

**TOWN OF CROMWELL - BOARD OF FINANCE
SPECIAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2008
CROMWELL TOWN HALL 7:00 p.m.
Room 224/225**

MINUTES AND RECORD OF VOTE

PRESENT: Chairman Michael Gengler, Loraine Caruso, Edwin Maley Jr., Joe Corlis, John Flanders, Donna DiMauro, Alternates Jack Henehan, and Jamie Kiefer

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Finance Director Marianne Sylvester

Chairman Michael Gengler called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

Chairman Gengler remarked the meeting notice had been posted and that a meeting may be held Friday for unfinished business if necessary.

- A. Discussion and decisions on the 2008-2009 Board of Selectman's proposed budget, including Debt Service.

Budget Line #38-Human Services.

Motion was made Donna DiMauro, **seconded** by Loraine Caruso to approve Line Item 38 Human Services for \$97,807. All were in Favor. *Motion Passes.*

Budget Line #39-Senior Services.

Mr. Maley, Jr. asked for clarification on program subsidies. Theresa Strong, Coordinator explained an increase in education programs.

Motion was made John Flanders, **seconded** by Loraine Caruso to approve Line Item 39 Senior Services for \$78,156. All were in Favor. *Motion Passes.*

Budget Line #40-Transportation Services.

Motion was made Donna DiMauro, **seconded** by Loraine Caruso to approve Line Item 40 Transportation Services for \$95,991.

Ms DiMauro asked if a price had been locked in for next year. First Selectman Shingleton said he planned to within the next 30 days. Mr. Maley, Jr. discussed what rate was used and concerned whether it was a rational number and was concerned how it would impact other budgets.

Motion was made Edwin Maley, Jr., **seconded** by Loraine Caruso to pass on this item until further information. All were in Favor. *Motion Passes.*

Budget Line #41-Youth Services.

Motion was made Loraine Caruso, **seconded** by Donna DiMauro to approve Line Item 41 Youth Services for \$95,733.

Mr. Flanders asked for clarification on the hours of the part-timer based on comments at the Public Hearing. First Selectman Shingleton verified that the hours were misspoken and the actual hours are 19.5. Ms Kiefer remarked about a letter from Ms Strong to Mr. Shingleton that actually reduces the hours. Mr. Shingleton said that a thorough review of the department has been done and the hours are justified and the services are needed. Ms DiMauro asked Ms Strong about the letter and Ms Strong stated she stands by her letter. There was some discussion about the subsidies and the types of programs. Chairman Gengler asked that in the future they receive a breakdown of where the monies are going.

Motion was made Donna DiMauro, **seconded** by Loraine Caruso to remove \$1500 from program subsidies line item. (Maley, Jr., DiMauro, Caruso, In Favor) (Gengler, Flanders, Corlis, Opposed), *Motion Failed.*

Motion was made Edwin Maley, Jr., **seconded** by Donna DiMauro to table this item until further information. All were in Favor. *Motion Passes.*

Budget Line #40-Transportation Services

First Selectman Shingleton provided the Board with the gas rate of today and spot prices.

Motion was made Edwin Maley, Jr., **seconded** by John Flanders to amend the gas line with an increase by 5%/\$900. All were in Favor. *Motion Passes.*

Main Motion carried to approve Line Item 40 Transportation Services for amended amount of \$96,891. All were in Favor. *Motion Passes.*

Budget Line #36-Animal Control

Chief Salvatore remarked that the large increase is due to a decrease in State funding.

Motion was made Edwin Maley, Jr., **seconded** by Loraine Caruso to approve Line Item 36 Animal Control for \$73,528. All were in Favor. *Motion Passes.*

Budget Line # 35-Police Department

Motion was made Edwin Maley, Jr., **seconded** by Loraine Caruso to approve Line Item 35 Police Department for \$2,723,487.

Chief Salvatore commented that the overtime line concerns him, but every attempt will be made to stay within this. Chairman Gengler reported the current budget numbers. Chief Salvatore explained that this is unique and hopes to make it up within his budget.

Chief Salvatore remarked that he is concerned with the mandates that are coming out of Hartford. For example by 2010, 16-17 year olds will be considered juveniles; this will cause physical plant concerns as well as others.

Motion was made Edwin Maley, Jr., **seconded** by Donna DiMauro to amend the gas line with an increase by \$3500. All were in Favor. Motion Passes.

Main Motion carried to approve Line Item 35 Police Department for amended amount of \$2,726,987. All were in Favor. *Motion Passes.*

Budget Line #34-Emergency Management

Motion was made John Flanders, **seconded** by Loraine Caruso to approve Line Item 34 Emergency Management for \$10,040. All were in Favor. Motion Passes.

Budget Line #4-Planning & Zoning Commission

Craig Minor, Town Planner explained wage increase for clerks Mr. Maley asked about the architectural review. Mr. Minor gave an overview of the process. Mr. Minor explained that all town application fees have been increased,

Motion was made Loraine Caruso, **seconded** by Donna DiMauro to approve Line Item 4 Planning & Zoning Commission for \$2,890. All were in Favor. *Motion Passes.*

Budget Line #11-Inland Wetlands

Motion was made Edwin Maley, Jr., **seconded** by Loraine Caruso to approve Line Item 11 Inland Wetlands for \$1985. All were in Favor. Motion Passes.

Budget Line #10-Zoning Bd of Appeals

Motion was made Loraine Caruso, **seconded** by Donna DiMauro to approve Line Item 10 Zoning Bd of Appeals for \$1,100. All were in Favor. *Motion Passes.*

Budget Line #21-Conservation Comm.

First Selectman Shingleton explained the monies for the grant match for the open space study. Mr. Maley asked what happens to the \$2500 if the grant monies aren't given. First Selectman Shingleton said it would be used ala carte. Mr. Maley asked if a line item could be added for matching grants.

Motion was made Edwin Maley, Jr., **seconded** John Flanders to reduce contracted services by \$2,500 and add a line item of Match for outside grants for \$2,500. All were in Favor. Motion Passes.

Motion was made John Flanders, **seconded** by Loraine Caruso to approve Line Item 21 Conservation Comm. for \$3500. All were in Favor. Motion Passes.

Budget Line #19-Developer/Planner

Motion was made John Flanders, **seconded** by Loraine Caruso to approve Line Item 19 Developer/Planner for \$104,573. All were in Favor. Motion Passes.

Budget Line #20-Developmt.Compliance

First Selectman Shingleton addressed the overtime concern and explained that 2 hours a month is spent on spot inspections, which is compensation time.

Motion was made Loraine Caruso, **seconded** by Edwin Maley, Jr. to approve Line Item 20 Developmt.Compliance_ for \$90,694. All were in Favor. *Motion Passes.*

Budget Line #27-Engineering

Mr. Maley asked Joe Mazurek, Town Engineer about his concerns with the position cut. Mr. Mazurek remarked that the contracted monies were better than nothing. Mr. Mazurek reviewed the storm water mandates.

Motion was made Loraine Caruso, **seconded** by Donna DiMauro to approve Line Item 27 Engineering for \$195,418. All were in Favor. *Motion Passes.*

Budget Line #29-Building Inspection

First Selectman Shingleton explained the items and changes. Ms DiMauro asked why the revenue side is not broken down. Ms Sylvester stated that it has not been done in the past. Mr. Maley, Jr. asked about the software. Mr. Mazurek explained that it is for updating building codes and for laptops. The training is for 12 people. Some discussion on revenue projection for this fiscal year and it is low.

Motion was made Loraine Caruso, **seconded** by John Flanders to approve Line Item 29 Building Inspection for \$193,463. All were in Favor. *Motion Passes.*

Chairman Gengler called a recess at 8:55pm.

Chairman Gengler resumed the meeting at 9:10pm.

Ann France provided the Board with information regarding Line 41.

Budget Line #41-Youth Services.

Mr. Henehan asked what services the part-timer provides. Ms France explained that the part-timer runs the parent/toddler program, assemblies, newsletters, helps in the office and other activities. Ms France said she does manly the intervention and counseling. The Board reviewed the figures and tried to breakdown services, supplies, and hours. First Selectman Shingleton explained what the part-time hours encompassed. The Board asked for better breakdown and explanation next year of the budget.

Motion was made Donna DiMauro, **seconded** by Loraine Caruso to remove \$1500 from part-time wages line item. (DiMauro, In Favor) (Caruso, Gengler, Flanders, Corlis, Opposed) *Motion Failed.*

Motion was made Loraine Caruso, **seconded** by Donna DiMauro to approve Line Item 41 Youth Services for \$95,733. (Gengler, Maley, Flanders, Corlis, In Favor) (DiMauro, Caruso, Opposed). *Motion Passes.*

Budget Line #26-Public Works Admin.

Motion was made Loraine Caruso, **seconded** by Donna DiMauro to approve Line Item 26 Public Works Admin for \$176,747.

Eric Hood, Director of Public Works explained the areas of increases. Mr. Maley questioned the part-time wages.

Motion was made Edwin Maley, Jr., **seconded** by John Flanders to remove \$2,500 from part-time wages line item. All were in Favor. *Motion Passes.*

Main motion carried to approve Line Item 26 Public Works Admin for amended amount of \$174,247. All were in Favor. *Motion Passes.*

Budget Line #28- Sol. Waste/Recyc.Cntr

Mr. Maley asked about the increase in contracted services. Mr. Hood explained about the increase in mandates.

Motion was made Loraine Caruso, **seconded** by Donna DiMauro to approve Line Item 28 Sol. Waste/Recyc.Cntr for \$693,842. All in Favor. *Motion Passes.*

Budget Line #30-Highway Department

Motion was made Loraine Caruso, **seconded** by Donna DiMauro to approve Line Item 30 Highway Department for \$1,119,340.

Mr. Hood explained his gas consumption savings method. Mr. Hood discussed the benefits of adding an employee.

Motion was made Edwin Maley, Jr., **seconded** by Loraine Caruso to amend the gas line with an increase by \$2500. All were in Favor. *Motion Passes.*

Main Motion carried to approve Line Item 30 Highway Department for amended amount of \$1,121,840. All were in Favor. *Motion Passes.*

Budget Line #30a-Vehicle Maintenance

Motion was made John Flanders, **seconded** by Edwin Maley, Jr. to approve Line Item 30a Vehicle Maintenance for \$242,383.

Motion was made Edwin Maley, Jr., **seconded** by Loraine Caruso to amend the gas line with an increase by \$1000. All were in Favor. Motion Passes.

Main Motion carried to approve Line Item 30a Vehicle Maintenance for amended amount of \$243,383. All were in Favor. *Motion Passes*.

Budget Line #31-Building Maintenance

Frank Thomas explained the increase in material costs. Mr. Hood and Mr. Thomas discussed contracted services and the list of unfinished projects including the sewer garage. Mr. Maley questioned about capital items.

Motion was made Loraine Caruso, **seconded** by Donna DiMauro to approve Line Item 31 Building Maintenance for \$468,592. All in Favor. *Motion Passes*.

Budget Line #32-Parks & Grounds

Motion was made Loraine Caruso, **seconded** by Donna DiMauro to approve Line Item 32 Parks & Grounds for \$274,211.

Motion was made Edwin Maley, Jr., **seconded** by John Flanders to amend the gas line with an increase by \$500. All were in Favor. Motion Passes.

Motion was made Edwin Maley, Jr., **seconded** by Loraine Caruso to amend the small equipment line item by a \$1000 deduction. All were in Favor. (Flanders abstained, Keifer voted) Motion Passes.

Main Motion carried to approve Line Item 32 Parks & Grounds for amended amount of \$273,711. All were in Favor. *Motion Passes*.

Budget Line 33-Public Works. -Other Exp.

Major increase due to utilities. Mr. Hood hopes to have reports and studies back to find savings. Mr. Hood is continuing to explore other saving methods.

Motion was made Loraine Caruso, **seconded** by Edwin Maley, Jr. to approve Line Item 33 Public Works. -Other Exp for \$519,515. All in Favor. *Motion Passes*.

Budget Line 1-First Selectman

First Selectman Shingleton gave an overview of what he would like to see for the Town Report. There was discussion of the part-time office assistant and the restructuring of the position.

Motion was made Loraine Caruso, **seconded** by Donna DiMauro to approve Line Item 1 First Selectman for \$247,000. All in Favor. *Motion Passes.*

Budget Line 7- Capital Expend. Comm

Motion was made Loraine Caruso, **seconded** by Donna DiMauro to approve Line Item 7 Capital Expend. Comm for \$182. All in Favor. *Motion Passes.*

Budget Line 8- Charter Revis. Comm.

Motion was made Loraine Caruso, **seconded** by Donna DiMauro to approve Line Item 8 Charter Revis. Comm. for \$571. All in Favor. *Motion Passes.*

Budget Line 13-Donations & Dues

Motion was made Loraine Caruso, **seconded** by Donna DiMauro to approve Line Item 13 Donations & Dues. for \$37,313. All in Favor. *Motion Passes.*

Budget Line 14-Board of Selectman

Motion was made Loraine Caruso, **seconded** by Donna DiMauro to approve Line Item 14 Board of Selectman. for \$9384. All in Favor. *Motion Passes.*

Budget Line 15-Legal Expense

Motion was made Loraine Caruso, **seconded** by Donna DiMauro to approve Line Item 15 Legal Expense. for \$204,720. All in Favor. *Motion Passes.*

Budget Line 16-Central Services

Mr. Maley questioned the need for typewriters. Ms Sylvester discussed the various equipment needs.

Motion was made John Flanders, **seconded** by Edwin Maley, Jr. to approve Line Item 16 Central Services.for \$103,064. All in Favor. *Motion Passes.*

Budget Line 18-General Expense

First Selectman Shingleton explained Standard & Poor bond comments and that they are trying to commit to a capital program and would like CNR monies committed to a capital program. Mr. Maley explained his thoughts on the process and that the Capital Expenditures Commission has not commented on the items. Mr.Shingleton explained the reasoning for the transitioning process. Mr. Maley was concerned with what it means with the monies in place. Chairman Gengler stated that there are positives and negatives and suggested a plan be put in place for the transition next year. Mr. Maley expressed concern with how the monies would be spent and oversight. Mr. Shingleton stated people want change.

Motion was made Loraine Caruso, **seconded** by Donna DiMauro to approve Line Item 18 General Expense. for \$131,120. (Gengler, Caruso, Maley, Jr., Flanders, DiMauro, In Favor) (Corlis, Opposed) *Motion Passes*.

B. Discussion and decisions on the 2008-2009 Board of Education's proposed budget.
-None

C. Discussion on any 2007-2008 budget matter. - None

Motion was made Loraine Caruso, **seconded** by Donna DiMauro to adjourn at 11:30pm. All were in Favor. *Motion Passes*.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer L. Donohue
Finance Clerk