

May 13, 2020

The monthly (on-line virtual Zoom meeting) of the Sterling Board of Finance was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman David Shippee. Other members' present-Robert Salisbury, Neil Delmonico, Neil Cook, Jim Molodich, and Peter Rabbitt.

Also present- Russell Gray, Link Cooper, John Firlik, Sherri Soucy, Joyce Gustavson, Frank Bood, Marlene Cook, Gail Lanza, Jackie Angelone, Deana Chrzan, and Chris Chandler.

Pledge of Allegiance: Everyone stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Audience of Citizens: No comment.

Correspondence: None.

Approval of Minutes: R. Salisbury made a motion, seconded by N. Cook to approve the 3/11/2020 monthly meeting minutes as written and presented. All voted in favor of the motion.

Unfinished Business:

a. Tax Collector's Grand Ratebook Balance Sheet Report: The reports for month ending 3/31/2020 and 4/30/2020 were submitted and reviewed.

b. I.T. Upgrades for the Sterling Municipal Building: J. Gustavson reported that Savage Systems received the computers that were on backorder and they will be set up next week. Also, Wade Manuilow of Savages Systems will work with staff to incorporate the Library's computers into the Town's existing rotation schedule.

New Business:

a. Appointment of Auditor for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2020: D. Shippee reported that he received an "Audit Engagement Letter" from Hoyt, Filippetti, & Malaghan LLC for a three (3) year term for Fiscal Years ending 6/30/2020 and 6/30/2021 in the amount of \$36,000 per year and Fiscal Year ending 6/30/2022 in the amount of \$37,000 for the Board of Finance's consideration. R. Salisbury made a motion, seconded by J. Molodich to appoint Hoyt, Filippetti, & Malaghan LLC of 1041 Poquonnock Road, Groton, CT 06340 as the Town of Sterling Auditor for the period of three (3) years (fiscal years ending 6/30/2020, 6/30/2021, and 6/30/2022). All voted in favor of the motion.

b. Consider & Act on the 2020-2021 Board of Education Proposed Budget: D. Shippee reported that the Board of Education's (BOE) approved 2019-2020 budget represented 21.40 of the 31.94 mil rate. The proposed 2020-2021 BOE budget would represent a mil rate of 22.83. D. Shippee expressed that he would like to see a zero (0) mil rate increase as many people are out of work. Discussion followed. The BOE's total 2020-2021 proposed budget request is for \$8,535,384 and they have been asked to reduce their budget by \$297,884 for a revised proposed budget request in the amount of \$8,237,500. Estimated revenue is \$3,219,686 leaving \$5,017,814 to be raised by taxes. D. Shippee stated that this budget represents 21.55 mils.

The worth of one (1) mil is \$232,818.

P. Rabbitt made a motion, seconded by N. Cook to approve the BOE's revised proposed 2020-2021 budget in the amount of \$8,237,500. All voted in favor of the motion.

c. Consider & Act on the 2020-2021 Board of Selectmen Proposed Budget: D. Shippee reported that the Board of Selectmen's (BOS) approved 2019-2020 budget represented 10.54 of the 31.94 mil rate. The proposed 2020-2021 BOS budget would represent a mil rate of 10.39. The total 2020-2021 budget request is \$2,849,409. Estimated revenue is \$431,554 leaving \$2,417,855 to be raised by taxes. D. Shippee stated that this budget represents 10.39 mils.

R. Salisbury made a motion, seconded by P. Rabbitt to approve the Board of Selectmen's proposed 2020-2021 budget in the amount of \$2,849,409. All voted in favor of the motion.

d. Consider & Act on Board of Selectmen Proposed 2020-2021 Local Capital Improvement Plan (LoCIP): J. Gustavson reported that the proposed 2020-2021 Local Capital Improvement Plan is not available tonight. R. Salisbury made a motion, seconded by P. Rabbitt to table this item to the next meeting. All voted in favor of the motion.

e. Consider & Act on Budget Schedule for 2020-2021: D. Shippee asked F. Bood, Chairman of the BOE if revised budgets could be ready by 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 20, 2020 and sent to J. Gustavson at the Town Hall. F. Bood said yes. Proposed budgets will be posted on the Town and School websites, Town Hall Face Book page, and the Sterling Residents page for review and comments. All comments need to be sent to budgets@sterlingct.us no later than Monday, June 1. The Board of Finance

has scheduled a special zoom meeting for Wednesday, June 3, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. to review all comments and set the mil rate for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

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

Adjournment: P. Rabbitt made a motion, seconded by R. Salisbury to adjourn at 7:34 p.m. All voted in favor of the motion.

Attest: _____
Joyce A. Gustavson, Board of Finance Clerk