



Town of **North Stonington**
Connecticut



North Stonington Board of Finance

Meeting Minutes of

Wednesday June 14th, 2017

North Stonington Elementary School @ 7:30pm

North Stonington, CT

1. **Call to Order;** Call to order @ 7:35pm

2. **Roll Call:**

a) Members Present;

Chairman Tim Main, Secretary Tim Pelland, and Carolyn Howell

b) Absent: Vice-Chairman Charlie Steinhart, Mustapha Ratib and Emile Pavlovics

c) Alternate(s) seated if any;

Alt. Bob Testa seated for Emile Pavlovics

Alt. Chris Hundt seated for Mustapha Ratib

3. **Pledge to the Flag;** Completed

4. **Public Comment and/or Questions;**

First Selectman Shawn Murphy on an email sent by him regarding the Mill Rate the Selectman set by a 3-0 vote of 27 mills or zero increase for the first 6-months of fiscal year 2017/2018 in order to get tax bills out without an approved budget in place. A note will be placed in the Tax Bill with a second bill marked TBD or To Be Determined. Chris mentioned that it should have been the BOF's responsibility to set the rate. Shawn said he considered raising it 1.5 mill to 28.5, but felt there were too many variables. Bob said if we put 27 mills forward now and the budget goes to 29 mills, people are not going to be happy about the increase, thinking they have already paid their taxes. Bob said he thought the BOS was going to raise the rate in order to make up for Projected Losses.

Chris said the town has a right to vote on a Mill Rate and the BOF should set one and give people a chance to speak out on it. Bob asked about any schedule update on School Project. Shawn said they are meeting next week. Bob asked about any other updates from the State. Shawn said there were none. Shawn also talked how the Selectman approved a Pilot Payment on the new Solar Energy Project proposed on a site currently owned by the Mashantucket Tribe. The actual agreement starts when they start to produce electricity, which could be a few years from now.

5. Communications;

Tim Main talked about the Affordable Housing Committee bus trip of different communities coming up that he was contacted about. Tim Pelland mentioned possible issues with the project going on in town with surrounding neighbors. Bob said we should monitor this and other projects may be coming into town.

6. BOF 2016 -2017 Budget Deliberations;

Bob mentioned with the Selectman's decision to set mill rate and send the bills out at that time gives us more time to set a true mill rate. Bob also mentioned that the Governor's Budget has a 4.5 mill rate increase if budgets get rejected. You have no choice but to make cuts. Chris said the Selectman should at least set rate a 28 mill, allowing for a 1 mill increase for School Project. Bob also reminded the board that the Auditor said we don't have a big Undesignated Fund. The board discussed whether or not we should try to go to a hearing with a mill rate before the end of the fiscal year. Carolyn suggested if you set a mill rate in good faith of what the real number could be, people will appreciate it more than a low number. Bob said we are living beyond our means and without the bills going out on time; it would hurt the revenue coming in. The board discussed putting a 30 mill forward to be fiscally responsible. A budget can go down, but not up after it is passed. Bob suggested taking more out of ECS Funding to make up the difference for State cuts.

Recess at 9:11pm

Called back to order at 10:00pm

Mustapha Ratib contacted by phone, email the board a revised budget with a 30 mill rate figured in. Reduction was made to (A3.02) line item because of State Revenue Predictions.

Bob motioned to approve a budget \$18,631,256 with a mill rate of 30 mill to bring to a hearing on June 26th, 2017. Time and Date to be determined.

Chris seconded. Vote -5-0-0

7. March 2017 Monthly Reports
(BOS,BOE ,Tax Collector, Suspense List- Review Action);
No reports were reviewed.

8. Review of Previous Minutes;
Motion made by Tim Main to approve minutes as amended.
Bob seconded. Vote 4-0-1. Chris abstained.

9. Public Comments and Questions; None

10. Adjournment;
Bob motioned to adjourn.
Chris seconded
Vote 5-0-0.
Adjourned 10:07pm

Submitted By: Tim Pelland
