



RECEIVED

2021 DEC 17 P 2:32

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
NORTH STONINGTON, CT

Town of North Stonington

Board of Finance Meeting

Hybrid Meeting/298 Norwich Westerly Road

Dec 15, 2021 - 6:45 PM

Minutes

1. Call to Order:

Members present were Paul Simonds (Chair), Michael Anderson (Online), Carl Johnston, Gary Annino, Amy Friend (Alternate), seated for Dan Smith, and Winona Bernie (Alternate), Seated for Sarah Nelson. Members not in attendance were Dan Smith and Sarah Nelson.

Christine Dias, Town Administration and Finance Officer.

Bob Carlson, First Selectman

Shawn Murphy, Town Treasurer

2. Public Comments:

-First Selectman Bob Carlson requests the attendance of any member(s) of the Board of Finance to take part in the Community Conversation being held on January 8, 2022. Community Conversation will consist of two topics— 298 Norwich-Westerly Road and Public Opinion on the use of ARPA Funds balance. Gary Annino asked if any master plan or bonafide needs will be

presented. Carlson maintained that information will be available as appropriate for each conversation.

3. Audit Discussion

-Paul Simonds and Sarah Nelson performed reference checks in regards to appointing King, King and Associates for town auditor. King, King and Associates comes highly recommended and Paul Simonds motions for a vote to award King, King and Associates the role of auditor for the Town of North Stonington. Motion is approved 5-0-0 for King, King and Associates.

4. FY2023 Budget Schedule

-Christine Dias reviewed BOF Budget Timeline (draft) for 2022/2023.

-Paul Simonds discussed schedule with Christine Wagner (BOE Chair). Christine requested more time, as well as, adequate time to hear from townspeople in regards to initial budget presentation. BOF maintained discussion of how this could be possible. Christine suggests that it may be more of a procedural change as to the process, rather than needing more time.

-Treasurer Shawn Murphy comments that BOF hearing is usually after the budget review and if the BOE would like to present early, then it would in effect be a BOE hearing, where a hearing would dictate a recommended budget.

-Paul Simonds closed conversation with asking BOE for enrollment numbers and fixed expenses to be given to BOF on February 10, 2022 to get the big picture from BOE to provide standard guidance going forward.

5. ARPA Funds (P&Z and BOS Requests)

-First Selectman Bob Carlson requests an appropriation of \$2,000 for the Community Conversation Committee. Funds will go for direct mailings and food/refreshments for the January 8th event to discuss the 298 Building and use of the remaining ARPA Funds. Treasurer Shawn Murphy suggests these funds be taken from capital before ARPA. Bob Carlson stressed the transparency of taking from ARPA. Paul Simonds motions on a vote to approve the appropriation of \$2,000, Gary seconds that motion and funds are approved 5-0-0.

-Christine Dias reviews the iworQ software cost proposal to purchase an online component for permit management and code enforcement.

-P+Z Official Nate, signs on to meeting for discussion.

-Discussion included cost-benefit analysis, what happens after 3 years, credit card processing, permit fees, turn around, credit card processing fees, man time, department needs, etc.

-Mike Anderson motioned to approve, Paul seconds that motion with committee vote of 3-3-0 with Paul Simonds, Mike Anderson, and Carl Johnston in support and Gary Annino, Amy Friend, and Winona Berdine in opposition; funds were not approved.

6. Budget Guidance and Documentation Form

-Sarah Nelson submitted revised budget guidance form that is required to be submitted with budget to BOF. Revised form provides a more in depth scope of what is influencing a department/board budget and will help BOF understand needs/wants more comprehensively.

7. Future Strategies

-Hoping for a smoother season, Paul Simonds is gearing towards only one budget referendum this year. Discussion of capital budget process, including Capital Improvement work group reporting to BOS.

8. Adjournment

Gary Annino brings motion to adjourn, Carl Johnson seconds, a vote of 5-0-0 for adjournment at 8:36PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Friend, Secretary BOF