

**TOWN OF CROMWELL  
BOARD OF FINANCE  
REGULAR MEETING  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2008  
CROMWELL TOWN HALL 7:30 p.m.  
Room 224/225**

**MINUTES AND RECORD OF VOTES**

Present: Michael Gengler, Ed Maley Jr., John Flanders, Loraine Caruso, Joe Corlis, Jack Henehan, Alternate Jamie Kiefer, Alternate Julius Neto

Absent: Alternate Dan Kelly

Also Present: Finance Director Marianne Sylvester. Selectman Richard Newton

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman, Michael Gengler called the meeting to order at 7:36.

**B. SEAT ALTERNATES**

No alternates were seated.

**C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion** was made Edwin Maley Jr., **seconded** by Loraine Caruso to approve the agenda with the addition of an item under Old Business I1. Discussion of Siemens Contract Procedures. All were in Favor. *Motion Passes.*

**D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

1. Regular Meeting, November 20, 2008

Corrections: Page 2, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, change the wording of conclusion to purpose; Page 2, Section E, change HAS to HSA; Page 3, Section I1. 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, the First Selectman stated and accepted responsibility; Page 6, Section K, change Cost to Costa.

**Motion** was made John Flanders, **seconded** by Loraine Caruso to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2008 Special Meeting with corrections. All were in Favor. *Motion Passes*

**E. CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Al Waters of 86 South Street commented about an article in the newspaper. Mr. Waters said that to the best of his knowledge that a phone poll was taken regarding the chiller. Chairman Gengler explained that the Board was not involved in the process until September. Mr. Waters asked if the Board was going to investigate what happened. Chairman Gengler said that the Board was following up on it. Mr. Waters asked that it be followed up on so that it could not happen again.

**F. REPORT OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN – No Report**

**G. BUDGET REPORT**

Finance Director Sylvester had provided the Board with a report. Finance Director Sylvester noted that conveyance taxes, recording fees, and vital statistics are down from last year. The supplemental taxes are about to go out. Finance Director

Sylvester stated that legal fees are a concern, but hopes that contract negotiations are resolved shortly. Chairman Gengler inquired about 14 Alcap Ridge. Finance Director Sylvester said that there is nothing new right now but there may be a concern for this property in the future with fees. Mr. Neto asked Finance Director Sylvester if she had a financial picture for the budget. Finance Director Sylvester thought that the budget would be met, in the past we have been at a surplus. If the rate of expenditure continues in legal expenses than it will be \$40,000 over budget.

#### H. REPORT OF THE TAX COLLECTOR

The Tax Collector had provided the Board with a report. There were no comments.

#### I. OLD BUSINESS

##### 1. Discussion of Siemens Contract Procedures

Chairman Gengler informed the Board that he made a call to the Town Auditor and the liability of \$189,525 has been posted to the CNR Fund. The Auditor said that it was a mistake that an appropriation was not put before him.

Chairman Gengler asked Mr. Maley Jr. to draft a letter regarding the Siemen's contract. A draft of the letter was distributed to the Board for their review. Mr. Maley Jr. reported that the Town Attorney said he did not know of this until August. Mr. Maley Jr. asked for copies of Ms Sylvester's e-mail. Mr. Maley Jr. said a group meeting is needed. Mr. Flanders said that the letter reflected the sentiment of the motion. Mr. Neto asked that this be found out fast so it can be corrected fair and equitably. The Board made several corrections to the letter to be sent out, on Board of Finance letterhead, by certified mail. Mr. Newton asked if the Board of Selectman could have a copy of the letter.

**Motion** was made John Flanders, **seconded** by Loraine Caruso to send the letter regarding the Siemen's contract to the First Selectman and all copied members. All were in Favor. *Motion Passes.*

Ms Caruso expressed that she was upset with this issue and that she feels that the Board has not been given all the facts. Ms Caruso said the Board is not getting attention and respect. Ms Caruso was troubled that she was not told until an hour before the December 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting that it was canceled.

Mr. Flanders left at 8:15pm.

#### J. NEW BUSINESS

##### 1. Actuarial presentation (Bill Woollacott, Consulting Actuary, Hooker & Holcombe)

a) Other Post Employment Benefits – funding options  
Bill Woollacott, a Consulting Actuary with Hooker & Holcombe provided the Board with a worksheet titled GASB 45 Liability Summary as of July 1, 2007. A copy is attached to the minutes. Mr. Woollacott reviewed the sheet. There was some discussion

of funding plans. All funds would go back to the Town if a National Healthcare were ever developed.

b) Town Retirement Plan – Actuarial Valuation Report  
Mr. Woollacott provided the Board with an outline of July 1, 2008 Pension Valuation Highlights. A copy is attached to the minutes. Mr. Woollacott reviewed the outline while referring to the Actuarial Valuation Report for the Town of Cromwell Retirement Plan.

Chairman Gengler asked Mr. Woollacott if he had basic pension information for review. Mr. Woollacott said he would see what he could put together.

K. BOARD OF EDUCATION- LIASON REPORT

Mr. Corlis had researched the cost of the five-year study, as requested, and the cost is \$15,000, which is funded by a federal grant. Mr. Corlis commented that the Town might have to add to the number of students in the Choice program. Cromwell currently has about 40 students. There is no time frame on when the children maybe coming. Mr. Corlis stated that it is being discussed that the Town's might have to pay for student's who attend Magnet schools, currently; there are about 20 students.

Chairman Gengler commented that he is on a Strategic Planning Committee and he was paired with the CHS Principal, Mark Benigni, Ed.D. to work on a project exploring outside factors such as the economy. Examples, energy conservation initiatives, keep taxpayers informed, expand curriculum such an alternative energy elective course.

L. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Chairman Gengler mentioned that the Superintendent has requested a meeting with himself and the Finance Director regarding the future of state funding.

M. VICE CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Mr. Maley Jr. commented that reduced state funding is a probability for next year.

N. GOOD AND WELFARE - None

O. ADJOURNMENT

**Motion** was made by Edwin Maley Jr., **seconded** by Loraine Caruso, to adjourn the meeting at 8:58pm. All were in Favor. *Motion Passes.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer L. Donohue  
Finance Clerk