

North Stonington Board of Finance Meeting
Meeting Minutes, Wednesday, May 20, 2020
North Stonington Zoom Meeting @7:00pm
North Stonington, CT

1. **Call to Order:** 7:22pm, Members present: Chairman Dan Spring, Dan Smith, Paul Simonds, Carolyn Howell, Anne Akin, Michael Anderson Absent: Chris Hundt
2. **Public Comments:**
 - a) Brian Rathbun- 1) Hopes everyone got a chance to read his letter. Last part is the most important, keep hearing we need to move the town forward, but taxpayers' finances aren't moving forward right now. 2) Thanks the board for all the work they are doing.
3. **BoF: Review and Budget Preparation, Submission to BoS:**

Issues remaining from 06May2020 meeting:

 - a) Wording of motion brought forward by Dan Smith stating that the undesignated fund can't be used further until the \$225,232 is repaid in full unless there is unanimous agreement by the BoF. Attorney states that we can't go above and beyond the direction that the state gives. Therefore we cannot require a unanimous vote. Motion is withdrawn
 - b) BoF did not vote on motion by Chairman Dan Spring for the BoF to approve the BoE budget at a 2.5% increase over last year's budget. 2nd by Mike Anderson. Motion was tabled at 06May2020 meeting. Brought forward again at 20May2020 meeting. Discussion.
Vote: 5/1/0 Motion passes

Motion by Paul Simonds to add an agenda item to tonight's meeting to allow discussion of adding a Per Diem fire fighter to the BoS budget. 2nd Carolyn Howell. Discussion.

Vote: 5/1/0 Motion passes

4. **Per Diem Fire Fighter:** Discussion
Motion by Carolyn Howell to invite the Fire Chief of the NSFD to the next BoF meeting to make a presentation of his staffing solution for the NSFD. 2nd Anne Akin. Discussion.
Vote: 6/0/0 Motion passes

Return to agenda item 3, **BoF: Review and Budget Preparation, Submission to BoS:** Discussion of BoS budget

Motion by Dan Smith to remove \$9000 increase from line item C3.15, Open Space Acquisition Fund. 2nd Anne Akin. Discussion.

Vote: 5/1/0 Motion passes.

Motion by Paul Simonds to remove \$5000 increase from line item B21.02, Registrar Operating Expenses. 2nd Dan Spring. Discussion.

Vote: 4/2/0 Motion passes.

Motion by Dan Smith to decrease line item B1.00, First Selectman Salary, by \$15K to make it an even \$50K. Discussion. No 2nd. Motion vacated.

Motion by Dan Spring that we approve the general operating budget with two amendments; a \$9K decrease in C3.15, Open Space Acquisition Fund and a \$5K decrease in B21.02, Registrar Operating Expenses. 2nd Paul Simonds.
Vote: 5/1/0 Motion passes.

Formal Motion:

The Board of Finance approves the proposed budget for fiscal year 2020/2021 to go to town hearing:

BoE: \$14,119,738

BoS: \$5,043,664

Debt Redemption: \$1,204,204

Capital: \$320,175

Total Budget: \$20,687,781

2nd Paul Simonds.

Vote: 6/0/0 Motion passes

5. **Reports: Profit/Loss, BoE and BoS:** All reports sent to the board members via email except for BoE report, still waiting for this.
6. **Project Updates:**
 - a) School modernization wrapping up
 - b) Boombridge Road bridge underway, expect completion by November if not sooner.
 - c) Potential animal shelter site at the Wintechog Road property that was proposed for affordable housing project. Investigating whether parcel is suitable for this purpose.
 - d) Emergency Services Building- outbuilding is completed, swale run-off work still to be completed. Project is coming in under budget.
7. **Future Strategies:**
 - a) Town hearing discussed, the earliest it could be set for would be Monday June 1, 2020.
 - b) Auditing Services- need to decide on who will do the town's audit in 2020/2021. Motion by Chairman Dan Spring that we continue to use the auditing services of Sandra Wellwood LLC for 2020/2021. 2nd Mike Anderson. Discussion
Vote: 6/0/0 Motion passes.
Chairman Dan Spring will get necessary form to Christine Diaz
 - c) Motion by Chairman Dan Spring to call for the public hearing to present the North Stonington budget for fiscal year 2020/2021 be held Monday June 1st at 6:00pm via video conference. 2nd Dan Smith. Discussion.
Vote: 6/0/0 Motion passes.

Christine Diaz will follow up on this. Query on where RISA wording came from. Proposed RISA wording given to town attorney by BoE attorney. Modeled after wording on RISA from town of Sterling.

8. **Previous Minutes:** Minutes for 12Feb2020, 22Apr2020 and 29Apr2020 reviewed. 12Feb2020, no change required. 22Apr2020, amend agenda item 3 paragraph 3 to state that proposed mil rate increases include using money from undesignated fund to cover revenue shortfall. 29Apr2020, no change required.

Motion by Chairman Dan Spring to approve BoF meeting minutes from 12Feb2020 and 29Apr2020 as well as 22Apr2020 as amended. 2nd Paul Simonds.

Vote: 6/0/0 Minutes approved as amended.

9. **Public Comment:**

- a) Brian Rathbun- 1) Sounds like we are approving the BoE budget at a 2.5% increase. What will the mil rate increase be? Dan Spring states mil rate increase is not set yet. 2) The \$225K that we are spending from the undesignated fund, is this money going to the school? Dan Spring states the money is going to make up the revenue shortfall.

- b) Shawn Murphy- 1) What is the total budget amount being put forward? Dan Spring states total is \$20,687,781 2) What mil rate was used to generate proposed town revenue? Dan Spring states current mil rate of 0.29 was used 3) The budget as proposed does not balance, how can BoF propose to put forward a budget that is not balanced? Dan Spring states that the budget put forth for the town hearing is never balanced because town has not weighed in on proposed budget yet and so it has not been finalized 4) If town approves proposed budget at town hearing, the proposed mil rate necessary to achieve a balanced budget would be approximately 0.85? Dan Spring agrees that this would be correct

10. **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn at 9:23pm by Chairman Dan Spring, 2nd by Mike Anderson. Approved 6/0/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Akin
BoF Secretary