

Town of Cromwell, CT
Board of Finance
Regular Meeting
Thursday, June 28, 2018
Town Hall Room 7:00 P.M. Room 219

Minutes and Record of Vote

Present: Chairman John Henehan, Vice Chairman Julius Neto, Amanda Drew, Steve Wygonowski and Ed Maley Jr.

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

Also Present: Town Manager Anthony Salvatore, Finance Director Marianne Sylvester and Public Works Director Lou Spina

Called To Order – Chairman John Henehan called the Regular Meeting dated June 28, 2018 to order at 7:01 p.m.

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

Seat Alternates – No alternates present to seat.

Approval of Agenda – A motion was made by Mr. Neto and seconded by Ms. Drew to approve the agenda dated June 28, 2018. *All in Favor – Motion Passed.*

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings –

Regular Meeting May 24, 2018 – A motion was made by Ms. Drew and seconded by Mr. Wygonowski to approve the minutes as amended of the Regular Meeting dated May 24, 2018. *4 Approved and 1 Abstained*

Page 1 under “Seat Alternates” – Change the first sentence to read “A motion was made by Mr. Maley and seconded by Mr. Wygonowski to seat Alternate Dan Kelly. *All in Favor – Motion Passed.*

Then approximately an hour later a motion was made by Mr. Maley and seconded by Mr. Wygonowski to seat Alternate Jon Dzurka. *All in Favor – Motion Passes.*

Page 1 under “Report of the Town Manager” – Change on the third line 1.25% to .25%

Page 4 under “Board of Education – Liaison Report” – Change the wording for the 4th line of the 3rd Paragraph to read “Unfortunately it will not be happening this year since approval from Town Council, Board of Finance and a Special Meeting that needed to be held did not take place.”

Citizens Report –

- Mayor Enzo Faienza of 20 Horse Run Hill Road spoke in support of two items. The first for the appropriation of \$65,000 to refurbish the existing truck that has a good motor instead of purchasing a brand new one for almost \$200,000. Mr. Faienza supports this appropriation because it will enable the town to save money by refurbishing a truck that has a good running motor and just needs replacements of body parts and give the town many years of service from it.

Mayor Faienza also expressed his support for the purchase of a new scoreboard for Pierson Park. He stated that not only will the sports programs benefit from it but also the residents of Cromwell. The existing scoreboard is on its last leg and may make it much longer. The scoreboard that is being considered is one that can also be used for showing movies and used for advertising.

Mayor Faienza strongly urges the Finance Board to consider approving the funds for the appropriation for both items noted above.

- Samantha Slade of 128 Nooks Hill Road spoke of her support for the new scoreboard. She expressed how not only would the sports programs benefit from the use of the scoreboard but it possible uses for the residents of the town. She mentioned that she agrees to go with the mid-range priced scoreboard because of its capabilities.

Ms. Slade also was approached by a citizen who requested that she read this letter of her support. Ann Grasso wrote a letter expressing her support for the new scoreboard. Ms. Grasso noted in her letter that the town will be well-represented when out-of-towners come to Cromwell for a game. She mentioned that not only will the sports programs benefit but can also serve other purposes (i.e.; show artist's works of the local talent, show concerts/movies and use for advertising which will generate revenue to help defray the cost for the programs needed to run the scoreboard).

- Al Waters of 86 South Street. He too read a letter he submitted to the Town Council for the support of the new scoreboard. He noted that he is a big supporter of the sports programs in town. He noted that keeping kids active in sports keeps them motivated and out of trouble. They will not be hanging around on the streets looking for trouble. Giving the programs equipment and support gets the kids more interested in the programs the town has to offer. Mr. Waters also urges the Finance Board to approve the funds needed to purchase the new scoreboard.
- Michael Atwell of 18 Brittany Circle. Mr. Atwell noted that he is the Co-President of the Booster Club. He mentioned some of the previous improvements made to the Pierson Park area and noted how the new scoreboard would be a good addition. He urges that the Town invest in its future and support the sports programs by purchasing the new scoreboard.
- Brian Dufrain of 65 Black Birch Drive. Mr. Dufrain explained the process of how the decision for the new scoreboard came about. He detailed the quoting process. He noted that meetings were held discussing the vendors and their quotes. He visited other towns that have the scoreboard being considered to find out the pros and cons. He had the vendor (Mike

Flynn) come in case anyone had questions regarding the scoreboard. Mr. Dufrain also urges the Board to approve the purchase of the new scoreboard.

- Randall Bennett (Coach of the Cromwell High Football Team) – Mr. Bennett showed passion for the program. He mentioned that he was part of the first football team. He states how hard the team works and how he wants the program to grow. Purchasing the scoreboard shows the team that town cares and supports the program. The program has grown and showing the support make the team work harder. He urges the Board to approve the purchase of the scoreboard.

Report of the Town Manager – Town Manager Anthony Salvatore reported that the tax bills were mailed and the insert explaining the change in the mill rate was included. He reported that the last year's budget is looking good and that the Finance Director will give more details on it. He also mentioned that Ms. Sylvester is in the process of closing last year's fiscal budget and transitioning into the new fiscal budget.

Report of the Finance Director – Finance Director Marianne Sylvester provided budget reports through the end of May 2018 and provided one as of June 20, 2018. Revenue came in well despite the short fall in State Aid of \$170,000. With tax collections and building inspection permits revenue is higher than what was expected. Expected revenue should exceed \$350,000. Expenditures coming in under budget (employee benefits and wages played a big part in this). Ms. Sylvester detailed some of the areas where salaries affected the budget. There was discussion for some of the line items with high percentages and Ms. Sylvester explained that timing was a factor. She also noted that there was a big saving in health insurance and savings in wages due to vacancies in some departments. New businesses (Example: Shop-Rite and the new car wash) coming in to Cromwell affected the numbers for Planning & Zoning, Building Permits, etc.

Further discussion took place regarding the Board of Ed budget and why they had such a big surplus at the end of the year. Ms. Sylvester explained that the Board of Ed usually has a big chunk of wages paid in June that does not hit the books until July. She explained that the budget is reconciled in June and will not show the payout. She mentioned that the Board of Ed is on a different fiscal year than the Town. She also noted that the Board of Ed assures that they will have a surplus that is usually rolled back to the Town's General Fund Balance. Approximately \$32,500 is expected to be returned to the General Fund. Additional discussion took place regarding how the surplus is used. Mr. Maley questioned this trying to understand the process. He lists three options: 1) Money is given back to the Finance Board. 2) The Board of Ed spends the money and not give anything back to the Town and 3) Return to the Town to have Finance Board vote as to how it is spent. Mr. Maley also expressed his dislike as to the timing and how the new appropriations were presented.

Report of The Tax Collector – Finance Director commented on the Tax Collector's report in Mr. Sienna's absence. The Tax Collector's Collection Report is as of the end of May 2018. She noted that they came in slightly over budget at 101.3%

Old Business – None

New Business –

- 1. Discussion and action to appropriate \$65,000 within the CNR Fund to refurbish Tri-axel.** A motion was made by Ms. Drew and seconded by Mr. Neto to approve within the CNR fund \$65,000 to refurbish the Tri-axel. *All in favor – Motion Passed*

Public Works Director Lou Spina provided a proposal from Park City Truck Equipment. This proposal explains the cost for the refurbishing of the Tri-axel. Mr. Spina explained how the Town is saving thousands of dollars refurbishing the truck instead of having to purchase a new one for almost \$200,000. The motor for the existing truck still have many years left and thought the money be better spent to fix the existing truck.

Mr. Maley not pleased that this expenditure was not mentioned in a previous meeting and why it took so long to be presented to the Finance Board. It was explained that the Tri-axel went down unexpectedly and is not operational. Further discussion took place asking if this project could replace another that was already approved or push back a project that was approved into next year. It was mentioned that the surplus will be applied to offset the cost. Mr. Wygonowski suggested that a discussion should take place as how situations of last minute projects be reviewed and see what other projects may be pushed back to accommodate the unexpected expenditure.

- 2. Discussion and action regarding replacement football scoreboard.**
 - a. Transfer \$65,000 from General Fund fund balance to the CNR Fund fund balance (BOE to “return \$32,000 at close of fiscal year to General Fund fund balance to support this purchase).** A motion was made by Mr. Neto and seconded by Ms. Drew to approve the transfer of \$65,000 from General Fund fund balance to the CNR Fund fund balance for the purchase of the new scoreboard. *4 Approved and 1 Against (Ed Maley) – Motion Passed.*
 - b. Appropriate \$65,000 within the CNR Fund for the replacement football scoreboard.** A motion was made by Ms. Drew and seconded by Mr. Wygonowski to appropriate \$65,000 within the CNR Fund for the replacement football scoreboard. *All in Favor – Motion Passed.*

Discussion took place questioning if there is a maintenance agreement and its cost. It was noted that the scoreboard would be under warranty and that there would be no cost for 5 years. Also discussed it potential to generate revenue (from advertising, etc.). Questioned if the scoreboard provides audio as well as video. It was noted that audio will use the existing system.

If approved, it was noted that it will need to meet the purchasing criteria and go out for state bid before going forward. Plans to have scoreboard in place for the first game of the 2018 season. Also, not that the Boosters will continue to support and help with any additional costs for programs to run scoreboard.

Board of Education-Liaison Report – Ms. Drew reported that not much was going on. Mentioned that they will have a surplus and discussed what they will do with it. It was mentioned that they had a few unexpected expenditures that were able to absorb with their surplus (For example: the fire panel had to be replaced).

Discussion took place as to how the Board of Ed comes up with the surplus and how it is to be used.

Chairman's Comments – Chairman John Henehan thanks for taking us through this meeting. He also thanked the board members for showing up and making quorum.

Vice-Chairman's Comments – None

Good and Welfare – Mr. Maley would like to introduce some sort of resolution to defund a certain number of capital projects. To get it down to a number where we are not appropriating funds so late in the fiscal year. He not sure how it will work and will give some thought to it. He is looking for recommendations from the Board.

Adjournment – A motion was made by Mr. Neto and seconded by Ms. Drew to adjourn meeting at 8:20 p.m. *All in Favor – Motion Passed*

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Hardacker

Cynthia Hardacker
Recording Clerk