

North Stonington Board of Finance

Special Meeting Minutes, Wednesday, February 27, 2019 New Town Hall @ 530pm

North Stonington, CT

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call** – Meeting called to order @ 532pm by Chairman Dan Spring **Members Present:** Chairman Dan Spring, Paul Simonds, Carolyn Howell, Mike Anderson(arrived late @ 539pm)(Present from Selectman's office, First Selectman Mike Urgo, Selectwoman Nita Kincaid, Selectman Bob Carlson, Administration and Finance Officer Christine Dias) **Absent:** Tim Main, Mustapha Ratib, Alternate Candis Banks & Alternate Chris Hundt.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Performed.
3. **Public Comments & Questions-** Chief Steinhart from the North Stonington Volunteer Fire Company read out loud a letter which he had sent because his budget had been cut 1.5% lower than their current budget. Joe Cassatta who is a member of the North Stonington Volunteer Fire Company, but made it clear that he was speaking as a tax payer also spoke. Joe Cassatta wanted to know why the budget was cut. He spoke about the areas that were cut which would affect pump testing, hose testing, public safety & training. He explained that Fire Fighter 1 & EMT Classes cost \$1000.00 per class and that new members need this training. Joe asked why the per diem had been cut. Joe stated that he felt it was negligent and was upset that the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen had made cuts to their budget without discussion. First Selectman Mike Urgo explained that the Board of Finance had not made any cuts that he takes ownership of that decision. Mike further explained that he could not have paid firefighters in town without first doing his due diligence. Mike advised that he takes their concerns very seriously and that he was going to start a committee to review the impacts of having paid fire fighters before bringing it to the public for consideration or he felt he would be doing the town a disservice.
4. **BOE 2019-2020 Budget Presentation-** Board of Ed Chairwoman Christine Wagner provided handouts and explained that cuts had been made and this was their 3rd version after meeting and making cuts multiple times prior to bringing it to the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance for review– One booklet had detailed information. A second handout which was by account but only compared totals by account which compared the current budget to the proposed budget and 3rd handout which was one page outlining what was required by law, contract and regulation. The items that are required by law, contract and regulation reflect a contractual increase of \$757,791 or a 5.61% increase over the current year. There was discussion about multiple line items.
5. **BOS 2019-2020 Budget Presentation-** First Selectman Mike Urgo Presented. A handout was provided comparing the Fiscal Year 2018, the Current Year 2019 and the proposed budget for 2020. There was discussion. No action was taken by the Board of Selectmen.
6. **BOE: Profit/Loss YTD-** Board of Ed provided a Financial Statement by account for the period ending January 31, 2019.
7. **BOS: Profit/Loss YTD** – P&L was provided for the period 7.2018 through 1.2019.
8. **BOS: Tax Report YTD** – Tax collection reports were provided through January 2019.
9. **Previous Minutes-** Tabled for next meeting.
10. **Adjournment-** Dan Spring moved to adjourn at 715pm. Paul Simonds 2nd.
Approved 4-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted, Carolyn A.
Howell Secretary, Board of Finance
Adopted by the Board of Selectmen May 21, 2019