

North Stonington Board of Finance Meeting  
Meeting Minutes, Wednesday, June 02, 2021  
Zoom Meeting @7:00pm  
North Stonington, CT

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NORTH STONINGTON CT

### MINUTES

1. **Call to Order:** 7:00pm, Board of Finance members present: Vice-Chair Paul Simonds, Dan Smith, Carolyn Howell, Mike Anderson, Anne Akin Alternates Brett Mastroianni-seated for Dan Spring and Sarah Nelson
2. **Public Comments\*:**
  - a) Brian Rathbun- 1) Agrees with Joe Gross that 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman's salary should be increased, but this is not the year to do this. 2) Disagrees with the statement that the BoE has no fat in their budget. Feels that the BoE needs to reduce the number of administrative personnel and maybe teachers. Sports and other extracurricular activities could be pay to play. He believes the town should go to arbitration over benefits. He also wants to know how much our students pay if they choose to go to an out of town school.
  - b) Joe Gross-1) Thinks 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman's salary should be restored to amount initially proposed. This is his main goal. 2) Believes charges for transfer station stickers and bulky waste will cause budget to be defeated again if they are left in. 3) Disagrees with removing the public comment period at the end of the meetings. He can comment more productively if allowed to speak at the end of the meetings.
  - c) Jennifer Dayton- 1) The loss of the town planner will be a long lasting loss for the town. We shouldn't make decisions that will hurt the long term growth of the town for short term financial gain. 2) She also supports the school budget. This is another long term investment in our town and should be supported.
3. **Budget Discussion:**
  - a) BoS is going forward with the budget presented at the 26May2021 BoF meeting except the revenue for transfer station sticker fees and bulky waste fees was removed. Mike Urgo will email most recent version to BoF members. Discussion included the following:
    - Concerns over loss of town planner and how filling this will affect the budget.
    - Concern that the building maintenance line was cut from \$15K to \$0. Even though there are no planned projects, the CES bldg. has problems that need to be addressed.
    - Concerns with money cut from EDC budget especially since the town planner was slated to do a lot of stuff for the EDC.
  - b) BoE- BoE approved moving forward with proposed increase of 1.13% for a budget of \$14, 278,721.
  - c) Proposed budget:

General Government	\$5,177,407	1.35% Increase
Capital	\$242,753	24.18% Decrease
Debt Redemption	\$1,382,949	14.84% Increase
<u>BoE</u>	<u>\$14,278,721</u>	<u>1.13% Increase</u>
Total	\$21,081,830	1.59% Increase

- d) Discussion focused on balancing an acceptable mil rate increase with an acceptable withdrawal from the undesignated fund. Current mil rate is 29.4, adjusting down for reval gives a mill rate of 27.4. To meet the budget currently under consideration:
- If we take nothing from the undesignated fund, mil rate will be higher than what it would have been if initial budget vote had passed.
  - Setting a mil rate of 28.8, we would need to take \$81,615 from the undesig. fund
  - Setting a mil rate of 28.7, we would need to take \$137,807 from the undesig. fund
  - Setting a mil rate of 28.6, we would need to take \$193,999 from the undesig. fund
  - Setting a mil rate of 28.5, we would need to take \$250,191 from the undesig. fund
  - Setting a mil rate of 28.0, we would need to take \$531,151 from the undesig. Fund

Motion by Brett Mastroianni to move forward with

A Government Operating Budget of	\$5,177,407
A Capital Budget of	\$242,753
A Debt Redemption Budget of	\$1,382,949
<u>A BoE Budget of</u>	<u>\$14,278,721</u>
For a Total Budget of	\$21,081,830

And taking \$250,191 from the undesignated fund. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan Smith. Discussion followed.

Vote: Aye- Brett Mastroianni, Dan Smith, Anne Akin    Nay- Mike Anderson, Paul Simonds, Carolyn Howell    3/3/0    Motion does not pass

Motion by Mike Anderson to move forward with

A Government Operating Budget of	\$5,177,407
A Capital Budget of	\$242,753
A Debt Redemption Budget of	\$1,382,949
<u>A BoE Budget of</u>	<u>\$14,278,721</u>
For a Total Budget of	\$21,081,830

And adding \$193,999 from the undesignated fund to balance the budget. 2<sup>nd</sup> Paul Simonds.

Vote: Aye- Mike Anderson, Anne Akin, Paul Simonds, Carolyn Howell    Nay- Brett Mastroianni, Dan Smith    4/2/0    Motion passes

4. **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn at 8:53 by Mike Anderson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Paul Simonds.  
Approved 6/0/0.

**\*All Public comments are the opinions of the commenter**

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Akin  
BoF Secretary