

Town of Cromwell, CT
Board of Finance
Regular Meeting
Thursday, April 23, 2020
Town Hall Room 7:00 P.M. Room 224/225

Minutes and Record of Vote

Present: Chairman Julius Neto, Vice-Chairman Allan Spotts, Ed Maley Jr., Steve Wygonowski, Dan Kelly, John Ireland and Alternate Anne Hulick.

Also Present: Town Manager Anthony Salvatore, Finance Director Marianne Sylvester and Town Engineer Jon Harriman (virtually)

Called To Order – Chairman Julius Neto called the Regular Meeting dated April 23, 2020 to order at 7:02 P.M.

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

Seat Alternates – No alternates were seated.

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
May 15, 2020 11:15A
JoAnn Doyle
TOWN CLERK
CROMWELL, CT

Approval of Agenda – A motion was made by Mr. Spotts and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve the agenda dated April 23, 2020. *All in favor – Motion Passed.*

Approval of Minutes of Previous –

1. **Regular Meeting, March 26, 2020** - A Motion was made by Mr. Spotts and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting dated March 26, 2020. *All in favor – Motion Passed.*
2. **Public Hearing, April 1, 2020** – A Motion was made by Mr. Spotts and seconded by Mr. Wygonowski to approve the minutes from the Public Hearing dated April 1, 2020. *All in favor – Motion Passed.*
3. **Public Hearing, April 6, 2020** – A motion was made by Mr. Maley and seconded by Mr. Wygonowski to table the approval of the minutes for the Public Hearing dated April 6, 2020. *All in favor – Motion Passed.*
4. **Special Meeting, April 6, 2020** – A motion was made by Mr. Maley and seconded by Mr. Wygonowski to table the approval of the minutes for the Special Meeting dated April 6, 2020. *All in favor – Motion Passed.*
5. **Special Meeting, April 7, 2020** - A motion was made by Mr. Maley and seconded by Mr. Wygonowski to table the approval of the minutes for the Special Meeting dated April 7, 2020. *All in favor – Motion Passed.*

Citizens Comments – None

Report of the Town Manager – Town Manager Anthony Salvatore reported on the following:

- There are no major concerns at this time with the budget except he is keeping a close eye on Legal. The transfer of funds is expected.
- Employees are abiding by the new policies set due to the pandemic.

- Highlighted on the progress of the new business coming into town and the new sub-divisions.
- Work continuing on Coles Road .
- Mr. Spotts noted how nice the new parking lot by Pierson Park looks. Mr. Salvatore noted that he has been getting a lot of good feedback on this project. The timing of the work that was done did not affect the local business since they were closed due to the pandemic.
- Mr. Salvatore noted that no decision has been made regarding the old Water Dept. building. Town Council is still discussing. Noted that it is not sellable for nonconformance.
- Questioned if the status with the Red Lion has changed. Will they be improving or selling? Mr. Salvatore did not have any status on this matter.

Report of the Finance Director – Finance Director Marianne Sylvester reported that Legal will be looking to transfer approximately \$20,000-\$30,000. It will be on next month's agenda. Ms. Sylvester also provided Budget Report as of the end of March 2020. She noted that there is a surplus in Employee Benefits, etc. Discussion on the General Expense and if there were any concerns – feedback from Board of Ed. It was noted that Board of Ed is expecting a \$350,000 - \$500,000 surplus depending on their legal fees. Difficult to project at this time. Also noted that this should have no impact on this year's State Aid.

Mr. Maley questioned \$324509 favorable amount. Wanted to know if \$350,000 is projected by year end? Ms. Sylvester noted that she noted the lowest amount because of the uncertainties due to the pandemic.

Report of The Tax Collector – Refer to the Collections Report included in your packet through the end of March 2020.

Old Business – Discussion and action to adopt Other Fund budgets for FY 2020-21:

- Dog Fund: \$23,900** – A motion was made by Mr. Spotts and seconded by Mr. Wygonowski to approve \$23,900 for the Dog Fund. *All in favor – Motion Passed.*
- Sidewalk Fund: \$7,500** – A motion was made by Mr. Spotts and seconded by Mr. Wygonowski to approve \$7,500 for the Sidewalk Fund. *All in favor – Motion Passed.*

New Business –

- Discussion and action to appropriate an additional \$1,310,600 for the North Road Extension Bridge project. This project is 80% funded through a Federal grant.** A motion was made by Mr. Spotts and seconded by Mr. Maley to approve \$1,310,600 for the North Road Extension Bridge project. *All in favor – Motion Passed.*

Town Engineer Jon Harriman provide a memo for the replacement of Bridge # 05939 North Road Extension over Coles Brook that details the factors contributing to the increase. He details what needs to be done and the challenges to get it done. Mr. Harriman also included any documentation he had for this project (application, memos, drawing and itemized lists, etc.). Ms. Sylvester noted that the funds needs to be placed for the project and then will be reimbursed 80%. Additional discussion took place with specific questions that Mr. Harriman answered.

Mr. Maley complimented Mr. Harriman, Town Manager and Finance Director for the package included in package for the Finance Board's review.

- Discussion and action on 2020-21 budget.**

- a. **Adopt the 2020-21 Town Budget** – Mayor Faienza sent a letter to the Board of Finance which states that the Town Council unanimously carried the motion directing the adoption of the 2020-21 Town Budget and the setting of the mill rate as directed by the Connecticut Governor's Executive Order No. 71, paragraph 13.

Discussion regarding the Town of Cromwell's 2020-2021 budget took place. Talked about the Board of Education budget for the most part and how the cut suggested would affect the students. Asked how the pandemic is affecting this year's budget and how it may affect next year's budget and is there enough contingency built in. Asked as how the Board of Ed's surplus will be handled. In the past it was given back to the town. This year it was suggested to reapply into next year's budget. Still in discussion and will be determined at a later date.

Discussed the Fund Balance balance due to the uncertainty. It was noted that as funds become available that it would be determined as to how it will be used. Any surplus will be used for CNRs and Willowbrook Project. State Aid is still up in the air for next year's budget. Tax Collection is also uncertain if all will be received. With all said what is in the Fund Balance will not cover the 90 day tax deferrals. Mr. Maley noted that he would rather see the funds when available to go to education instead of road work (at least for the short term).

Mr. Neto supports the Board of Ed's budget as it stands. Not our decision if superintendent decides to eliminate personnel. Funds can be reallocated due to the school being closed. Mr. Kelly mentioned that in the past the surplus was applied to capital expenses but asked if it can be reappropriated to use toward operating expenses. All is being considered and will be determined at a later date depending how and when funds are available.

Mr. Neto acknowledged Ms. Hulick and asked if she had anything to add. She stated that she is looking forward to serving as an alternate.

A motion was made by Mr. Spotts and seconded by Mr. Wygonowski to approve \$17,225,70 for General Government. *All in favor – Motion Passed.*

A motion was made by Mr. Spotts and seconded by Mr. Wygonowski to approve \$3,575,200 for Debt Service. *All in favor – Motion Passed.*

A motion was made by Mr. Spotts and seconded by Mr. Wygonowski to approve \$31,805,990 for Board of Education. A new motion was made by Mr. Maley and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve \$31,890,890 for the Board of Education. *No Votes from Mr. Wygonowski, Mr. Spotts, Mr. Ireland and Yes votes from Mr. Kelly and Mr. Maley – Motion Did Not Pass.*

A new motion was made by Mr. Spotts and seconded by Mr. Wygonowski to approve the original amount of \$31,805,990 for the Board of Education. *Yes votes from Mr. Ireland, Mr. Spotts and Mr. Wygonowski and No votes from Mr. Maley and Mr. Kelly – Motion Passed.*

- b. **Set 2020-2021 Mill Rate** – A motion was made by Mr. Spotts and seconded by Mr. Wygonowski to approve a Mill Rate of 30.33%. *All approved (Mr. Wygonowski, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Spotts, Mr. Ireland and Mr. Maley) – Motion Passed.*

Board of Education-Liaison Report – None

Chairman's Comments – Chairman Neto appreciated all the hard work by all. This year was exceptionally challenging having to make tough decisions. He noted that he was proud to be associated with this group. Team effort is exceptional. Looking forward to the upcoming year.

Vice-Chairman's Comments – Vice-Chairman Spotts echoed what the Chairman stated and appreciates the hard work by all during difficult times. Decisions made was what needed to be done and understand what the taxpayers are going through.

Good and Welfare – Alternate Anne Hulick was sworn in by Mr. Male and was congratulated by all Board members.

Mr. Kelly also noted his appreciation for the hard work by everyone and asked that everyone stays safe.

Adjournment – A motion was made by Mr. Spotts and seconded by Mr. Maley to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m. *All in Favor – Motion Passed*

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Hardacker

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Recording Clerk