



## **Town of North Stonington**

### **Board of Finance/Board of Selectmen Joint Meeting 298 Norwich Westerly Road/Zoom Meeting February 1, 2023 7:00 PM**

1. Call to Order: 7:01 pm.

Present for the North Stonington Board of Finance: Paul Simonds (Chairman), Mike Anderson (Vice-Chairman), Carl Johnston, Gary Annino, Dan Smith, Winona Berdine, Sarah Nelson, and Amy Friend.

-Present for the North Stonington Board of Selectmen: First Selectman Bob Carlson, Selectman Brett Mastroianni, and Selectman Nicole Porter.

2. Public Comments: None

3. Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Presentations

-Public Works Department- Don Hill presented for the Highway Department and Transfer Station. Major projects, requests, and key initiatives were reviewed, as well as, budget changes from 2022/2023. SCRRRA Tipping fees, electrical, propane, and labor costs, all contributed to the budget increase for the Transfer Station. It is noted that an increase in recycling can reduce the tipping fees for the town and an initiative to increase recycling is will be proposed, as well as, ensuring residency for all use of the transfer station. The Highway Department capitol improvement requests are to replace (2) 2WD 2012 F 150's with the request for a plow or utility body F 250 that can be of better use to the town. Request to replace 2002 walking floor trailer (Up \$10,000 from last year). Request to replace 1998 Volvo L-70C Loader. (\$199,511 quote) List Price \$353,743). Total increase for the Public Works Department for FY 2024 is \$48,372.75 Public Comments were heard.

-North Stonington Volunteer Fire Company- Chief Charles Steinhart V presented for the North Stonington Volunteer Fire Company. Key initiatives were reviewed and included replacing the 1993 service truck, as it can no longer be considered reliable to respond to emergency calls or haul the FEMA emergency response watercraft. The funding of \$75,000 per year over the course of three to four years is requested in order to fund a used Quinn Ladder/Fire Truck to assure rescue, the safety of first responders, and access to all dwellings and establishments in the community. A new software system is also necessary as every report/call gets filed and is required to go to FEMA. Additional requests are for replacing aged rescue and turnout gear and increasing the volunteer response stipend to be more adequately in line with other departments in the area. Total FY 2024 increase for the North Stonington Volunteer Fire Company is \$174,000. Public Comments were heard.

-Economic Development Commission- Salvatore Cherenzia presented for the Economic Development Commission. The addition of a coordinator position was reviewed and emphasized for the continued success of the commission. The commission would like to include a consultant to work on updating the Economic Development Plan, an additional expenditure in the amount of \$4,500.

-Land Use- Bill Ricker presented for the Land Use Department; Conservation and Recreation Commission; Land Acquisition Fund; Planning and Zoning update by Christine Dias, Town Finance Officer. Grant approvals were submitted for universal access to the Assekonk paths. Plans continue to retain and protect rural living and natural resources. Request for the restoration of the \$20,000 per year into the Land Acquisition Fund is included in FY2024 budget summary. Also present was Bill Warzecha, Sewer Consultant to the Town of North Stonington to give the water quality report and update on all that is being accomplished in this area. Public comments were heard.

4. Tax Relief Committee Update- Tabled.

5. Review of Minutes- Tabled.

6. Monthly Reports Review- Tabled.

7. Public Comments: None

8. Adjournment- Dan Smith Motions to adjourn, with Gary Annino in to second that motion and Board of Finance votes 6-0-0 to adjourn at 10:06pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Amy Friend  
Secretary, North Stonington Board of Finance