

North Stonington Joint Board of Selectmen/Board of Finance Meeting

Meeting Minutes, Wednesday, Mar. 03, 2021

Zoom Meeting @7:00pm

North Stonington, CT

1. **Call to Order:** 7:02pm, Board of Selectmen members present- First Selectman Mike Uργο, Nita Kincaid, Bob Carlson. 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) Joe Gross- Wants to know if BoF has considered his request to spend the first 15min of meetings reviewing the handbook.
 - b) Shawn Murphy- understands that there have been changes made to the BoS budget that had been posted online. Would like for these changes to be mentioned as the budget is reviewed tonight.
 - c) Brian Rathbun- Read that there in an 8% increase in the grand list due to the revaluation. Any increase is on the backs of the taxpayers, and he wants the BoF to keep the taxpayers in mind as we prepare the budget, because a lot of the taxpayers are struggling due to the pandemic.
3. **Correspondence:** None
4. **BoS Budget Presentation FY2021-2022:** Presented by 1st Selectman Mike Uργο. Discussion followed:
 - a) \$344K increase in Govt. Operating expenses, 6.74% increase.
 - b) \$179K increase in Debt Redemption, 14.84% increase.
 - c) \$211K increase in Capital, 65.87% increase

Motion by Anne Akin to advise the BoS to provide a budget with no more than a 2% increase, not including debt redemption. 2nd Paul Simonds. Discussion

Motion withdrawn.

Draft Estimates: 0.3 mil increase from debt redemption + 0.35 mil increase from BoE + 0.8 mil increase to cover ongoing revenue shortfall from last year= 1.45 mil increase already without increase from BoS budget.

Motion by Dan Smith to send the Govt. Operating budget and the Capitol budget back to the BoS for a 0% increase on both with the understanding that lease payments and other contractual obligations must be paid. 2nd Paul Simonds. Discussion followed.

Vote: 4/2/0 Motion passes
5. **BOF Policies Review/Approval:** Budget Reconciliation Policy is the only one left to complete. Work is progressing, draft sent to Chairman Dan Spring for review.
6. **Previous Minutes:** Tabled
7. **Future Strategies:** Keep an eye on budget schedule for changes.
8. **Public Comment:**

- a) Joe Gross- Give backs are not revenue, appropriations are a way of increasing the budget without taxpayer approval. Decreased budget by \$590K just during tonight's meeting.
 - b) Brian Rathbun- Town is spending too much on recreation. All boards and commissions should cut spending back to 2019 amounts. Our debt has to be repaid before we pay for any more "wants"
9. **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn the joint Board of Selectmen/Finance at 10:22 by Chairman Dan Spring, 2nd by Dan Smith. Approved 6/0/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Akin
BoF Secretary