

Town of Cromwell, CT  
Board of Finance  
Public Hearing  
Tuesday, March 31, 2015  
Woodside Intermediate School @ 7:00 PM

RECEIVED FOR FILING  
4/7 2015 at 11:13 A.M.  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
CROMWELL, CONN.

*Gloria Prendergast,*  
TOWN CLERK *Asst.*

**Minutes**

Present: Chairman John Henehan, Amanda Drew, Joseph Corlis, Ed Wenners, Bob Milardo, Alternate Dan Delisle and Alternate Dan Kelly

Also Present: Finance Director Marianne Sylvester, Acting Town Manager Chief Anthony Salvatore, Superintendent Dr. Paula Talty, members of the Board of Education, Town Staff and members of the public

Chairman Henehan called the Public Hearing to order at 7:00 p.m.

Finance Director Marianne Sylvester read the public hearing notice dated March 19, 2015.

Chairman Henehan said that Dr. Talty will discuss the Board of Education budget then we will open the floor up to questions. He said that Chief Anthony Salvatore would present the town budget with questions after the presentation.

Dr. Talty mentioned that the members of the Board of Education and the leadership team were present. She discussed annual factors that affect the budget (Enhancements to support student learning, Common Core State Standards and maintaining a safe school environment). Dr. Talty also went over areas of focus for 2015/16 and said that educational reform will continue. She went on to discuss budget priorities and said the major increases are in tuition, pupil transportation, certified personnel and non-certified personnel. Dr. Talty stated that they are proposing a 4.21% increase of \$1,149,433.

Dr. Talty said the presentation she gave is also available in the Town Hall or on their website.

Chairman Henehan asked if any members of the public would like to come forward to speak regarding the Board of Education's budget. No one came forward.

Chief Anthony Salvatore presented the General Government budget. The budget is set at \$15,677,537 (a 1/94% increase or \$282,956 over 2014/15 budget – not including the CNR amount). Additionally \$92,000 reduction in Employee Benefits-Health insurance recommended (reducing budget increase to 1.3% or \$190,956). The Town Council/Town Manager eliminated the Human Resources Director position and changed the part-time position to a full-time executive assistant position in the Town Manager's budget. Legal Expenses reflect an increase in Labor Relations budget line due to three (3) union contracts to be negotiated in Spring 2016. The town Manager will monitor the use of Town Attorney. Solid Waste/Transfer Station budget reflects a reduction in

reimbursement program for disposal costs. Utility Expense increases due to rising Eversource rate impacts this budget with an increase of \$25,000 in electricity. Due to the wide spread use of natural gas, this budget line will also show an increase. Also, The Town Manager will be evaluating opportunities to acquire streetlight fixtures and convert to LED lighting to obtain savings. Recreation Department reflects the successful implementation of the revolving fund. Parks Maintenance reports an increase in part-time wages for seasonal help due to the increase use of fields and parks.

Chief Anthony Salvatore also presented some information on Town Revenue. An additional \$55,000 is included in Revenue for the Transfer Station's permit fees. Governor's proposal for State Aid to Cromwell is increased slightly (approximately \$17,000). The Grand List increase of 1.4%, is the largest increase since 2007.

Chief Salvatore said the debt service for 2014/15 was \$3,724,115 and is budgeted for \$3,882,952 for 2015/16. Town is required to make annual payments for existing bond obligations and Willowbrook Road project.

He summarized by saying that the budget was created with every effort to maintain programs and services to the community with the intention of keeping the tax impact to a minimum.

Chairman Henehan asked if any member of the public wanted to come forward to speak or ask questions.

Mr. Bob Jahn of 3 Woodside Road asked about the Capital Improvement Program. Chief Salvatore explained that our Town Charter requires the Capital Improvement Program be presented as part of the operating budget. Historically, the requests have been funded through the fund balance of the General Fund and it is anticipated that the same will be done for 2015/2016.

No one else from the public came forward to speak or ask questions.

Chairman Henehan thanked Dr. Talty and Chief Anthony Salvatore for their presentations.

Chairman Henehan adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Cynthia Hardacker  
Recording Clerk