

TOWN OF CROMWELL  
BOARD OF FINANCE  
PUBLIC HEARING AND SPECIAL MEETING  
TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2009  
CROMWELL TOWN HALL RM 224/225 7:00 PM

RECEIVED FOR FILING  
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TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
CROMWELL, CONN.

*Darlene A. DiProta*  
TOWN CLERK

MINUTES AND RECORD OF VOTES

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

Absent: Michael Gengler (arrives after meeting begins), Loraine Caruso

Vice Chairman Maley calls the Public Hearing to order at 7:13 PM.

There were no public comments. Chairman Maley closes the public hearing at 7:03pm.

Vice Chairman, Ed Maley Jr. calls the Special Meeting to order at 7:15 PM. He states that the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting left off at Item #38 Human Services and the meeting would resume on that Line Item.

**Motion** is made by John Flanders, **seconded** by Jack Henehan to seat alternates Jamie Kiefer and Julius Neto in place of Chairman Gengler and Loraine Caruso.  
All in Favor, Motion Passes

A. Discussion and decisions on the 2009-2010 Board of Selectman's proposed budget, including Debt Service.

Budget Line Item #38 - Human Services

**Motion** is made by John Flanders, **seconded** by Julius Neto to approve Line Item 38 Human Services for \$95,256.  
All in Favor. Motion Passes.

There was some discussion with Theresa Strong about the health center funding. She explains that they are a non-profit agency and look for donations from the area. She comments that the overall Line Item has been reduced.

Budget Line Item #39 - Senior Services

**Motion** is made by Jack Henehan, **seconded** by Julius Neto to approve Line Item 39 Senior Services for \$76,431.  
All in Favor, Motion Passes.

Discussion was held on program and seminar instructors. Theresa Strong explains the difference between weekly programs instructors and special events or programs held throughout the year.

Ms Strong is asked about the funds for the accreditation process, she explains that it is a great honor to be an accredited program and that only a handful of centers in the State are accredited. She also explains that points can be added for grant purposes if the center is accredited, as well as, in the future point may be taken away if the center is not accredited. She comments that the program participation has increased over the years and transportation has leveled out.

Budget Line Item #40-Transportation Services

**Motion** is made by John Flanders, **seconded** by Jack Henehan to approve Line Item 40 Transportation Services for \$91,779.  
All in Favor, Motion Passes.

Questions regarding the transportation repair funding were asked. Ms Strong explains there are times and specific instances when the vehicle must be repaired by outside services due to time constraints for programs. Also she says that because the vehicles are obtained through 5310 program funding it is required that the vehicles must remain on the road.

Vice Chairman, Ed Maley Jr. explains that salary figures are not exact as they do not reflective recent changes.

Ms. Kiefer says the additional monies to cover salaries will be taken from the salary adjustments line item.

Mr. Shingleton states that the more employees that choose the Health Savings Account (HSA), high deductible, health care option the more money the Town will save in healthcare costs and those monies will be used to offset the furloughs that are now set at 5 and 6 days.

Budget Line Item #43 – Library

**Motion** is made by John Flanders, **seconded** by Julius Neto to approve Line Item 43 Library for \$510,466.  
All in Favor, Motion Passes.

Eileen Branciforte describes the library as busy these days with a 9% increase in circulation. She says the client base is about 6,000. A new program to assist people in this economy is Career Express, which will provide interview practice and create job groups.

Chairman Gengler arrives at 7:35 PM.

**Motion** is made by Ed Maley Jr., **seconded** by Jack Henehan to unseat Jamie Keifer and seat Chairman Gengler.  
**All in Favor, Motion Passes**

Budget Line Item #17 - Tax Collector

**Main Motion** is made by Ed Maley Jr., **seconded** by Julius Neto to approve Line Item 17 Tax Collector for \$164,673.  
All in Favor, Motion Passes.

Sharon Ramsey states that the budget cuts include the seasonal help she uses in July mostly and January when volume is high.

Ms. Keifer works closely with the Tax Collector and is concerned about the cut as the extra personnel is needed during the peak times to move the money through the system. She says there is concern that audited issues that were identified from the previous Tax Collector's processing may occur again without the additional help.

**Motion** is made by Ed Maley Jr., **seconded** by Julius Neto to amend Line Item 17, Tax Collector, by adding \$2,000 to cover seasonal employee wages, to be utilized as the Tax Collector identifies the need, for a new bottom line of **\$166,673**.  
All in Favor, Motion Passes

Budget Line Item #35 – Police Department

**Main Motion** is made by John Flanders, **seconded** by Jack Henehan to approve Line Item 35 Police Department for \$2,703,273.  
All in Favor, Motion Passes.

Chief Anthony Salvatore indicates that the uniform cost will be lower than the presented budget projection of 38,525 for a savings of \$1,025, with a new uniform cost of \$37,500. He says gasoline was calculated at a fixed rate of \$1.75 per gallon.

**Motion** is made by John Flanders, **seconded** by Jack Henehan to reduce Line Item 35 Police Department \$1,025 for an amended bottom line of \$2,702,248

Budget Line Item #36 – Animal Control

**Motion** is made by Julius Neto, **seconded** by Jack Henehan to approve Line Item 36 Animal Control for \$78,674.  
All in Favor, Motion Passes.

Mr. Maley comments that the dog funding line is zero. Chief Salvatore explains that the balance has been zero for two years as there has been no funding provided by the state.

Chief Salvatore also explains that the current Veterinarian will not do any more gratis animal care. He explains that Ms. Gagnon is currently looking for another local veterinarian that will provide services at a better rate. He remarks that vet costs are increasing and donations from Pets on Parade, a program Ms Gagnon holds, helps to offset cost, as well as, donations from the Cat Tails organization.

Budget Line Item #34 - Emergency Management

**Motion** is made by Ed Maley Jr., **seconded** by Jack Henehan, to approve Line Item 34 Emergency Management for \$9,540.  
All in Favor, Motion Passes.

Budget Line Item #37 – Health Department

**Main Motion** is made by Julius Neto, **seconded** by Jack Henehan to approve Line Item 37 Health Department for \$150,941.  
All in Favor, Motion Passes.

Mr. Flanders asks if the Town is responding to Federal concerns of bio-terrorism & chemical warfare or is it the Town's concern prompting the request for funding.

Joseph Mazurek says in order to assist Homeland Security that it is unfortunately necessary for us to prepare for such events, as Cromwell is located in a sensitive area. He says in effort to defray costs Wes Bell is involved with the procurement of grant monies from Homeland Security.

Mr. Maley asks for backup information to Health Department's budget that is usually in the budget packet. He does not want the organizations involved to be affected so, he asks that the backup information be provided in future budget packets.

Joseph Mazurek comments that the funding and the organizations are the same as last year.

**Motion** is made by Julius Neto, **seconded** by Jack Henehan to amend the approve Line Item 37 Health Department for \$150,941, with the stipulation that the backup information be provided by the next regularly scheduled Board of Finance meeting.  
All in Favor, Motion Passes.

Budget Line Item #20 – Planning + Zoning Comm

**Motion** is made by Julius Neto, **seconded** by John Flanders to approve Line Item 20 Planning + Zoning Comm for \$2,690.  
All in Favor, Motion Passes.

Line Item #21 – Zoning Board of Appeals

**Motion** is made by Jack Henehan, **seconded** by John Flanders to approve Line Item 21-Zoning Board of Appeals for \$1,100.  
All in Favor, Motion Passes.

Line Item #22 – Inland Wetlands

**Motion** is made by John Flanders, **seconded** by Julius Neto to approve Line Item 22 Inland Wetlands for \$2,685.  
All in Favor, Motion Passes.

A brief discussion regarding Contracted Services was held.

Line Item #23 – Developer/Planner

**Item moved and consolidated** under Budget Line Item 26, **No Action** under Line Item 23 Developer/Planner.

Line Item #24 – Development Compliance

**Motion** is made by Julius Neto, **seconded** by Jack Henehan to approve Line Item 24 Development Compliance for \$68,497.  
All in Favor, Motion Passes.

Line Item #25 – Conservation Comm

**Motion** is made by John Flanders, **seconded** by Julius Neto to approve Line Item 25 Conservation Comm for \$2,640.  
5 Votes-Yes, 1 Abstention (Joe Corlis states he serves on the Committee)  
Motion Passes.

Mr. Maley inquires of the grant funds listed in budget.

Craig Minor explains that if the projected grant money does not come through then no money will be expended from the other budgeted items.

Line Item #26 – Developmental Services/Engineering

**Motion** is made by Jack Henehan, **seconded** by John Flanders to approve Line Item 26 Developmental Services/Engineering for \$366,996.  
4 Votes-Yes, Chairman Gengler, Ed Maley Jr., Joe Corlis, Jack Henehan  
2 Votes-No, John Flanders, Julius Neto  
Motion Passes.

Mr. Shingleton explains the departmental reorganization that occurred in 2008 as Public Works being comprised of the physical services under the direction of Eric Hood as Director of Public Works, and the development services as Conservation, Health, Planning & Zoning, Inland/Wetlands, Engineering and Building Departments under the direction of the Director of Developmental Services, Joseph Mazurek. He states that the current Administrative Clerk position in the Sewer Department will become 100% Sewer and covered by the CWPCA budget. Also, that a new position that was part-time under Public Works will become a full time position under the

Developmental Services budget, and serve as a personal secretary to the Director, Joseph Mazurek, along with the other secretaries that will pool their resources for the Department as a whole.

John Flanders asks if there is a job responsibility change to support the reduction in the Town Planner's pay, he asks why this was done with only this position and not the other position that was a similar situation.

Mr. Shingleton says that he used a salary survey as a guide for the town planner salary recommendation, and that the reasoning behind the reduction was that the restructure caused that position to fit the criteria of a town planner and not that of a director of planning. He also says that due to the other person being so close to retirement that it was handle differently.

Mr. Neto explains that he serves as Liaison to the Inland/Wetlands Committee and he asks about the negotiation of the planner position wage reduction. He says that it is not about the person, but rather the marketability of the position that is his main concern. He wants to be sure that in the future the Town would be able to attract a person with expertise in handling the issues of the various commissions they would be responsible for advising.

Mr. Shingleton said that the Union and Town did not act on this position in the last negotiations, but that it was on the table as it was part of the BOS budget recommendation.

Ms. Kiefer states that she feels the two positions should be handled consistently.

Mr. Shingleton explains that there is a Tentative Agreement (TA) on the table, signed by both sides, and that an attached Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) states that if there is a material change in either direction as a result of the BOF budget meetings that both sides have the right to rescind the TA and go back to into negotiations.

Chairman Gengler calls for a recess to caucus at 8:35 PM.  
Chairman Gengler calls the meeting to order at 9:02 PM

#### Line Item #27 – Building Inspection

**Motion** is made by Ed Maley Jr., **seconded** by Julius Neto to approve Line Item 27 Building Inspection for \$152,863.

All in Favor, Motion Passes.

#### Line Item #1 – First Selectman

**Motion** is made by Julius Neto, **seconded** by Jack Henehan to approve Line Item 1 First Selectman for \$241,581.

All in Favor, Motion Passes.

Mr. Shingleton comments that he is taking a furlough with the other personnel in his Department.

Discussion is held on the part-time and full-time wage line items, it is determined that furloughs affect the figure provided.

#### Line Item #4 – Economic Development

**Motion** is made by Julius Neto, **seconded** by Jack Henehan to approve Line Item 4 Economic Development for \$40,200.  
All in Favor, Motion Passes.

Mr. Shingleton explains that the position was change as the chosen applicant was not approved, but that he is doing consulting work for the Town for approximately 8-10 hours a week and a team approach seems to yielding working. He also says that they have scaled back on promotional costs for the upcoming TPC Golf Tournament. He says he plans to rely on the local Chamber of Commerce, in Middletown, as it has been the most beneficial.

#### Line Item #5 – Board of Finance

**Motion** was made by John Flanders, **seconded** by Ed Maley Jr. to approve Line Item 5 Board of Finance for \$29,660.  
All in Favor, Motion Passes.

#### Line Item #6 – Capitol Expenditure Comm

**Motion** is made by Julius Neto, **seconded** by John Flanders to approve Line Item 5 Capitol Expenditure Comm for \$83.  
All In Favor, Motion Passes.

#### Line Item #7 – Charter Revision

**Motion** is made by Jack Henehan, **seconded** by Julius Neto to approve Line Item 7 Charter Revision for \$571.  
All in Favor, Motion Passes.

#### Line Item #10 – Donation & Dues

**Motion** is made by Julius Neto, **seconded** by Jack Henehan to approve Line Item 10 Donation & Dues for \$38,050.  
All in Favor, Motion Passes.

Line Item #11 – Board of Selectman

**Motion** is made by Julius Neto, **seconded** by Jack Henehan to approve Line Item 11 Board of Selectman for \$9,384.  
All In Favor, Motion Passes.

Line Item #45 – Debt Service

**Motion** is made by Julius Neto, **seconded** by Jack Henehan to approve Line Item 45 Debt Service for \$3,698,257.  
All in Favor, Motion Passes.

**Motion** is made by John Flanders, **seconded** by Ed Maley Jr., to approve the General Government's budget bottom line in the amount of 12,880,229.  
All in Favor, Motion Passes.

Mr. Shingleton remarks that the BOS recommendations to the General Government Budget resulted in a decrease of \$107,963.

Line Item #46 – Board of Education

**Motion** is made by Julius Neto, **seconded** by Jack Henehan to approve Line Item 46 Board of Education for \$25,000,000.  
All in Favor, Motion Passes.

Superintendent, Dr. Matt Bisceglia, comments that the budget presented has been reduced as much as it can be. He sites other board of education budgets that were approved with increases much larger than the .98 increase (less than 1%) that is represented in Cromwell's BOE budget. He explains that he is under obligation to honor union bargain agreements currently in place. He explains that two positions have been reduced, and that he wants to maintain services and personnel. He says he would like to reserve any additional personnel wage considerations such as furloughs and other cost saving measures for next year's budget should it be necessary.

Chairman Gengler acknowledges that this is the lowest budget increase he has seen since pink slips were handed out in 1992, but that in these economic times of pending state/local tax increases and reductions in tax credits he feels that a reduction of \$200,000 to the BOE budget is warranted. He is recommending that Mr. Bisceglia go back to the unions and ask for wage concessions so that services to the Town's children won't be affect by any budget reductions

Several Members express their concern over the Town's financial situation. They remark that the Town employees have come to the table with substantial concessions including taking a zero wage increase for the 2009-2010 fiscal year and it is anticipated that the BOE will also.

A lengthy discussion is held.

Chairman Gengler calls for a recess to caucus at 9:42 PM.  
Chairman Gengler calls the meeting to order at 10:10 PM.

Discussion is held regarding the Federal stimulus package.

Mr. Flanders comments that due to funding the most vulnerable students will be care for.

Mr. Henehan asks if there has been concession discussion with the Unions. Dr. Bisceglia says there has.

Mr. Maley says he feels this is the year to cut back and not hold back on reserves.

Mr. Corlis, BOE Liaison, commends the BOE for doing an excellent job holding the line with the budget, but he doesn't want to see the Town employees having to pay, with their concessions, for the BOE employee wage increases.

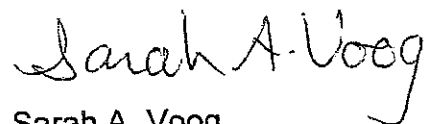
**Motion** is made by Ed Maley Jr., **seconded** by John Flanders to reduce Line Item 46 Board of Education from \$25,197,997 for a bottom line of \$25,000,000.  
All in Favor, Motion Passes.

**Motion** is made by John Flanders, **seconded** by Ed Maley Jr., to amend the General Government budget bottom line from \$12,880,229 to \$12,880,230.  
All in Favor, Motion Passes.

**Motion** is made by Julius Neto, **seconded** by John Flanders to approve the General Government budget of \$12,880,230, Debt Service budget of \$3,698,257, and the BOE budget of \$25,000,000 for a Total Town Budget of **\$41,578,487** to be presented for a Town meeting and vote.  
All in Favor, Motion Passes

Chairman makes a **motion** to adjourn the, **Seconded** by Julius Neto. Meeting adjourned at 10:32 PM

Respectfully Submitted,



Sarah A. Voog  
Finance Clerk