

North Stonington Board of Finance
Meeting Minutes of Special Meeting, Wednesday, September 13, 2017
Wheeler High School Media Center @ 730pm
North Stonington, CT

1. Call to Order: Meeting called to order @ 7:33pm by Chairman Tim Main.
2. Roll Call – Members Present: Chairman Tim Main, Vice Chair Charles Steinhart, Carolyn Howell, Alternate Chris Hundt Seated for Tim Pelland. (Motions were made and seconded to appoint Chris Hundt to fill in for Tim Pelland – approved 3-0-0 & Motion to Appoint Carolyn Howell as Secretary – approved 3-0-0.
3. Pledge to the flag – Completed.
4. Public Comments & Questions: First Selectman Shawn Murphy brought up the Town Meeting which is scheduled – The towns people to vote on joining Ledge Light Health District & also on the abatement and demolition of the Green Gables. There will also be discussions regarding the amendment to the water authority membership to reduce from 8 members to 5 so that they would be able to hold meetings. Also discussion regarding whether or not the Town wants to give the bridle trails to the Chester Main homeowner's association which would change the land from public to private. The meeting is to be held on Monday, September 18th @ 700pm at the multipurpose room in the Elementary School.
5. Communication- There was correspondence received from Tim Pelland, specifically a letter of resignation to the Board of Finance regarding his move out of town. There was correspondence received from Selectman Shawn Murphy regarding a request for a Capital Transfer which will be added to next week's agenda.
6. 2017/2018 Budget – Shawn presented changes proposed by the Selectment. Discussesd Item B12.00 – which is an increase to the Building Officials line item at a rate of 4 hours per week. (Has been at \$35 per hour x 16 hours per week x 52 weeks per year) – Shawn indicated that the building official needs more hours per week to have sufficient time to do his job properly.
Item B6.05 – Increase requested in the amount of \$6500.00 to cover the cost of the 2nd tax bill due in January, due to the problems at the State(no budget)
Item B26.04 – Increase in State Troopers from \$442,846 to \$464,995 – this was, according to Shawn Murphy, an increase in fringe from 100% to 107%, which creates the difference(Charles Steinhart requested supporting documentation for this and Shawn indicated that he would provide it at our next meeting)
Item B28.02 – Directeor of Health Salary reduction, B28.03 DOH Operating Expense, B28.04 Sanitarian Food Services, B28.05 Sanitarian Well & Septic, B28.06 Sanitarian Operating Expense(Reductions) & B28.07 Health District(Increase) – All are related to the cost of joining the health district and eliminating the 2 town positions for whom their job responsibilities will be assumed by the Health District. Shawn Murphy explained that we need to join Ledge Light Health District so that the town will be able to process

applications for well/septic permits. We have money that has been budgeted and used between July and October of 2017. Shawn also indicated that he did seek out part time employees from other towns to try to fill the need, but was not able to fill the vacancy by either advertising the position(s) or by seeking people out directly. Shawn also indicated that there would be positive impacts of using the Health District. The annual increase in cost, including the elimination of the Food Sanitarian and Director of Health would be \$9000.00.

Item 28.07 is the only new line item.

The Board of Finance agreed to the adjustments as requested, upon verification of the State Trooper request, and said that we would forward the information to Mustapha to modify the proposed budget for 2017/2018 to reflect these changes.

Shawn indicated that the Board of Ed may be coming to request monies due to the PCB problem. We discussed having a Budget Hearing on Monday, September 25th. Shawn advised that under the Governor's "modified budget" the town would lose \$737,142. Shawn also advised that the town needs to renew the current note of 1.59 million or roll it into a 20 million dollar note. The Bond Commission does not meet until the 29th and they have to issue another note to pay off the current note and interest. Chris Hundt asked Shawn how much and Shawn replied that it is approximately \$5500 interest and a couple grand for the financial advisor. Shawn stated he had reached out to Dime Bank to see if they could extend the length of time. Shawn also indicated that Bond Meetings have been canceled and moved out.

Charlie Steinhart asked about the Pequot Grant. Shawn said that there is no more funding, that the 1.59 million is within \$100.00 of being paid or obligated.

The two items on the Town Meeting agenda that will be voted on at the October 2nd Referendum will be the last 2 items – Green Gables and the Bridle Trails on Chester Main. November 7th will be Elections.

Tim Main made a motion to send the proposed 2017/2018 Budget to a Hearing on Monday, September 25th, 2017, provided that we approve the proposed budget at our next meeting. Chris Hundt 2nd – Approved 4-0-0

7. Public Comments and Questions – Shawn asked about putting Paul Simonds on the Board of Finance and also advised regarding others who were going to be on the ballot in November for both the Democrat and Republican parties. We also discussed substituting Chris Hundt in Tim Pelland's absence. Mike Urgo requested that we try to get the Budget voted on prior to the elections in November. Shawn indicated that the voting booths would not be available until after Thanksgiving, like last year, due to the elections in November.
8. Adjournment – Charlie Steinhart made a motion to adjourn. Chris Hundt 2nd – Approved 4-0-0 Adjourned @ 821pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carolyn Howell, Secretary, Board of Finance

