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SALLY DUPLICE  
TOWN CLERK

**TOWN OF STONINGTON**  
**BOARD OF FINANCE MEETING MINUTES**  
**Board of Education District Office Conference Room**  
**40 Field Street Pawcatuck**  
**Wednesday, May 01, 2024**  
**7:00 PM**

A meeting of the Board of Finance was held on this date at the Board of Education District Office Conference Room at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Tim O'Brien, Lynn Young, Deborah Norman, Chris Johnson, William Sternberg, Mike Fauerbach, and David Brown.

Mr. O'Brien called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited

Public Comments:

The Chairman called for public comments, there were none.

Approval of Tax Collector's Suspense Listing – The Chairman asked for a motion to approve the Tax Collector's Suspense Listing as presented. Ms. Young motioned and Mr. Johnson seconded. The Chairman called for a vote on the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

Bid Waiver Requests:

The Director of Finance requested, on behalf of the Police Chief, that a bid waiver for furniture for the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), be added to the agenda. The Chairman asked for a motion to add the bid waiver request to the agenda. Mr. Fauerbach motioned, and Mr. Sternberg seconded the motion. The Chairman called for a vote to add the bid waiver request to the agenda, the motion passed unanimously.

The Chairman asked for a motion to approve the Police Chief's bid waiver request to purchase the furniture for the EOC. The vendor is Constant Technologies, Inc., and the total cost is \$35,423.91. Ms. Norman motioned, and Ms. Young seconded the motion. The Police Chief presented his request to the Board, noting also that the EOC furniture in question will be paid for 100% with grant funds. There was some discussion amongst the Chief and Board Members regarding the furnishing of the EOC. The Chairman called for a vote to approve the bid waiver request, the motion passed unanimously.

Requests for Additional Appropriations: (none)

Line-item Transfer Requests:

The Director of Public Works presented a request - to transfer \$338,675.00 from various CIP and General Fund operating accounts to fund engineering and design work for three bridges, the two Wolfneck bridges, numbers 137002 and 137003, and the Masons Island bridge.

The Chairman called for a motion to approve the request, Mr. Johnson motioned, Ms. Young

seconded. The DPW and the Town Engineer explained the scope and cost of the three design projects, as well as rough estimates of potential construction costs. The Town Engineer noted that two of the projects will be funded at 50% through the State bridge program and that the State is looking for a commitment from the Town to fund the design portion of the projects. He also noted that although the Wolfneck bridge #137002, is ineligible for the State bridge program, because it is a repair vs. replacement project, Ledyard will contribute 50% towards the cost of that project.

There was much discussion about the three projects, as to viability, cost, timing, etc. among the Members, and the DPW and Town Engineer. At the conclusion of the discussion, the Chairman noted that although he is not averse to these projects, just last night he was informed of another potential capital project that the requested funds may have to be directed to. So, at this juncture, he requested that this request be tabled until more is known about this newly discovered potential project, which he indicated he would elaborate on later in the meeting. The Chairman then asked Mr. Johnson and Ms. Young to rescind their respective motions to approve the request, and tabled the matter until the June meeting, or perhaps until a special meeting in the next two weeks, if it is determined that immediate action is required.

The Director of Public Works presented a request - to transfer a total of \$56,500.00 between various operating accounts in Public Works, Engineering, and Facilities, to cover anticipated deficits in certain accounts.

The Chairman called for a motion to approve the request, Ms. Norman motioned, Ms. Young seconded. The DPW explained the causes of the anticipated deficits in those particular accounts. The Chairman called for a vote to approve the bid waiver request; the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion about 25% grant match funding for two Congressional FEMA grants

Chief DeGrosso and Captain Schneider presented their plan to apply for two FEMA grants to fund two projects, 1) a micro link connection for the public safety radio system, total project cost \$197,036, Town required match \$49,259, and 2) equipment for the EOC, total project cost \$94,500, Town required match \$23,625. The Chief emphasized that he is not requesting funds at this moment, he's just giving the Board notice that if the applications for grant funding are awarded, he will be back before the Board at some point to request funding for the matching portion. The Chairman thanked the Chief for the heads up, and let the Chief know that the Board is unanimously supportive of funding the match if the grants are awarded. No action taken.

Approval of Previous Minutes – The Chairman asked for a motion to approve the following minutes, Mr. Fauerbach motioned, Ms. Young seconded. The Chairman asked the members if there were any corrections or edits to the minutes. Mr. Fauerbach, Mr. Sternberg, and Ms. Young each suggested edits to the 03/26/24 Public Hearing Minutes, and Mr. Fauerbach had suggested edits to the 03/07/24 minutes as well. All the edits were discussed by the Board and adopted.

- 02/29/24 Special Meeting Minutes – approved as submitted
- 03/04/24 Special Meeting Minutes – approved as submitted
- 03/07/24 Special Meeting Minutes – approved with edits

- 03/13/24 Special Meeting Minutes – approved as submitted
- 03/26/24 Public Hearing Minutes – approved as submitted
- 03/26/24 Special Meeting Minutes – approved with edits

The Finance Director indicated he would make the recommended edits to the minutes. The Chairman called for a vote on the motion to approve the minutes as amended, the motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence: (none)

The Chairman called for the Liaison reports:

BOE: The Chairman notified the members that he attended a BOE meeting the prior evening and was made aware of some potential issues with the Stonington Middle School (SMS). The new facilities director has been reviewing school assets and properties and noted that there *may* be some issues with parts of the concrete structure in portions of SMS. A structural engineering firm has been engaged to review the school and evaluate its structural integrity. The Chairman emphasized that, that is all that is known at this point. However, he further explained that, that was the reason for tabling the DPW's earlier request to appropriate funds to the three bridge projects requested earlier. The Chairman indicated he didn't want to commit those funds at this time, until more is known about the SMS concrete issue in case funds need to be put toward that.

The Chairman called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Sternberg motioned, Mr. Fauerbach seconded. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

James Sullivan  
Director of Finance