, Paul Simonds, Carolyn Howell, Anne Akin, Michael Anderson, Mustapha Ratib Absent: Chris Hundt
Point of order requested- Clarification as to which BoF members will be voting. Discussion by board with input by Mike Urgo

2. **BoF: Review and Budget Preparation:** Discussion on presented budgets. Consensus that work still needed to be done to reduce budget.

Chairman Dan Spring suggested that BoE consider removing several items from budget totaling \$376K, and then request these items as appropriations from the BoF after budget set. This would reduce the BoE budget increase to 2.1% or approximately 0.56mil. Discussion ensued, no consensus reached.

Chairman Dan Spring stated that with the BoE budget at 2.1% increase, and the BoS budget increase of \$188,934 (including the \$139K debt redemption), the total mil rate increase would be 0.91. Requested BoE to reduce budget by another 65K and BoS to reduce budget another 35K to bring mil rate increase to 0.73 which would be a 1.9% increase in the overall town budget from last year. Also suggested this could be funded by the undesignated fund. Discussion ensued, general consensus that a 0.73mil increase would be acceptable, some consensus that the undesignated fund could be used to cover this increase with stipulation that money be replaced by BoE once savings from pandemic changes were realized.

Finally Chairman Dan Spring asked the BoF's response to the following options:

- a) mil rate increase of 0.73 put to taxpayer vote.
 - b) mil rate increase of 0.26 to cover debt redemption, with the remainder of the 0.73 mil increase covered by undesignated fund
 - c) 0 mil increase with everything covered by undesignated fund
- Results: a) 3 votes b) 3 votes c) 1 vote

Tax Report; BOE Profit/Loss; BOS Profit/Loss:

Tax collection is currently at 94.6% of expected

3. **Public Comments and Questions on Non-Agenda Items-**
 - a) Shawn Murphy- With the Governor's extension for budget approval, what was our intended process for approving this year's budget? Has the town attorney weighed in on the Governor's order?

Answer- The BoS and the BoF hope to follow the standard procedure of a public hearing followed by a public referendum once the BoF reaches agreement on an acceptable budget.

b) Brian Rathbun- Concerned about the revaluation this year, which always increases his taxes, on top of the current situation where many people are out of work and struggling. Wants the BoF to keep all of this in mind when setting this year's budget. Times are hard and will likely get worse before they get better.

4. **Previous Minutes-** Tabled

5. **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn at 9:45pm by Chairman Dan Spring, 2nd by Dan Smith. Approved 6/0/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Akin
BoF Secretary