



**Town of North Stonington
Board of Finance Meeting
North Stonington Education Center & Zoom Meeting
March 22, 2023
7:00 PM**

Minutes

1. Call to Order/Roll Call: (7:01pm) Board of Finance members present were Chairman Paul Simonds, Vice Chairman Mike Anderson, Dan Smith, Sarah Nelson, Gary Annino, Carl Johnston, Winona Berdine, and Amy Friend.

2. Public Comments: Public comments were heard.

3. Tax Relief Committee Presentation: Louis Gingerella, Chairman of the Tax Relief Committee, presented on the report previously given to the Board of Finance for review in regards to the Circuit Breaker Program, as well as, the other tax relief programs reviewed. Discussion and comments ensued.

4. FY24 Budget Discussion: Discussion of BOE and BOS budgets.

-Paul Simonds motioned for the BOE and BOS to decrease budgets with the BOE decreasing by \$350,000 and the BOS to decrease by \$250,000, as well as, to approve the revenue for the Circuit Breaker Program. Gary Annino was the second for that motion. Vote was 3-3-0 and motion did not pass. Members voting no were Carl Johnston, Mike, Anderson, and Sarah Nelson. Those voting in the affirmative were Gary Annino, Dan Smith, and Paul Simonds.

-Sarah Nelson motioned to adjust revenue to \$79,000 for Circuit Breaker Program and decrease BOS budget by \$40,000 and BOE budget by \$60,000 for a total budget reduction of \$100,000. Mike Anderson was the second for that motion. Vote was 2-4-0 and motion did not pass. Members voting no were Carl Johnston, Gary Annino, Dan Smith, and Paul Simonds. Those voting in the affirmative were Mike Anderson and Sarah Nelson.

-Carl Johnston motioned to fund Circuit Breaker Program in the amount of \$79,000 and reduce the BOS budget by \$85,000 and the BOE budget by \$160,000 making an overall reduction as close as possible to \$240,000. Mike Anderson was the second for that motion. Vote was 2-4-0 and the motion did not pass. Members voting no were Sarah Nelson, Dan Smith, Paul Simonds, and Gary Annino. Those voting in the affirmative were Mike Anderson and Carl Johnston.

-Gary Annino motioned to recommend Circuit Breaker Program in the amount of \$79,000. Sarah Nelson was the second for that motion. Unanimous approval by the board and the motion passed 6-0-0.

-Paul Simonds went back to original motion for the BOE and BOS to decrease budgets with the BOE decreasing by \$350,000 and the BOS to decrease by \$250,000. Dan Smith was the second for that motion. Vote was 3-3-0 and motion did not pass. Members voting no were Sarah Nelson, Mike Anderson, and Carl Johnston. Those voting in the affirmative were Paul Simonds, Gary Annino, and Dan Smith.

-Gary Annino motioned for boards to go back and adjust budgets to reflect the increase of half a mill. The total increase to the budget would be \$826,438, requiring a reduction of \$320,582, splitting between the BOE and BOS (\$160,291 each) and working out between the two. Mike Anderson was in to second that motion. The vote was 3-3-0 and motion did not pass. Members voting no were Sarah Nelson, Dan Smith, and Paul Simonds. Those voting in the affirmative were Mike Anderson, Gary Annino, and Carl Johnston.

-Sarah Nelson motioned to decrease budgets to reflect a .6 mill increase (29.05) and split the 2/3 and 1/3 between the BOE and BOS. Total increase of \$886,162 and splitting the reduction \$260,858 \$173,905 BOE and \$86,953 BOS. Mike was the second for that motion. The vote was 3-3-0 and the motion did not pass. Members that voted no were Dan Smith, Paul Simonds, and Gary Annino. Those who voted in the affirmative were Sarah Nelson, Mike Anderson and Carl Johnston.

-Mike Anderson motioned to get to a .5 mil increase on the amount of \$826,438. The reductions should be split 1/3 BOS 2/3 BOE, but the boards can work together as long as the total reduction is \$320,582. Gary was the second for that motion. Vote was 4-2-0 and the motion passed. Members that voted no were Paul Simonds and Sarah Nelson. Those that voted in the affirmative were Mike Anderson, Dan Smith, Gary Annino, and Carl Johnston.

5. Review of Minutes: Tabled

6. Public Comments: Public comments were heard.

7. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Paul Simonds, with a second by Dan Smith.

Unanimous 6-0-0 vote to adjourn at 10:26pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Friend, Secretary

North Stonington Board of Finance