

March 8, 2017

The monthly meeting of the Sterling Board of Finance was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman David Shippee. Other members' present-Neil Cook, Bruce Lindberg, and Peter Rabbitt.

Members' absent- Neil Delmonico and Robert Lassan.

Staff present-Russell Gray, Lincoln Cooper, John Firlik, and Joyce Gustavson.

Also present-Brenda Needham, Leatrice Shippee, Rosalind Choquette, Deborah Martin, and Fred & Ruta Parker.

B. Lindberg made a motion, seconded by N. Cook to move New Business a., b. and c. to the top of the agenda. All voted in favor of the motion.

a. Presentation of Board of Education's Proposed 2017-2018 Budget: B. Needham, Superintendent of Sterling Community School presented the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 stating that the budget is driven by personnel. The total 2017-2018 budget request is \$8,258,377 noting increases in insurance and out of district tuition costs. Estimated revenue is \$3,432,453 leaving \$4,825,924 to be raised by taxes. D. Shippee stated that this budget represents 21.85 mils using \$220,916 as the worth of one mil.

b. Presentation of Board of Selectmen's Proposed 2017-2018 Budget: First Selectmen, R. Gray presented the proposed budget for Fiscal year 2017-2018 stating that a new Capital Account, Information Technology has been added for the purpose of installing Fiber Network, replacing network switches, server, etc., and replacing twenty (20) percent of the computers per year. He also noted that insurance costs have also gone up as well as banking fees. The total 2017-2018 budget request is \$2,801,990. Estimated revenue is \$467,349 leaving \$2,334,641 to be raised by taxes. D. Shippee stated that this budget represents 10.57 mils.

c. Presentation of Board of Selectmen's Proposed 2017-2018 Local Capital Improvement Plan (LoCIP) and Budget: R. Gray presented the proposed 2017-2018 Local Capital Improvement Plan (LoCIP) and budget stating that the total available money is \$292,409 and the Town will not receive an entitlement in 2017. The intent is to use the money to replace culverts on Gibson Hill Road and resurfacing the road.

Audience of Citizens: No Comment.

Correspondence: None.

Approval of Minutes: N. Cook made a motion, seconded by B. Lindberg to approve the minutes of the 2/8/2017 monthly meeting as written and presented. All voted in favor of the motion.

Unfinished Business:

a. Tax Collector's Grand Ratebook Balance Sheet Report: The report for month ending 2/28/2017 was submitted and reviewed.

b. I.T. Upgrades for the Sterling Municipal Building: J. Gustavson reported that the Computer Assessment Committee is meeting tonight and is in the processing of preparing three (3) separate Request for Proposals (RFPs) to replace the Cat (cable and telephone) cables, network switches and the server.

New Business:

a. Consider & Act on the Board of Education's Proposed 2017-2018 Budget: The Board of Education presented its proposed Fiscal Year budget for 2017-2018 earlier tonight. D. Shippee stated that he would like to bring the Board of Education and the Board of Selectmen's budget down to a zero (0) mil increase. If the budgets are approved as presented tonight, the mil rate for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 would be 32.41 mils, an increase of .81 mils. The Board of Education's total 2017-2018 proposed budget request is for \$8,258,377 and they have been asked to reduce their budget by \$80,000 for a revised proposed budget request in the amount of \$8,178,377. Estimated revenue is \$3,432,453 leaving \$4,745,924 to be raised by taxes. D. Shippee stated that this budget represents 21.48 mils using \$220,916 as the worth of one mil. N. Cook made a motion, seconded by P. Rabbitt to approve the Board of Education's revised proposed 2017-2018 budget in the amount of \$8,178,377 as it was presented this evening. All voted in favor of the motion.

b. Consider & Act on the Board of Selectmen Proposed 2017-2018 Budget: The Board of Selectmen presented its proposed Fiscal year budget for 2017-2018 earlier tonight. The Board of Selectmen's total 2017-2018 proposed budget request is \$2,801,990 and they have been asked to reduce their budget by \$11,500 for a revised proposed budget request in the amount of \$2,790,758*. Estimated revenue is \$467,349 leaving \$2,323,409* to be raised by taxes. D. Shippee stated that this budget represents 10.52 mils. N. Cook made a motion, seconded by B. Lindberg to approve Board of Selectmen's revised proposed 2017-2018 budget in the amount of \$2,790,758 as it was presented this evening. All voted in favor of the motion.

The total mil rate would be 32 mils, which is a 0.4 mil increase over last year.

(*Upon review of the numbers from Chairman, D. Shippee, the following has been noted: To reduce the proposed budget by \$11,500 the revised proposed budget request for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 would be \$2,790,490 leaving \$2,323,141 to be raised by taxes. This adjustment will be confirmed at the next scheduled Board of Finance meeting).

c. Consider & Act on the Board of Selectmen's Proposed 2017-2018 Local Capital Improvement Plan and Budget: B. Lindberg made a motion, seconded by N. Cook to approve the 2017-2018 Local Capital Improvement Plan (LoCIP) in the amount of \$292,409 as it was presented this evening and not make any changes to it. All voted in favor of the motion.

d. Consider & Act on Budget Schedule for Fiscal Year 2017-2018: The tentative dates are as follows: Public Hearing, Wednesday, April 19, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.; Town meeting, Wednesday, May 3, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.; and the referendum on Wednesday, May 10, 2017 in the Town Hall Gym, 1183 Plainfield Pike, Oneco, CT.

e. Request from Treasurer to Close the Original Emergency Fund and Open a Capital Fund – Emergency Fund: Penny Keith, Treasurer, submitted a memo dated 2/22/2017 requesting permission to make the Emergency Fund the eighth (8th) item in the Capital Fund, and to close the original Emergency Fund. N. Cook made a motion, seconded by P. Rabbitt to close the original Emergency Fund and open a Capital Fund – Emergency Fund. All voted in favor of the motion.

Any Other Business to Come Before the Board of Finance: None.

Adjournment: N. Cook made a motion, seconded by P. Rabbitt to adjourn at 8:32 p.m. All voted in favor of the motion.

Attest: _____

Joyce A. Gustavson, Board of Finance Clerk