

**TOWN OF CROMWELL  
BOARD OF FINANCE  
REGULAR MEETING  
THURSDAY APRIL 23, 2009  
CROMWELL TOWN HALL 7:30 p.m.  
Room 224/225**

**Minutes and Record of Vote**

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

Absent:

Also Present: Finance Director Marianne Sylvester

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Michael Gengler called the meeting to order at 7:35pm.

**B. SEAT ALTERNATES**

None were seated

**C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion** was made by Ed Maley Jr., **seconded** by Jack Henehan to approve the agenda. All were in Favor. *Motion Passes.*

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

1. Regular Meeting, March 26, 2008

Corrections:

Eliminate John Flanders from the Present section on Page 1. On Page 3, under the BOE report the figure should read \$145,000 left in the Woodside budget.

**Motion** was made by Loraine Caruso, **seconded** by Jack Henehan to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2009 Regular Meeting with corrections. All were in Favor. (Flanders abstained) *Motion Passes.*

2. Public Hearing, April 2, 2009

**Motion** was made by John Flanders, **seconded** by Jack Henehan to approve the minutes of the April 2, 2009 Public Hearing. All were in Favor. *Motion Passes*

3. Special Meeting, April 9, 2009

Corrections:

Eliminate Loraine Caruso from the Present section on Page 1. On Page 2, Motion was made by John Flanders, seconded by Jamie Kiefer to table action on the sweet sweeper. All were in Favor. Motion Passes.

**Motion** was made by John Flanders, **seconded** by Jack Henehan to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2009 Special Meeting with corrections. All were in Favor. (Caruso abstained) *Motion Passes*

E. CITIZENS COMMENTS

There were no comments.

F. REPORT OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN

Chairman Gengler had asked the First Selectman to provide a report. Mr. Shingleton provided a letter dated April 23<sup>rd</sup>, which the Board read to themselves.

G. BUDGET REPORT

Finance Director Sylvester had provided the Board with a report. The surplus and deficit areas were discussed. Ms Sylvester felt they should net out okay and that it should be a net zero issue. Ms Sylvester predicted that \$100,000 would be taken from reserve fund for revenue fund. The Town Attorney Line is over by \$50,000 and \$15,000 in Legal Expense.

Mr. Maley Jr. asked about the drop in health revenues. Ms Sylvester explained that late spring is the fee time for this department.

H. REPORT OF THE TAX COLLECTOR

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

I. OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

J. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion and action on Other Fund 2009-2010 budgets

i. Dog Fund: \$21,700

**Motion** was made by Loraine Caruso, **seconded** by Ed Maley Jr. to approve Dog Fund for \$21,700. *All were in Favor.*

ii. Sidewalk Fund \$0

It was noted that this was \$0.

iii. Sewer Usage Fund: \$1,365,676

**Motion** was made by Loraine Caruso, **seconded** by Jack Henehan to approve the Sewer Usage Fund for \$1,365,676. All were in Favor. *Motion Passes.*

Mr. Maley Jr. asked questions about the adjustment for wage fund. Mr. Flanders asked if the gas and insurance line items had been adjusted. Ms Sylvester did not know.

iv. Sewer Assessment Fund: \$212,505

**Motion** was made by Loraine Caruso, **seconded** by Jack Henehan too approve Sewer Assessment Fund for \$212,505. All were in Favor. *Motion Passes.*

2. Approve \$44,080 appropriation from Sidewalk Fund fund balance for projects on West Street (at the intersection of Main Street) and Washington Road.

Motion was made by Loraine Caruso, seconded by Jack Henehan to approve \$44,080 appropriation from Sidewalk Fund fund balance for projects on West Street (at the intersection of Main Street) and Washington Road.

Ms Sylvester explained how funds lapsed from 07/08 and the project was anticipated to be done this spring along with the monies from 08/09. The Board asked how many projects were done last year. It was minimal. Mr. Maley Jr. expressed concern that all this work cannot be completed by June 30<sup>th</sup> and there was no paperwork stating what was happening. Mr. Flanders expressed concern that it would look as they are not supportive of sidewalks. Mr. Maley Jr. made it clear they are supportive of project, but they have \$50,000 and it apparently cost \$44,080 or less to do it, not supportive without any information.

**Motion** was made by John Flanders, **seconded** by Jack Henehan to table appropriation for Sidewalk Fund fund balance. All were in Favor. *Motion Passes.*

Chairman Gengler mentioned the Mr. Hood is currently on military leave.

3. Discussion and action on transfer from the General Fund fund balance to the CNR Fund balance.

Chairman Gengler and Ms Kiefer met with the First Selectman last night to discuss the figures of the CNR items totaling \$966,500 and the addition of the curbing machines.

Mr. Maley Jr. asked for clarification on some figures. Ms Sylvester helped with the clarification. There was some discussion of the fund balance and bond ratings.

Chairman Gengler explained that the First Selectman suggested that the Board act on only some items tonight at a figure around \$360,000 and to review again in the fall. The Board discussed how revenues were going to be low and what ceiling they would be comfortable at, such as 1%.

**Motion** was made by John Flanders, **seconded** by Loraine Caruso to pass on this item. All were in Favor. *Motion Passes.*

4. Discussion and action on Capital and Non-Recurring requests, per attached sheet.

a. Street Sweeper

Motion was made by Loraine Caruso, seconded by John Flanders to approve the Street Sweeper for \$140,000.

Neil Swanson discussed that the cost of the rental for a sweeper is \$5,000 per week with an operator and about \$8-9,000 a month without an operator. There was some discussion of use and Mr. Flanders had some concern with the lead-time if they bought the machine now. Ms Kiefer gave a cost comparison breakdown of leasing to purchase. The Board discussed the discrepancy in figures they had been given in purchase cost of the sweeper.

**Motion** was made by Jack Henehan, **seconded** by Loraine Caruso to reduce the Street Sweeper to \$120,000. (In Favor, Henehan, Caruso, Gengler, Maley Jr., and Corlis) (Opposed, Flanders) *Motion Passes*.

**Main Motion** was approved for Street Sweeper with reduction to \$120,000. (In Favor, Henehan, Caruso, Gengler, Maley Jr., and Corlis) (Opposed, Flanders).

b. Micropaving

Ms Kiefer said that the First Selectman explained that this was for projects that don't make the big projects like New Lane or Willowbrook Lane. The Board expressed concern that there was no paperwork for this item.

c. Gym Roof Repair

**Motion** was made by John Flanders, **seconded** by Loraine Caruso to approve the Gym Roof Repair for \$10,000. All were in Favor. *Motion Passes*.

Frank Esty explained that the roof leaks and that this figure was from a quote they received.

d. Police Vehicle

**Motion** was made by Ed Maley Jr., **seconded** by Loraine Caruso to approve the Police Vehicle for \$33,000. All were in Favor. *Motion Passes*.

Chief Salvatore explained this was to replace 5-year old vehicle that would be turned into a pool vehicle. This will be a marked unit. The Chief also explained that the file cabinet could be removed it should be taken care of through a grant.

e. Special Services Bus (repl.)

**Motion** was made by Loraine Caruso, **seconded** by Ed Maley Jr. to approve the Special Service Bus for \$56,000. All were in Favor. *Motion Passes.*

Mr. Mandeville commented that when DMV does their inspections they find more issues. Mr. Mandeville explained that this new bus would have a handicap lift. Ms Kiefer mentioned that the First Selectman suggested waiting until the fall to purchase this item and his reasoning. Mr. Mandeville explained that there is a 14-16 week lag time for delivery on this item and the reason for the need now. Mr. Neto asked for an estimate on the cost to keep this on the road now. Mr. Mandeville estimated it at \$3000-\$3500 a year. Mr. Neto questioned Mr. Mandeville if they have explored leasing options. Mr. Mandeville said that they have and that the net worth is not much when they are done.

f. Senior Center –Feasibility Study

**Motion** was made by Loraine Caruso, **seconded** by Jack Henehan to approve Senior Center-Feasibility Study for \$25,000. (In Favor, Henehan, Caruso, Gengler, and Corlis) (Opposed, Flanders, Maley Jr.) *Motion Passes.*

Theresa Strong discussed the Senior Center's accreditation process. Ms Strong stated that the baby boomers are coming and that her programs are up by 25%. Ms Strong stressed that she needs to show that the Boards are behind her for accreditation and grants. Ms Strong discussed how the accreditation would help the Town in the future.

g. Curbing Machines

**Motion** was made by Loraine Caruso, **seconded** by Jack Henehan to approve the Curbing Machines for \$16,500. (In Favor, Henehan, Caruso, Gengler, Maley Jr., and Corlis) (Opposed, Flanders) *Motion Passes.*

Ms Kiefer explained that the First Selectman said that the machines would allow them to work on both sides of the road. There was some discussion on the machines.

h. Zero Turn 60" Diesel Mower

**Motion** was made by John Flanders, **seconded** by Loraine Caruso to approve Zero Turn 60" Diesel Mower for \$15,000. All were in Favor. *Motion Passes.*

This was approval on one mower.

i. Park Playgrounds-mulch/equipment

**Motion** was made by John Flanders, **seconded** by Loraine Caruso to approve Park Playgrounds-mulch/equipment for \$30,000. All were in Favor. *Motion Passes.*

Ms Kiefer explained that the First Selectman felt that this could wait until the fall due to other organic materials available.

Sue Schein discussed Watrous Park and its current condition and that it does not meet ADA requirements. Ms Schein explained how the chips from the recycling center have bugs and it was her understanding that the center does not have the proper kind of mulch. Ms Schein discussed what her plan was and how she going to do it. The monies were to be spent 80% on the safety mulch and the remaining funds on equipment.

j. Storage Building for Equipment

Motion was made by Loraine Caruso, seconded by Jack Henehan for the Storage Building for Equipment for \$75,000.

This building is to be placed on the North side of the building at Pierson Park. Mr. Maley Jr. asked if they could hear about the library project before making a decision due to the figure they were at.

It was decided to pass temporarily on this item.

k. Architectural Study-Library Expansion

**Motion** was made by John Flanders, **seconded** by Loraine Caruso to approve Architectural Study-Library Expansion for \$100,000. All were in Favor. *Motion Passes.*

Mr. Maley Jr. asked several questions regarding the grant process. Ms Branciforte explained the 3.5 million dollar project. There was a lengthy discussion regarding monies for the project and its dynamics. Ms Branciforte discussed the hard work of her Library Board through the grant process and the need for a building committee. Chairman Gengler addressed the situation and the Board discussed options regarding funding.

l. Discussion

Chairman Gengler commented that they should continue in a couple months when they have firm numbers from the State.

Ms Sylvester explained that there was \$83,960 in CNR at this time.

Mr. Maley Jr. felt they would not return in a few months and felt they should move monies and approve the storage building. Ms Kiefer was not comfortable with zero and was not sure they would come back again. Mr. Flanders was not sure about the value of the building. Mr. Corlis felt the building was important for time saving but had some concern with monies. Mr. Henehan wants to see the equipment taken care of but was concerned about monies. Ms Caruso agrees with all the opinions expressed but would like some more information regarding the building. Mr. Neto thought maybe something more temporary could be found and expressed concern for going over \$405,000. Mr. Kelly discussed the percentage of the monies and whether the additional project would

change the percentage. Mr. Kelly felt the merits of the project should be looked at. Chairman Gengler would like more information on some of the items such as the storage building and micropaving.

Loraine Caruso withdrew her motion on the storage building and Jack Henehan withdrew his second.

Neil Swanson mentioned that the mason dump is off the road.

3. Discussion and action on transfer from the General Fund fund balance to the CNR Fund balance

Ms Sylvester mentioned that Mr. Curtin said the Town would be receiving a grant for the generator for \$10,000 so she would be supplying information on that shortly.

**Motion** was made by John Flanders, **seconded** by Loraine Caruso to approve transfer from the General Fund fund balance to the CNR Fund balance \$340,000. All were in Favor. *Motion Passes.*

K. BOARD OF EDUCATION- LIASON REPORT

Mr. Corlis explained that at Tuesday's meeting there was no detail or discussion about the cut of about \$200,000. Mr. Corlis reminded the BOE and administration of the May 12 Town Meeting and vote on May 16<sup>th</sup>.

L. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Chairman Gengler said they are looking for a moderator for May 12<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Gengler mentioned that they have received comments from Craig Minor's Union but that they are not in a position to act upon it. Chairman Gengler mentioned a letter regarding a Department of Energy grant.

M. VICE CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS -None

N. GOOD AND WELFARE

Mr. Flanders asked whether a Town Meeting could reduce the budget. Chairman Gengler commented that this issue has come up before and that once it is voted on by the BOS it can't be change.

O. ADJOURNMENT

**Motion** was made by John Flanders, **seconded** Loraine Caruso, to adjourn the meeting at 10:10. All were in Favor. *Motion Passes.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer L. Donohue  
Finance Clerk