

Town of Cromwell, CT  
Board of Finance  
Regular Meeting  
Thursday, February 23, 2017  
Town Hall Room 7:00 P.M. Room 224/225

**Minutes and Record of Vote**

Present: Chairman John Henehan, Vice Chairman Julius Neto, Joseph Corlis, Amanda Drew, and Allan Spotts

Not Present: Bob Milardo, Alternate Dan Kelly and Alternate Jon Dzurka

Also Present: Town Manager Anthony Salvatore, Finance Director Marianne Sylvester, Board of Ed Finance Director Eve Spencer and Steve Rose

**Call To Order** – Chairman John Henehan called the Regular Meeting dated February 23, 2017 to order at 7:01 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance** – The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

**Seat Alternates** – No alternates were needed to be seated.

**Approval of Agenda** – A motion was made by Mr. Neto and seconded by Ms. Drew to approve the agenda dated February 23, 2017. *All in Favor – Motion Passed*

**Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings** –

**Regular Meeting January 26, 2017** – A motion was made by Mr. Neto and seconded by Ms. Drew to approve the amended minutes of the Regular Meeting dated January 26, 2017. *1 abstained and 4 approved – Motion Passed*

Changes to the January 26, 2017 meeting was on Page 4, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph changing the dollar amount from \$100,00 to \$100,000.

**Citizens Report** – None

**Report of the Town Manager** – Town Manager Anthony Salvatore reported on that the street light conversion is completed. An approximate savings of \$70,000 per year is expected after a maintenance program has been established to cover any repairs needed. A savings is already being noted as a result of the conversion.

Mr. Salvatore noted that the Town lost another \$85,000. This was money that was committed to the schools. He noted that the budget was based on this money and now it will not be received for this fiscal year. This is on top of the \$84,000 already lost. He has requested a meeting with Dr. Talty to discuss what can be done.

The Town Manager portion of next year's budget was finished and will begin on Monday to present to the Town Council. Workshops are scheduled for Monday and Wednesday night. A budget has been put together based on what the taxpayers expect and desire. Ms. Sylvester can give specifics. This year's budget still looks very good and Ms. Sylvester will give specifics on it. The exception is for legal fees. Which is for the labor attorney for the three labor contracts and the Town attorney for various legal issues. Funds may be transferred from other accounts to offset the numbers.

Questions and discussion took place in regards to the lighting maintenance contracts. It was also asked when the news of the \$85,000 cut took place and it was noted that the news was received on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Further discussion took place with the Board expressing concerns and disappointment in the State as to how they are handling the finances of the State and expecting the municipalities to pick up the slack. It was also mentioned that the Town of Cromwell has done all the right things to build up a stable and concrete financial base for the Town and now is being punished as a result.

**Report of the Finance Director** – Finance Director Marianne Sylvester reported on the current year's budget. The expenditures are expected to come in as budgeted with a couple of areas that she is watching carefully (legal being one but speculates we may be alright). Ms. Sylvester discussed the FY17 revenue and stated the Town will be receiving another decrease in the anticipated ECS grant from the State. This is due to the State Department of Education's adjustment base on the Excess Cost grant received by COE in FY16. The Town Manager will be requesting a meeting with the BOE Superintendent to discuss the impact of this decrease in funding.

Ms. Sylvester also presented information regarding the Governor's proposed State Aid to municipalities for FY18. A lengthy discussion was held regarding the impact of the reductions and changes in municipal aid. There is still a lot of uncertainty and we will have to wait to get more clarity on several issues.

**Report of The Tax Collector** – In the absence of Tax Collector Doug Sienna Ms. Sylvester reported that the collections report included in the packet provided prior to the meeting. Collections are coming in strong.

**Old Business** – None

**New Business** –

**1. Update on Public Act 13-60, pertaining to non-educational expenditures within the Board of Education.** BOE Finance Director Eve Spencer provided a copy of the Public Act 13-60. She indicated that the purpose of this memo is to provide an itemized list of estimated costs for the maintenance of the public schools for the upcoming fiscal year. Specifics can be found in this report provided. Ms. Spencer highlighted some of the areas and answered questions presented to her.

**2. Discussion and action to authorize the Board of Education to enter into a 4-year financing agreement with Eversource.** A motion was made by Mr. Neto and seconded by Ms. Drew to authorize the Board of Education to enter into a 4-year financing agreement with Eversource. ***All in favor – Motion Passed***

Steve Rose reported on the CHS Lighting Upgrade Project. A memo was provided along with an Executive Summary from Eversource outlining the project and its savings. The Board of Ed already approved this project and is looking for approval from Finance Board. Mr. Rose answered questions presented by the members of the Finance Board.

**Board of Education-Liaison Report** – Mr. Corlis reported that the Board of Ed met for special meeting on February 7, 2017 and the Board of Ed Director Eve Spencer stated that there are no major changes to the budget. It was reported that there was a small transfer from the oil account to the communications account in the amount of \$7,200. The Superintendent presented her proposed budget for 2017-2018 with a 2.75% increase. He also noted that the Chairman of the BOE invited the State Representative to the meeting on February 28, 2017 to get their input as to what is going on in the legislature and this concludes his report.

Mr. Corlis answered questions one of which asked about the changes that will be taking place in the Board of Ed. Mr. Corlis answered that Dr. Talty is retiring as of June 30, 2017. The Board wishes her the best and asked that be passed on to her.

**Chairman's Comments** – None

**Vice-Chairman's Comments** – None

**Good and Welfare** – None

**Adjournment** – A motion was made by Mr. Neto and seconded by Mr. Spotts to adjourn meeting at 8:12 p.m. *All in Favor – Motion Passed*

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Hardacker

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Recording Clerk