

North Stonington Board of Finance Meeting
Meeting Minutes, Wednesday, April 8, 2020
North Stonington Zoom Meeting @7:00pm
North Stonington, CT

1. **Call to Order:** 7:05pm, Members present: Chairman Dan Spring, Dan Smith, Paul Simonds, Carolyn Howell, Anne Akin, Michael Anderson, Mustapha Ratib Absent: Chris Hundt

Point of order requested- Clarification as to which BoF members will be voting.
Discussion by board with input by Mike Urgo

2. **BoF: Review and Budget Preparation:**

BoE came back with possible cuts suggested during BoE 02Apr2020 meeting. Some of Chairman Dan Spring's suggested cuts from 01Apr2020 BoF meeting were not possible, but BoE put together cuts that would take BoE budget down to a 3.27% increase instead of the requested 2.1% (2.1% increase does not include the additional 65K requested reduction requested by Dan Spring to bring mil rate increase down to 0.73).

Per the BoE, reductions required to meet the 2.1% increase would include eliminating MS sports and not replacing math position lost through attrition. Would also need to cut 2 more teachers, 6-8 pink slips would need to be sent out before May 1st to be sure to get two viable positions for lay-offs.

Discussion on proposal covered options to eliminate lay-offs. Options included accepting 3.27% increase, funding additional 95K to raise increase to 2.8%, reducing redundant positions staffed by BoS and BoE such as bookkeepers and IT personnel, holding firm to a maximum of 2.1% increase.

Dan Smith made a motion for the BoF to give the BoE written direction to act on a 2.1% budget increase with the BoE to come back with a written response. 2nd by Paul Simonds. After much discussion the motion failed to pass 3/3/0.

3. **Tax Report; BOE Profit/Loss; BOS Profit/Loss:**

Tax collection is currently at 94.6% of expected

4. **Public Comments and Questions on Non-Agenda Items-**

- a) Brian Rathbun- Money is tight. BoE needs to go back and look for more cuts. Keeps hearing "We're all in this together" but doesn't feel this is true. Wants to see 0% increase on BoS and BoE budgets, disappointed with 2.1% BoE increase, feels it will be too much of a burden on the tax payers.
- b) Charles Steinhart V- How can the BoE have a response to the BoF tomorrow without having a BoE meeting? Also, the town added a financial officer to the budget with the understanding that once the financial officer was up to speed,

- the First Selectman position would be returned to a part time position. Why hasn't this happened yet? We are growing town staff, but not the town grand list.
- c) Joe Cassata- Public safety is a priority now more than ever. What is the BoF's feeling on the per diem firefighter request? Will the BoF put the request back in the budget after it was cut by the BoS? Position seconded by Charles Steinhart V.

5. **Previous Minutes-** Tabled

6. **Request** by BoF member for an executive session of the BoF

7. **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn at 9:09pm by Chairman Dan Spring, 2nd by Mike Anderson. Approved 6/0/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Akin
BoF Secretary