

**TOWN OF CROMWELL - BOARD OF FINANCE  
SPECIAL MEETING  
TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2015  
CROMWELL HIGH SCHOOL - LIBRARY  
8:10 p.m. (after referendum votes are tallied)**

**Minutes and Record of Votes**

**Present:** Chairman Jack Henehan, Julius Neto, Amanda Drew, Bob Milardo, Ed Weners, Joe Corlis, Alternate Dan Kelly, Alternate Dan Delisle

**Also Present:** Finance Director Marianne Sylvester, Acting Town Manager Chief Anthony Salvatore, Tax Collector Doug Sienna, Mayor Enzo Faienzo (arrived at 8:20pm).

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Henehan at 8:14pm.

B. SEAT ALTERNATES - none

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion and decisions on the 2015-16 budget based upon the results of the budget referendum. Should the budget not be approved, action to recommend a new budget to a subsequent referendum.

A **motion** was made by Julius Neto and **seconded** by Amanda Drew to discuss and make decisions on the 2015/16 budget based on the referendum. *All were in favor; the motion passed.*

Ms. Sylvester said that the town budget was passed with 236 yes votes and 142 no's. The Board of Education budget was passed with 233 yes and 145 no's and the Debt service passed with 273 yes and 104 no's.

2. Discussion and decisions on setting the mill rate for fiscal year 2015-16 should the entire budget be approved.

A **motion** was made by Bob Milardo and **seconded** by Julius Neto to begin discussion and decisions for setting the mill rate for 2015/16. *All were in favor; the motion passed.*

Ms. Sylvester handed out the revenue figures. She said the State Aid based on the appropriations committee came in a bit higher than budgeted. She also said the tax collector is less than certain with his numbers. She said the Public Works number includes the new transfer station fee. There was discussion on how many people they think will purchase the \$25 transfer station permit. Chief Salvatore said this is a very conservative number. He also said he is not at liberty to

discuss some ongoing issues they are trying to resolve with some condo complexes but that could bring in additional revenue.

Ms. Sylvester said the total revenue without tax is \$6,819,469.

Mr. Sienna said the current collection rate is 101.60% of budget. He said there is \$42,221 in negative balances so it is really slightly over 100%. He said they will see a 20% reduction in multiple previous years. He said there is \$245,000 in outstanding real estate taxes from 2013 that we will hopefully collect in 2014/15. He said the following amounts were outstanding for previous years. 2013=\$528,000, 2012=\$144,000, 2011=\$52,540, 2009=\$25,000. He said that 98.75% is workable and he wouldn't want to go up from that.

a) Approve projected revenue other than taxation.

A **motion** was made by Bob Milardo and **seconded** by Julius Neto for total projected revenue other than taxation to be \$6,819,469. *All were in favor; the motion passed.*

b) Approve Senior Tax Deferral amount.

Ms. Sylvester said that based on the Tax Assessor \$65,000 should be set aside. She said they have received fewer applications than previous years.

A **motion** was made by Julius Neto and **seconded** by Amanda Drew to approve \$65,000 for the senior tax deferral amount. *All were in favor; the motion passed.*

Ms. Sylvester said the circuit breaker is \$75,000 and the State reimburses us.

c) Approve amount to be used from Fund Balance.

Ms. Sylvester said she recommends the capital items totaling \$1,005,793 be taken from the Fund Balance. She said this would include part of the 10% of the Willowbrook project and the CNR requests.

A **motion** was made by Ed Wenners and **seconded** by Julius Neto to approve \$1,005,793 to be used from the Fund Balance. *All were in favor; the motion passed.*

d) Approve Collection Factor for property taxes.

A **motion** was made by Julius Neto and **seconded** by Bob Milardo to set the collection factor for property taxes to 98.75%. *All were in favor; the motion passed.*

e) Approve Grand List.

Ms. Sylvester said that the Tax Assessor gave her the grand list number of \$1,293,000,000 as of May 1<sup>st</sup>. She said there are still a few appeals pending that may or may not have an impact on this Grand List. She said this would be similar to Alcap Ridge which we carried on our Grand List for some time.

A **motion** was made by Julius Neto and **seconded** by Bob Milardo to approve the Grand List for \$1,293,000,000. *All were in favor; the motion passed.*

f) Approve Mill Rate.

Ms. Sylvester said the mill rate would need to be set at 31.38mills which is a .2mill increase or .64% over last year.

Mr. Neto asked what that meant in dollars. Ms. Sylvester said we would need an additional \$250,000 to keep it at a zero increase. Chairman Henehan asked when the next revaluation was and Ms. Sylvester that will be funded in 2016/17 so the process will start in summer of 2017. She said this will be a full revaluation so they will budget \$350,000 for that.

Mr. Neto said we can say no mill increase and go to the general fund for \$250,000. Ms. Sylvester said that the fund balance is at 14%. She said as Finance Director she can't advocate doing that. She said it is not recommended by Standard and Poor's. She said the General Fund is meant for capital projects not for keeping the mill rate from increasing.

Mr. Neto said that money has been saved from good management of tax money collected from tax payers. He said because of this it is important to put the discussion on the table although he said he felt the mill rate increase was justifiable. Mr. Wenners asked what \$250,000 would do to the 14%. Ms. Sylvester said that the fund balance isn't the only thing they look at, that financial management is a big thing. She said the General Fund balance now is \$6.5million so it would bring it to 13.7% if we took \$250,000 out.

Mr. Kelly asked what the increased mill rate would mean to the average home. It was discussed that a home worth \$250,000 would see a \$50 increase.

A **motion** was made by Julius Neto and **seconded** by Amanda Drew to set the mill rate at 31.38mills for 2015/2016. *All were in favor; the motion passed.*

3. Approve transfer of \$785,393 from General Fund fund balance to the Capital and Non-Recurring Fund for 2015-16 capital requests, as approved in the budget process.

A **motion** was made by Julius Neto and **seconded** by Joe Corlis to approve the transfer of \$785,393 from General Fund fund balance to the Capital and Non-Recurring Fund for 2015-16 capital requests, as approved in the budget process. *All were in favor; the motion passed.*

4. Approve transfer of \$150,000 from the General Fund fund balance to the Willowbrook Road project, as approved in the budget process.

A **motion** was made by Julius Neto and **seconded** by Joe Corlis to approve the transfer of \$150,000 from the General Fund fund balance to the Willowbrook Road project, as approved in the budget process. *All were in favor; the motion passed.*

E. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Chairman Henehan wanted to thank everyone for their hard work.

F. VICE CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Mr. Neto also said thanks to everyone for their hard work including the staff and this Board. He said even though there was a slight increase it still a great job.

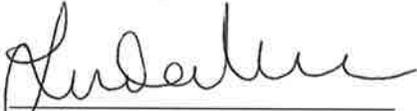
G. GOOD AND WELFARE

Mr. Milardo said he wanted to thank the alternates for always showing up. Mr. Neto said he agreed and thanked them for their input as well.

H. ADJOURNMENT

A **motion** was made by Bob Milardo and **seconded** by Julius Neto to adjourn at 8:54pm. *All were in favor; the motion passed.*

Respectfully Submitted,



Linda Imme  
Recording Clerk