

**North Stonington Board of Finance
Meeting Minutes of
Wednesday February 17, 2016
New Town Hall @ 7:30PM
North Stonington, Connecticut**

1. **Call to Order @ 7:40PM:** *In attendance:* Chairman Tim Main, Charlie Steinhart, Carolyn Howell, Tim Pelland, and Emile Pavlovics *Absent:* Chris Hundt, Mustapha Ratib*
* Mustapha Ratib arrived at 8:12PM

2. **Pledge to the Flag:** Completed

3. **Public Comments:** Reiterated that Fire/EMS Complex is a Town building (J. Gross)
Concerns voiced re. BOF members affiliated with Fire Company (S. Murphy)
Rebuttals by BOF members Main, Steinhart, & Howell.
Using the same rationale, anyone with children in the school system should not be involved in school project. (B. Testa)

4. **BOS: EMS building appropriation:** 1st selectman presented documentation re. BOS vote (3-0-0) to forward project to BOF(\$2,254,000 additional for total of \$8,614,000) . Committee (Ellias) presented project Power Point presentation. Committee Chairman (Perkins) gave overview on bidding process. Project has 7% contingency included.
BOF reviewed and questioned:

- a. Outside façade upgrade approx. \$350,000
- b. Changes in price per sq. ft.- \$225 in 2010, \$315 in 2015
- c. Reduction in sq. ft from 24,5000 to 19,200 – operational side
- d. Fire Marshal services – not part of fire company

Public Comment: Joe Gross reminded those in attendance that he suggested scrapping project after problems with architectural firm costs.

e. BOF discussion re. Resolution provided by BOS, reportedly drafted by Bond Counsel.

Motion (Pavlovics/Ratib): Amend Resolution provided by BOS to include a new sentence at the end: "Further resolve that such recommendations be submitted to the Town Meeting of North Stonington for approval".

Vote to Approve: 6-0-0 Unanimous

Motion (Pelland/Pavlovics): Forward amended Resolution back to BOS for necessary actions ie. Town Meeting

Vote to Approve: 6-0-0 Unanimous

4. **Project Updates:** 1st Selectman provided info on the following projects:

- a. Boombridge bridge may need approx. \$118K more, likely to be reimbursed
- b. Hewitt Dam not totally completed, may need approx. \$15K.
- c. Water line still being reviewed – may start in spring

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4. Project Updates, cont'd.

d. Water Study progressing with core boring and additional easements needed. Funding still available.

e. Sewer Study reviewing Commercial Zone and trying to obtain realistic flow rates, which may affect tie-in to Stonington's system. Phase 1 involves Rt. 2 from traffic circle to Stonington Town Line.

f. Bid info for LED lighting for Recreation Field being worked on. Reminder that any lighting must comply with Zoning Regulations.

5. BOE report: BOF questions raised re. "Salaries, Custodial (0610) line which is currently at 116.26% of budgeted amount. Chairman Main will ask for clarification. Also wanted clarification on Expense Adjustments "JE - Benefits moved from GF Grants" and Payroll Adjustments to Reconcile "JE – salary moved from GF to grants".

6. Tax Report: BOF questioned what actual date of info provided on cover sheet – would like date inserted.

7. Future Strategies: BOF listened to resident (Olsen) requesting investigation to possibility of breaking up the cost of the Fire/EMS Complex by lot, versus a flat mill rate increase. BOF discussed. BOS has already indicated to resident that they will check into if allowed by state statute.

Comment received (Testa) regarding the use of Highway Dept. employees to work on Hewitt Dam project prior to, and after Fall Festival. (approx. 200 man hours; approx \$10K of labor/benefits, using \$50/hr.) Since their budget was able to absorb that cost, after one of the snowiest winters on record, without the need for any additional appropriation, the BOF should look at and determine if excess funding already exists in the budget. Use of such labor and equipment is not "free", but has a tangible cost to the Town associated with it.

BOF discussed upcoming budget and schedule for interviews: starting March 23 for BOS, March 30 for BOE. 1st Selectman (Murphy) indicated that he would like to be interviewed by the BOF prior to/instead of paid town employees regarding budget questions. BOF (Steinhart) clarified that we wanted to speak directly to the person(s) responsible for the budget, without being filtered, second hand. This would also help expedite the process.

BOF (Steinhart) will put together a tentative schedule for review by next meeting.

BOF provided "draft" copy of Added Appropriations policy – will be discussed next meeting.

8. Previous Minutes: Will be reviewed at next meeting

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9. Public Comments: None

10: Adjournment @ 10:26PM Motion (Main/Steinhart)

Vote: 6-0-0 Unanimous

Submitted By:

C.A. Steinhart IV

C. A Steinhart IV, Vice Chairman

Minutes approved 03-02-2016