



**Town of North Stonington
Board of Finance Meeting**

**North Stonington Education Center & Zoom Meeting November 1, 2023
7:00 PM**

MINUTES

1. Call to Order/Roll Call: (7:02pm) Mike Anderson as Chairman, Sarah Nelson, Dan Smith, Carl Johnston, Gary Annino, Amy Friend; seated for Paul Simonds, and Winona Berdine.

2. Public Comments: None

3. Board of Education Financials and Non-lapsing Account: Chairman of the Board of Education, Christine Wagner, presented updated board financials through August of 2023. Review of reports that are requested by the Board of Finance on a monthly basis. A free flowing discussion also briefly included the following: It was noted that there was an HVAC repair that was not in the 2023/2024 FY Budget and that the structure and responsibility of said and future building repairs needs to be made known as to whether it comes from the approved education budget or town operating budget. The Administrator's contract for 24/25 was updated and posted on the Town website; ECS funds (Educational cost sharing from the State of CT) are increasing for fiscal year 2025. Christine Wagner explained the new meeting format for the Board of Education. The following was briefly touched on: Quote to update HVAC control system (Software updates); Alex Karpinski as chair of finance committee; BOE and district is working hard to keep special education students in district; Town/Education reconciliations have been remedied; For non-lapsing, Christine Wagner stated that the numbers are going back to a norm of +/- \$30,000 being deposited into the non-lapsing account; STEAP Grant from the State was approved for irrigation of the the fields with the 20% match to be paid through the BOE's non-lapsing account. Non-Lapsing Account Discussion: Items covered, or to be covered through the current funds in the non-lapsing account are as follows: playground equipment, resurfacing of the softball and baseball fields, and stage curtain; Innovative instruction use, alternative education, co-op sports, irrigation match, roof repairs, security cameras, are all to be covered, as discussed. The current balance reported for the non-lapsing account \$356,767. This balance is stated to be from COVID anomalies. Also discussed was how the Board of Education defines the use of educational purposes for the non-lapsing account, as use would not be a capital item expense/use, but implied to have direct impact to the education of students.

4. Capital Planning: Plans going ahead with Board of Selectman for capital planning and board "field trips" for the Board of Finance to attend, are to be scheduled to see departments and their needs. The Board of Selectman is in the process of reviewing department requests for the upcoming budget, as well as, establishing a capital plan.

5. Review of Minutes: Carl Johnston motions to approve the minutes from October 18, 2023. Dan Smith was the second for that motion. Board votes to approve minutes 6-0-0.

6. Public Comments: None

7. Adjournment: Mike Anderson motions to adjourn, with Dan Smith in to second that motion. Board of Finance votes unanimously to adjourn at 8:20pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amy Friend
North Stonington Board of Finance