

**TOWN OF CROMWELL  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SPECIAL MEETING  
BUDGET WORKSHOP  
THURSDAY MARCH 4, 2010  
TOWN HALL ROOM 224/5 7:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

Present: First Selectman J. Flanders, Deputy First Selectman R. Newton, A. Varricchio,  
A. Halibozek, A. Waters, A. Spotts

Absent: P. Ahlquist

Also Present: Town Clerk/Treasurer D. DiProto, Director of Senior Services T. Strong,  
Library Director E. Branciforte, Election Administrators, M. Terry and L. Duran, Human  
Resources Director T. Roohr, Finance Director M. Sylvester, Public and Press

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

First Selectman Flanders called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**B. CITIZENS COMMENTS**

1. R. Duffy, Oxford Lane –Spoke regarding the Health Department and the Director of Health’s qualifications.
2. S. Bayley, Chestnut Court –Inquired if town employees would be taking furloughs, the Police Department overtime budget and what the Debt Services line includes.

**C. BUDGET WORKSHOP**

a. Any unfinished business from March 1, 2010 Budget Workshop

First Selectman Flanders comments follow:

- First Selectman Flanders is not happy with this budget. It includes more increases than he would have liked to see. Unfortunately, they were subject to four items over which they had no control.
- Last year the fuel cost went from over \$4.00 a gallon from the previous year’s budget to approximately \$2.00 for gasoline. This year it was expected to come in at 2.50 +. First Selectman Flanders commended Public Works Director E. Hood for his efforts in locking in a price of \$2.32. This savings will result in a small reduction of this line.
- When the economy tanked it took some of the pension fund. A substantial contribution must be made to replenish the fund. However the contribution will be significantly less than anticipated due to the efforts of Finance Director Sylvester.
- The previous budget included furloughs and no raises for essentially all employees who report to the First Selectman, which is the reason for the increased in salary line items. Furloughs are not included in the budget at

this time. Hopefully a budget will be produced so employees will not be asked to make that sacrifice two years in a row.

- We are looking at a 17% increase in Employee Medical Insurance Benefit. They approached the carrier this past week to look into alternative funding for the medical insurance such as a self funding plan. This gives expectation of significant savings on the budget although the figures are no yet available.

b. Discussion and Action on General Fund Budget Requests:

**1. First Selectman** -\$255,521

Motion made by A. Spotts seconded by A. Varricchio and *unanimously carried* to approve \$255,521.

**2. Town Clerk** -\$205,537

Town Clerk D. DiProto presented the request.

Motion made by A. Varricchio seconded by A. Spotts and *unanimously carried* to approve \$205,537.

**19. Treasurer's Office** -\$300.00

Treasurer D. DiProto presented the request.

Motion made by A. Spotts seconded by A. Varricchio and *unanimously carried* to approve \$300.00

**38. Human Services Administration** -\$95,975

Senior Services Director T. Strong presented the request.

Motion made by A. Varricchio seconded by R. Newton and *unanimously carried* to approve \$95,975.

**39. Senior Services** -\$77,648

Senior Services Director T. Strong presented the request.

Motion made by R. Newton seconded by A. Varricchio and *unanimously carried* to approve \$77,648.

**40. Transportation Service** -\$95,464

Senior Services Director T. Strong presented the request.

Motion made by A. Spotts seconded by R. Newton and *unanimously carried* to approve \$95,464.

**43. Library** -\$525,309

Library Director E. Branciforte presented the request.

Motion made by A. Spotts seconded by A. Varricchio and *unanimously carried* to approve \$525,309.

**3. Elections Department** -\$58,426

Election Administrators L. Duren and M. Terry presented the request.

Motion made by R. Newton seconded by A. Spotts and *unanimously carried* to approve \$58,426.

**5. Board of Finance** -\$29,080

Motion made by R. Newton seconded by A. Spotts and *unanimously carried* to approve \$29,080.

**6. Capital Expenditure Committee** -\$90.00

Motion made by R. Newton seconded by A. Waters and *unanimously carried* to approve \$90.00.

**7. Charter Revision Committee** -\$571.00

Motion made by R. Newton seconded by A. Spotts and *unanimously carried* to approve \$571.00.

**8. Board of Assessment** -\$1,300

Motion made by A. Spotts seconded by A. Varricchio and *unanimously carried* to approve \$1,300.

**10. Donations & Dues** -\$38,363.

Motion made by A. Waters seconded by R. Newton to approve.

A brief discussion followed.

Amended Motion made by A. Varricchio seconded by A. Halibozek and *unanimously carried* to reduce the Community Renewal Team request by \$500.00.

Discussion followed regarding the Memorial Day Parade line item.

The consensus of the board was to request that all funds that are not used for the Memorial Day Celebration are returned to the Town along with receipts for all funds expended.

The Connecticut River Assembly request was discussed. Finance Director Sylvester assured that board that in order to receive the funds that the various organizations must send a letter of request in order for the funds to be released.

Main Motion *unanimously carried* to approve \$37,863.

**11. Board of Selectmen** -\$9,384

Motion made by R. Newton seconded by A. Spotts and *unanimously carried* to approve \$9,384.

**12. Legal Expenses** -\$156,936

Motion made by A. Varricchio seconded by R. Newton to approve.

First Selectman Flanders requested that the Contract Services Line Item be increased by \$9,700 to have funds available to obtain legal advice for regionalization efforts with the Mid State Group.

Finance Director Sylvester advised the board that she would send them a copy of the Probate Court request as it was omitted from the budget packet.

Mr. Newton felt as though the special counsel item should read; as approved by the Board of Selectmen.

Main Motion *unanimously carried* to approve \$166,636.

**13. Central Services** -\$97,700

Motion made by R. Newton seconded by A. Varricchio and *unanimously carried* to approve \$97,700.

**14. Insurance Expense** -\$456,899

Human Resources Director T. Roohr presented the request.

Motion made by A. Spotts seconded by A. Waters and *unanimously carried* to approve \$456,899.

**15. General Expense** -\$86,660

Motion made by R. Newton seconded by A. Spotts to approve.

Amended motion made by R. Newton seconded by A. Varricchio and *unanimously carried* to reduce the Enviro- Monitoring-Mattabasset \$10.00 and delete the line item.

Main Motion *unanimously carried* to approve \$86,650.

**16. Finance Department** -\$323,719

Finance Director Sylvester presented the request.

Motion made by R. Newton seconded by A. Spotts and *unanimously carried* to approve \$323,719.

**44. Employee Benefits** -\$2,858,432

Human Resources Director T. Roohr presented the request.

Discussion followed. The consensus of the board was to approve this amount pending further investigation to reduce the Medical Insurance line as presented in the First Selectman's comments. Ms. Halibozek questioned the co pays and the amount of the deductibles funded by the Town.

Discussion followed. Finance Director Sylvester clarified the history of the various line items.

Motion made by A. Spotts seconded by R. Newton and *unanimously carried* to approve \$2,858,432.

**45. Bonded Debt** -\$4,281,377

Motion made by A. Spotts seconded by R. Newton and *unanimously carried* to approve \$4,281,377.

**c. Any other Budget matter.**

Finance Director Sylvester answered questions and clarified what is included in several of the Revenue lines. Selectman Halibozek inquired regarding the Misc.-Town revenue line item. Ms. Sylvester advised that it contains unexpected revenue such as the Street Light Refund and the CRRA refund that were received in previous years.

Selectmen Newton requested that when the First Selectman transmits the budget to the Board of Finance he should advise them that it is a good responsible budget.

**d. Approve Grand Total of General Fund Budget**

Motion made by R. Newton seconded by A. Varricchio and *unanimously carried* to approve \$13,390,976.

**D. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 by general consent.

Respectfully submitted,

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Re Matus  
Secretary

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John M. Flanders  
First Selectman