

**TOWN OF CROMWELL - BOARD OF FINANCE  
SPECIAL MEETING  
MONDAY, MAY 9, 2011  
CROMWELL HIGH SCHOOL-LIBRARY  
8:10 pm (after referendum votes are tallied)**

**MINUTES AND RECORD OF VOTES**

Present: Chairman Ed Maley, Jr., Loraine Caruso, Michael Gengler, Julius Neto, Jack Henehan, Joe Corlis, and Alternate Dan Kelly.

Absent: None.

Also present: First Selectman John Flanders, Tax Collector Sharon Ramsay and Finance Director Marianne Sylvester and members of the public.

**A. CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Maley called the meeting to order at 8:17 pm.

**B. SEAT ALTERNATIVES:**

None.

**C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

A **motion** was made by Michael Gengler, **seconded** by Joe Corlis and it was **unanimously approved** to approve the agenda. *Motion passed.*

**D. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:**

- 1) Special Meeting, April 20, 2011

A **motion** was made by Julius Neto, **seconded** by Jack Henehan to approve the minutes of April 20, 2011. Loraine Caruso, Joe Corlis, Chariman Maley, Jack Henehan and Julius Neto in favor; Michael Gengler abstained. *Motion passed.*

**E. NEW BUSINESS:**

Chairman Maley read the results of the budget referendum; General Government Budget: 289 in favor, 214 opposed; Bonded Debt: 328 in favor, 175 opposed; Board of Education Budget: 300 in favor, 205 opposed.

Chairman Maley pointed out that only approximately 5% of eligible voters voted.

- 1) Discussion and decisions on the budget based upon the results of the budget referendum. Should the budget not be approved, action to recommend a new budget to the adjourned Town Meeting.

Marianne Sylvester passed out an updated Revenue packet, noting Inland/Wetlands had a slight variation from the budget book the Board had received in February.

Chairman Maley and Ms. Sylvester discussed conveyance tax. Mr. Neto asked if there was an update to the Grand List; Ms. Sylvester passed out an email from Shawna Baron, Tax Assessor. The updated Grand List figure is 1,391,555,896.

Chairman Maley spoke on state revenue and the recent legislation that passed. He explained that a small portion of the sales tax increase and room occupancy tax is expected to be part of a fund and returned to municipalities in 2 different ways: for regional projects on a competitive basis and returned to Towns on a per capita basis. Ms. Sylvester thinks that the Town may receive approximately \$119,246 in property tax relief.

There was a lengthy discussion on Pilot-Telecommunications and how it is being taxed differently than the past. There was a question as to whether or not this change had been accounted for. Ms. Sylvester read Ms. Baron's email but Chairman Maley still had more questions; an attempt was made to reach Ms. Baron by phone.

Chairman Maley called a recess at 8:39pm in order to speak with Ms. Baron. Chairman Maley resumed the meeting at 8:40pm, unable to reach her.

Mr. Gengler asked Ms. Sylvester if the Town would make revenue budget; she said that there were some tight areas.

Ms. Sylvester gave an update on the current year budget, thinking the Town will have a slight operating surplus of approximately \$20,000, not using Fund balance and not taking into consideration the revenue from Telecommunications the Town may get.

Sharon Ramsay noted that they were holding their own over budget in all but prior year taxes: Budget \$250,000, current \$234,000. She also noted she was hoping to collect another \$200,000 in the current year, before the

fiscal year was over. She said that on the 2008 Grand List there are only 8 Real Estate accounts outstanding.

There was a lengthy discussion between Chairman Maley and Ms. Ramsay regarding the clarification of collection figures. Chairman Maley congratulated Ms. Ramsay on a job well done.

Chairman Maley stated that the current Budget approved this evening was \$42,946,395. There's \$6,289,987 in receipts from various sources, the Elderly Circuit Breaker is \$131,765. The total amount to be raised by taxation is \$36,825,573. The factor for the collection rate is 98.75 based on the new Grand List figure of 1,391,555,896 putting the mill rate at 26.80, a 0.15% reduction from the current mill rate of 26.84.

There was a discussion regarding the state revenue possibly being different than what the Board is working with, but the Board can only work with what they have right now.

A **motion** was made by Michael Gengler, **seconded** by Jack Henehan and it was **unanimously approved** to approve \$6,289,987 of non-current year tax revenue. *Motion passed.*

A **motion** was made by Julius Neto, **seconded** by Loraine Caruso and it was **unanimously approved** to set the Town's contribution to the Senior Tax Abatement Program at \$131,765. *Motion passed.*

A **motion** was made by Michael Gengler, **seconded** by Joe Corlis and it was **unanimously approved** to approve a 98.75% Collection Rate. *Motion passed.*

2) Discussion and action decisions on setting the mill rate for fiscal year 2011-2012 should the entire budget be approved.

A **motion** was made by Michael Gengler, **seconded** by Loraine Caruso and it was **unanimously approved** to approve the mill rate at 26.80. *Motion passed.*

A **motion** was made by Michael Gengler, **seconded** by Loraine Caruso and it was **unanimously approved** to approve \$37,600 as a designated amount of the total use of the General Fund fund balance. *Motion passed.*

#### **F. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS:**

Chairman Maley noted that even though the Telecommunications issue is still up in the air, it shouldn't have much of an effect on the mill rate.

Chairman Maley was pleased with a successful year in terms of the budget process, noting that things look to be in excellent shape. He gave kudos to First Selectman Flanders, the Board of Education and the Board of Finance.

Mr. Gengler thanked Ms. Sylvester and her staff.

**G. VICE CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS:**

Ms. Caruso noted that she was satisfied with the process and was thankful to all. She also noted her disappointment in the low turn out of voters.

**H. GOOD AND WELFARE:**

None.

**I. ADJOURNMENT:**

A **motion** was made by Loraine Caruso., **seconded** by Julius Neto and it was **unanimously approved** to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 pm. *Motion passed.*

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Ruggiero  
Clerk, Board of Finance