

**TOWN OF CROMWELL  
BOARD OF FINANCE  
PUBLIC HEARING  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2011  
WOODSIDE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL 7:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

PRESENT: Board of Finance Members Chairman Ed Maley, Jr, Michael Gengler, Julius Neto, Joe Corlis, Loraine Caruso, Jack Henehan, and Alternate Dan Kelly.

ALSO PRESENT: Finance Director Marianne Sylvester, First Selectman John Flanders, Superintendent Dr. Bisceglia, members of the Board of Education, education system and members of the public.

Chairman Maley opened the public hearing at 7:07 p.m. He gave brief definitions of the Town's Budgets and Bonded Debt.

Dr. Bisceglia recognized members of the Board of Education and Administrators as well as the Business and Operations Director.

Dr. Bisceglia provided a Power Point Presentation. He discussed the Strategic Plan 2009-2014, their Mission Statement, beliefs, benchmarks, tools and Internet technology. He discussed the importance of Professional Development and discussed the many positive programs throughout the schools. He also stated they have updated many policies and are currently updating and reviewing many other policies. He emphasized that Cromwell is a small district, yet ECS and CHS were nationally recognized.

Next year's focus will include implementation of many programs already developed, continuing technology upgrades and revision of the CHS schedule for more student/teacher contact time.

He discussed the annual factors influencing the Board of Education's budget proposal.

Dr. Bisceglia is expecting Governor Malloy to keep his promise and make sure that \$615,413 in stimulus money is included in his budget; The Board of Education is counting on this.

The projected 2011-2012 student enrollment increase is 13.

Dr. Bisceglia stated that he advised his Administrators to create a needs based budget, and overall, most budgets were decreased.

There were increases in 8 areas providing a 1.56% increase and there were decreases in 19 areas, saving \$397,335 resulting in a zero increase budget.

He is counting on the MBR, which is the law, to be upheld, in that Governor Malloy will do as he promised and also that the Board of Education's budget be no less than last year's budget, which was \$25,450,000.

Dr. Bisceglia applauded the Administration and the Board of Education for a zero percent increase. He also remarked about the negotiated insurance cost and was very pleased with the result.

Chairman Maley thanked the Board of Education, the teachers and the Teacher's Union for their cooperation and efforts.

Chairman Maley opened the floor for public comment on the Board of Education Budget.

Jay Fletcher of 21 Senator Drive asked about MBR. Dr. Bisceglia clarified for Mr. Fletcher that it is a state law.

Chairman Maley noted no further comments and recognized First Selectman John Flanders.

Mr. Flanders had a Power Point presentation and discussed General Government Budget and Debt Service. He stated that he was very pleased to present the budget and was delighted with the Board of Education for holding the line; a testament that Cromwell is a community and is working together.

He reminded the group that we are still in tough times. He stated that he was proud of all of the Department Heads in that they were able to present a budget that allows no cuts in services with only small increases; he found little, if anything to cut.

The General Government Budget is \$13,735,784 and the Bonded Debt is \$3,851,074.

Mr. Flanders broke down the budget explaining the increase of 3.13% is out of the Town's control. Some debt has been retired for a 6.8% decrease in Bonded Debt Payments.

Mr. Flanders noted that he is hoping to recommend a smaller increase with a revised, reduced, employee insurance quote.

Chairman Maley opened the floor for comments. Hearing none, the Public Hearing was adjourned at 7:53 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Ruggiero, Clerk