

TOWN OF CROMWELL
BOARD OF FINANCE
SPECIAL MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 15, 2007
CROMWELL MIDDLE SCHOOL 8:20 P.M.

AMENDED RECORD OF VOTES / MINUTES

Present: Chairman Michael Gengler, Julius Neto, Jack Henehan, John Flanders, Jeremy Shingleton, and Edwin Maley, Jr.

Also Present: First Selectman Paul Beaulieu and Finance Director Marianne Sylvester.

A. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Michael Gengler called the meeting to order at 8:25 p.m.

B. SEATING OF ALTERNATES: A motion was made by Edwin Maley, seconded by John Flanders and it was unanimously approved to seat Jeremy Shingleton as an alternate.

C. DISCUSSION AND DECISIONS ON THE BUDGET BASED UPON THE RESULTS OF THE BUDGET REFERENDUM. SHOULD ANY BUDGET NOT BE APPROVED ACTION TO RECOMMEND A NEW BUDGET TO THE ADJOURNED TOWN MEETING ON TUESDAY, MAY 22, 2007.

Town Government

Line item #3 Registrars of Voters – A motion was made by Julius Neto, seconded by Jack Henehan and it was unanimously approved to reduce this item by \$650.00. **Motion Passed.**

Line item #30 Highway Department- PT Wages - A motion was made by Julius Neto, seconded by Jack Henehan to cut this line by 5,000. After further discussion, a motion was made by John Flanders, seconded by Jack Henehan to amend the amount of the reduction to \$4,999. It was unanimously approved to reduce this line #30 by \$4,999. **Motion Passed.**

Line item #30VM – Vehicle Maintenance – PT Wages- A motion was made by Julius Neto, seconded by Jack Henehan to cut this line by 4,800. After further discussion a motion was made by Julius Neto, seconded by Jack Henehan to amend the amount of the reduction to 4,799. It was unanimously approved to reduce his line #30VM by \$4799. **Motion Passed.**

Line item #35 Police Department- A motion was made by y John Flanders, seconded by Jeremy Shingleton to cut the budget by ½ FTE. Edwin Maley Jr. feels that if we only reject the ½ FTE, the reduction will be less effective. The number of people who voted against the bonded debt people highlights the public demand for substantial cuts and there is an inclination to take out the full year FTE. Mr. Neto agrees with Edwin Maley, Jr. Jeremy Shingleton also feels the need to reach a fair compromise. The First Selectman noted that in the past they took out funding altogether. John Flanders withdrew his original motion and suggested a reduction of \$35,000, which is close to a full FTE. After further discussion,

A motion was made by John Flanders, seconded by Edwin Maley Jr. and it was approved to reduce the Police budget by \$35,000. All were in favor except Michael Gengler, who opposed the reduction. **Motion Passed.**

Line item #38 Human Services- *No Budget Cuts.*

Line item #20 Development Compliance- A motion was made by John Flanders, seconded by Julius Neto to reduce this item by \$12,581 and effectively push the date of hire to January. After further discussion a motion was made by John Flanders, seconded by Edwin Maley Jr. and it was unanimously approved to reduce line 20 by \$11,581. **Motion Passed.**

Line item #27 Engineering- A motion was made by John Flanders, seconded by Julius Neto to reduce this item by \$12,581 and effectively push the date of hire to January. After further discussion, a motion was made by John Flanders, seconded by Edwin Maley Jr. to amend the amount to \$11,581. The amended motion was unanimously approved to reduce line 27 by \$11,581. **Motion Passed.**

Line item #44 Employee Benefits- A motion was made by Edwin Maley Jr. , seconded by Jeremy Shingleton and it was unanimously approved to reduce the FICA by \$4,450 to reflect the changes and reductions of new positions. **Motion Passed.**

Line item #44 Employee Benefits- A motion was made by Edwin Maley, Jr. seconded by Jeremy Shingleton and it was unanimously approved to reduce the employee medical by \$16,000 to reflect the changes and reductions of new positions. **Motion Passed.**

Line item #28 Solid Waste Recycling Center- A motion was made by John Flanders, seconded by Julius Neto and it was unanimously approved to reduce this item by \$11,000 for contract services. **Motion Passed.**

Total of all cuts including registrars, vehicle maintenance, highway, police, development compliance and education is **\$68,610.**

Town Budget- A motion was made by John Flanders, seconded by Jack Henehan and it was unanimously approved to reduce the town budget by **\$100,060.** **Motion Passed.**

General Government Budget

\$ 12,556,900

Board of Education

A motion was made by Edwin Maley Jr., seconded by John Flanders to reduce the BOE budget by \$100,000. Jeremy Shingleton cautioned that the reductions were too steep and that it could impact the quality of education provided, especially considering the \$357,000 that had already been eliminated from the budget during the original deliberations, all while little had been removed from General Government. He suggested a reduction of \$50,000, noting that it would still bring total BOE reductions by the BOF to over \$400,000. Mr. Shingleton thought that incremental reductions were more responsible, since it would allow the people to decide by referendum vote the point at which the reductions are sufficient. Julius Neto thought that the reductions were not steep enough, noting that the BOE budget was much larger than general government, yet both were getting reduced by approximately the same dollar amount. He suggested a reduction of \$200,000. Four were in favor of the motion to reduce the BOE budget by \$100,000, Mr. Shingleton and Mr. Neto opposed. **Motion Passed.**

A motion was made by John Flanders, seconded by Edwin Maley to approve the BOE budget of \$23,746,836. 4 in favor, 2 opposed. Motion Passed.

C. DISCUSSION AND DECISIONS ON SETTING THE MILL RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007-2008 – On May 21, 2007 a Town Meeting will be held at the Cromwell Middle School for the next vote on these matters. May 24, 2007 is the proposed date for the referendum vote, at Cromwell Middle School. Setting of Mill Rate and Regular BOF meeting to follow at CMS Library.

ADJOURNMENT: John Flanders made a motion to adjourn at 9:45, seconded by Julius Neto. All were in favor. **Motion Passed.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Milardo
Clerk