


**TOWN OF CROMWELL - BOARD OF FINANCE
SPECIAL MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2021
CROMWELL TOWN HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

MINUTES

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
May 07, 2021 12:22P
JoAnn Doyle
TOWN CLERK
CROMWELL, CT 

Present: Chairman Julius Neto, Vice Chairman Allan Spotts
Attendees via Zoom: John Ireland, Steve Wygonowski, Ed Maley, Dan Kelly, Alternate Anne Hulick

Also Present: Town Manager Anthony Salvatore, Director of Finance Marianne Sylvester, Tax Collector Doug Sienna, Deputy Mayor Jennifer Donohue, Town Councilor Jack Henehan

- A. CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Neto called the meeting to order at 8:17 pm.
- B. SEAT ALTERNATES: No alternates were seated.
- C. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Discussion and decisions on the 2021-22 budgets based upon the results of the budget referendum. Should the budget not be approved, action to recommend a new budget to a subsequent referendum.

Town Clerk JoAnn Doyle reported the referendum results, as follows:

Town: 204 yes 49 no BOE: 179 yes 75 no Debt: 215 yes 36 no

- 2. Discussion and decisions on setting the mill rate for fiscal year 2021-22 should the entire budget be approved.

- a) Approve projected revenue other than taxation.

Motion was made by Allan Spotts to approve revenue other than taxation at \$7,495,861 and seconded by John Ireland. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

- b) Approve Senior Tax Deferral amount.

Marianne Sylvester reported that, according to the Assessor, as of April 28th, the State's deferral program would result in \$41,000 and the Town's program would result in \$33,800 of deferred taxes.

Motion to approve the Senior Tax Deferral amount of \$74,800 was made by Allan Spotts and seconded by Steve Wygonowski. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

- c) Approve amount to be used from Fund Balance.

A request was made to reverse the order of discussion so the Tax Collection factor would be determined before the use of fund balance. This would allow for a clearer picture of the anticipated mill rate prior to deciding on the use of fund balance. It was agreed to use General Fund fund balance to support the

CNR items (\$729,000) and the Town's portion of the Coles Road project (\$121,200) included in the budget as well as \$570,000 to maintain a flat mill rate.

Motion was made to use \$1,420,200 from available General Fund fund balance by Ed Maley and seconded by Steve Wygonowski. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

d) Approve Collection Factor for property taxes.

There was a discussion about increasing the collection factor to 99%. It was decided to keep this the same for fiscal year 2021-22 and revisit it in the next budget cycle.

Motion was made to approve a 98.75% tax collection factor by Allan Spotts and seconded by Steve Wygonowski. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

e) Approve Grand List.

Marianne Sylvester provided information from the Assessor that, as of April 28th, the Grand List was \$1,518,000,000.

Motion was made by Allan Spotts and seconded by Steve Wygonowski to approve a Grand List figure of \$1,518,000,000. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

f) Approve Mill Rate.

Based on the approved figures in agenda items 2(a) – 2(e), the mill rate for fiscal year was calculated at 30.33.

Motion was made by Allan Spotts to approve the fiscal year 2022 mill rate at 30.33 mills and seconded by Ed Maley. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

3. Discussion and action to approve Suspense List from Tax Collector.

The Tax Collector clarified that the accounts listed were still collectable, just placed into a suspended status. The outstanding taxes can be collected if new information becomes available. Doug Sienna also confirmed that the total amount was in the range of normal for Cromwell (~\$18,000-\$25,000).

Motion was made by John Ireland to approve the Tax Collector's suspense list in the amount of \$23,120.53 and seconded by Allan Spotts. Julius Neto, Allan Spotts, John Ireland, Steve Wygonowski, and Dan Kelly voted in favor. Ed Maley abstained. Motion passed.

D. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Julius Neto thanked everyone for going through this budget process and was confident the citizens appreciated the efforts as well.

E. VICE CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Allan Spotts echoed Julius' statements. Allan stated that it was satisfying to work as a team and keep the mill rate flat.

F. GOOD AND WELFARE

Steve Wygonowski expressed a desire to increase voter turnout.

G. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Allan Spotts and seconded by Steve Wygonowski. All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 9:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marianne Sylvester". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Marianne Sylvester

Recording Clerk