



**Town of North Stonington Board of Finance/Board of Selectmen Special
Joint Meeting
298 Norwich Westerly Road/Zoom Meeting February 15, 2023
6:30 PM**

1. Call to Order: (6:32 pm).
Present for the North Stonington Board of Finance: Paul Simonds (Chairman), Mike Anderson (Vice-Chairman), Carl Johnston, Dan Smith, Winona Berdine, Gary Annino (online), and Amy Friend. Sarah Nelson present at 6:59pm.
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 2022 Audit Presentation: Sean O'Grady presented the Independent Auditor's Report completed by King, King & Associates, PC beginning with Management Discussion and Analysis. Overall, the Town of North Stonington is in good standing. O'Grady reviewed the following: Government Fund Financial Statements, reconciliations, the state of revenues vs expenditures, the budget summary and reconciliation, the Statement of Financial Statements, lease receivables, long term debt and liabilities, budget details, Federal Single Audit Compliance in relation to ARPA funding/School Lunches/Expenditure schedule, management letter, and finally the recommendations including discussion of the Board of Education reconciliations and recommendations thereof. As customary, Mike Anderson motions to accept the audit, as delivered, with Dan Smith in to second that motion and BOF votes to approve acceptance of the audit report, as delivered, 6-0-0.
4. Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Presentations

-North Stonington Ambulance Association: Logan Taylor, Administrator for the Ambulance Association, presented. Taylor presented the need of two capital items: A new LUCAS (artificial chest compression device) to be installed on the ambulance without one, so that there are two in operation, one on each ambulance. The second capital request is updated radios to be able to communicate with all necessary services on a call. There is also an increase in payroll costs for 7 full-time employees and 10 per diem employees that together have responded to an average of 921 calls

in the past year. Town operational expenses for the association remains at \$200,000. Total expected budget for the North Stonington Ambulance Association is \$456,413.

-Wheeler Library: Amy Kennedy, Director of Wheeler Library Association, presented and showed video of the many ways the library attends to the needs of the community going over and beyond that of a library's function. The budget increase request of \$120,000 from \$65,000 to total \$155,000. The endowment is currently at \$1,730,000 and pulls 4% annually for operating costs, draining endowment to zero over the next 13 years as it stands. The annual appeal is down 20% and remains the main source of funding. Total operating budget is now at \$245,560 FY2022 with 7 part time employees. Kennedy stressed the need for fair wages for employees, the addition of programs used by many in town, and the extension of hours for more accessibility. Capital was not discussed. Public comments were heard.

-North Stonington Recreation Commission: Tom Fabion, Recreation Director presented. The proposed budget is \$125,380, an increase of \$16,606, due to the increased demand for the programs offered, playground equipment /field needs, minimum wage increases for the summer camp, and building maintenance needs/ increases. It was noted that most program revenues offset the initial costs to implement the programming.

5. Tax Relief Committee Update: Brian Rathbun was present to update.

6. Review of Minutes: The July 6, 2022 minutes were reviewed and Dan Smith motioned to accept with Gary Annino in to second and the minutes are approved with Mike Anderson and Paul Simonds abstaining, 4-0-2. The February 1, 2023 minutes were reviewed and Mike Anderson moves to approve, with Dan Smith to second, and minutes are approved 6-0-0.

7. Public Comments: Public comments were heard.

8. Adjournment: Dan Smith motions to adjourn, with Sarah Nelson in to second that motion and meeting is adjourned at 8:21pm with a vote of 6-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Friend

Secretary, North Stonington Board of Finance