

TOWN OF CROMWELL-BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, JUNE 24, 2010 7:30 pm
CROMWELL TOWN HALL Room 224/225

MINUTES AND RECORD OF VOTE

Present: Chairman Ed Maley, Jr., Julius Neto, Jack Henehan, Loraine Caruso, Joe Corlis, and Alternate Victor Harpley

Absent: Michael Gengler, Alternate Dan Kelly

Also Present: First Selectman John Flanders and Marianne Sylvester, Director of Finance

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Maley called the meeting to order at 7:31pm.

B. SEAT ALTERNATES

Alternate Victor Harpley was seated; per letter by Michael Gengler, due to his absence.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion was made by Julius Neto, **seconded** by Loraine Caruso to approve the agenda and to add an item under New Business 3.) Senior Tax Abatement to the agenda. All were in Favor. *Motion Passed.*

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Motion was made by Jack Henehan, **seconded** by Julius Neto to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 27, 2010. All were in Favor. (Caruso abstain) *Motion Passed.*

E. CITIZENS COMMENTS -None

F. REPORT OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN

First Selectman Flanders deferred discussion to the Finance Director Marianne Sylvester.

G. BUDGET REPORT

The budget report was provided in the packet. Ms Sylvester said the numbers are at the break-even point. Ms Sylvester did not feel that Fund Balance would be used to cover expenditures.

The Board discussed the Cumulative Report of Cash. The Board discussed the revenues being down and taking a big decrease with the Shaner Assessment.

H. TAX COLLECTOR

Reports were provided in the packet. There was no further discussion.

I. OLD BUSINESS - None

J. NEW BUSINESS

- 1.) Discussion and action to reconsider/rescind action taken at meeting of May 27, 2010 regarding the \$120,000 transfer from General Fund fund balance to CNR Fund fund balance and the appropriation within the CNR Fund in the same amount for the reconstruction of Cider Hill Road.

First Selectman Flanders informed the Board that the initial motion was needed to get the monies back from the cash bonds. First Selectman Flanders explained that the Developer has released the monies from the bonds so the Town has already received the monies from the bonds and the contracts are in place, so the monies can be placed back into fund balance.

Motion was made by Loraine Caruso, **seconded** by Jack Henehan to reconsider action taken at meeting of May 27, 2010 regarding the \$120,000 transfer from General Fund fund balance to CNR Fund fund balance and the appropriation within the CNR Fund in the same amount for the reconstruction of Cider Hill Road. All were in Favor. *Motion Passed.*

Motion was made by Joe Corlis, **seconded** by Jack Henehan to reverse last month's action and to rescind the appropriation and to return the monies to the General Fund. All were in Favor. *Motion Passed.*

- 2.) Approve transfer from General Fund fund balance to CNR Fund fund balance of \$20,000, and appropriate \$20,000 within the CNR Fund to prefund the Incentive Housing Zone Regulations grant. This appropriation will be fully reimbursed through OFFICE of Policy and Management as expenditures are paid.

First Selectman Flanders explained that the Board of Selectman chose not to go forward with this due to some confusion at the meeting last night. First Selectman Flanders said that he was going to bring it before the BOS again and hoped to get the grant passed. First Selectman Flanders explained the grant to the Board of Finance and why Cromwell should pursue the grant. The Board discussed the options and benefits of the grant. Mr. Neto asked when the Town would be reimbursed the monies. Finance Director Sylvester said that the process is usually quick.

Motion was made by Loraine Caruso, **seconded** by Joe Corlis to approve a transfer of \$20,000 from the General Fund fund balance to CNR Fund fund balance of \$20,000. All were in Favor. *Motion Passed.*

Motion was made by Julius Neto, **seconded** by Loraine Caruso to prefund the Incentive Housing Zone Regulations grant. All were in Favor. *Motion Passed.*

3.) Senior Tax Abatement

First Selectman Flanders explained to the Board that the Board of Selectman heard three appeals from the Senior Tax Abatement list. The Board of Selectman approved two for a total of \$1,006.

Chairman Maley, Jr discussed the way the amount was appropriated last year. The Board discussed the way the amount was calculated.

Mr. Neto expressed concern of when does the increase stop and why does it get increased each year. First Selectman Flanders stated that the appeals process was going to be restructured so that it would be clearer and the information would come to the Board of Finance earlier in the process.

The Board as a whole discussed their concern and frustration with the increase in costs and whether this was the proper fund to do what is needed to be accomplished.

Motion was made by Julius Neto, **seconded** by Joe Corlis to increase the cap for the Senior Tax Abatement program as approved by \$1,006. All were in Favor. *Motion Passed.*

Ms Caruso noted that she really does not approve the increase, but due to the circumstances felt it was necessary. The entire Board felt the same way and wishes to find a way to improve the process.

K. BOARD OF EDUCATION – LIASON REPORT

Mr. Corlis reviewed the June 8th Board of Education meeting that discussed technology for ECS and the financing needed to achieve this. Mr. Corlis reviewed the Town Meeting held on June 16th to approve the alternate financing. Mr. Corlis stated there was no meeting this week due to the graduation.

Mr. Neto asked if an agreement was signed for the technology prior to getting approval. First Selectman Flanders did not think so.

Mr. Neto asked if there had been any discussions regarding reduction by the Board of Finance to the Board of Education budget and the management of the funds within their budget. Mr. Corlis said he has not heard anything.

Mr. Corlis said that July 13th is the next Board of Education meeting. Mr. Neto asked if a Board of Finance member is involved with the contract negotiations. Chairman Maley confirmed that there was in the past and asked Mr. Corlis to find out when the process was starting and when they would like to know who the representative would be.

First Selectman Flanders commented that an agreement had been made with the police civilian employees and it was a similar agreement to the Public Works contract.

Mr. Neto asked if a serious discussion could be had with the Board of Education ahead of the normal process so that concerns could be brought to the table earlier. Mr. Neto expressed concern with the financial burdens of the coming fiscal year. First Selectman Flanders stated that he and Finance Director met with the Superintendent several times and that he would suggest that they meet with the budget subcommittee.

L.) CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Chairman Maley stated that the Board of Education has no ability to do alternate financing on their own and that they have to go to the Town.

Chairman Maley announced that the Finance Office had received an award for Outstanding Presentation of Financial Records. Chairman Maley and the Board congratulated the Finance Director and her staff.

M.) VICE CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Ms Caruso asked questions regarding the award. Finance Director Sylvester commented that the award always comes with a list of improvements. It was discussed that this award is helpful when bonding.

N.) GOOD AND WELFARE

O.) ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Loraine Caruso, **seconded** by Jack Henehan to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm. All were in Favor. *Motion Passed.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer L. Donohue
Clerk