

Town of Cromwell, CT
Board of Finance
Special Meeting
Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.
Cromwell Town Hall, Room 224/225

Corrected Minutes and Record of Vote

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APR 23 2020 11:01A
JOANN DOYLE
TOWN CLERK
CROMWELL, CT

Present: Chairman Julius Neto

Also Present: Town Manager Anthony Salvatore and Finance Director Marianne Sylvester

Present via Zoom: (See attached listed of those who participated)

Call To Order - Chairman Neto called the Special Meeting of April 7, 2020 to order at 7:27 p.m.

Seat Alternates - No alternates were seated.

Approval of the Agenda - A motion was made by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Spotts to approve the agenda for April 6 and 7, 2020.

Mr. Maley again questioned the procedure for approving the 2020-2021 budget and it was reiterated that the Town Council will meet on April 9, 2020. The Town Attorney and the mayor responded with the directive set by the Governor.

Discussion and decisions on the 2019-2020 Town Managers proposed budget:

Budget Line #27 Public Work - A motion was made by Mr. Wygonowski and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve \$4,528,360 for Line Item #27 Public Works.

After reviewing the new data from Mr. Spina, Director of Public Works additional discussion regarding some of the data provided took place.

Discussion to place regarding some of the data presented. Questioned where some of the changes were. It was explained that there was an increase in Solid Works. It was noted that items not previously being billed for are now being charged and those we were getting billed for increased. Asked if there were any alternatives but Mr. Spina could not answer with conviction.

Town Manager will scrutinize and lower the budget line by \$15,000.

A new motion was made by Mr. Maley and seconded by Mr. Wygonowski to approve \$4,513,360 from \$4,528,360 for Line Item #27 Public Works. ***All in Favor - Motion Passed***

CNR Approval - A motion was made by Mr. Spotts and seconded by Mr. Wygonowski to approve \$325,000 for the paving project. ***All in Favor - Motion Passed.***

******Note: All other capital projects are being deferred.******

Budget Line #1 Town Manager – A motion was made by Mr. Spotts and seconded by Mr. Wygonowski to approve \$394,157 for Line Item #1 Town Manager. *All in Favor – Motion Passed.*

Additional discussion regarding personnel. The increase was due to personnel changes.

Budget Line #7 Building Inspection - A motion was made by Mr. Spotts and seconded by Mr. Wygonowski to approve \$208,761 for Line Item #7 Building Inspection. *All in Favor – Motion Passed.*

Budget Line #8 Finance Department - A motion was made by Mr. Spotts and seconded by Mr. Wygonowski to approve \$430,008 for Line Item #8 Finance Department. *All in Favor – Motion Passed.*

Budget Line #9 Revenue Collection (Tax Collector) - A motions were made by Mr. Spotts and seconded by Mr. Wygonowski to approve \$154,103 for Line Item # 9 Revenue Collections. *All in Favor – Motion Passed.*

It was noted that there is a contractual obligation with Quality Data Service

Budget Line #10 Assessors Office – A motion was made by Mr. Wygonowski and seconded by Mr. Spotts to approve \$250,335 for Line Item 10 Assessors Office. *All in Favor – Motion Passed.*

Budget Line #43 Recreation Department - A motion was made by Mr. Spotts and seconded by Mr. Wygonowski to approve \$266,817 for Line Item #43 Recreation Department. *All in Favor – Motion Passed.*

Budget Line #12 Donation + Dues - A motion was made by Mr. Wygonowski and seconded by Mr. Spotts to approve \$50,491 for Line Item #12 Donations + Dues. *All in Favor – Motion Passed.*

Budget Line #13 Legal Expense – A motion was made by Mr. Wygonowski and seconded by Mr. Spotts to approve \$223,300 for Line Item #13 Legal Expense. *All in Favor – Motion Passed.*

Additional discussion regarding the variables with budgeting Legal Expense. Such matters as labor contract negotiations, land disputes, etc. Also, not that all departments with legal matters are applied to this line item.

Budget Line #14 Central Services – A motion was made by Mr. Spotts and seconded by Mr. Wygonowski to approve \$185,300 for Line Item #14 Central Services. *All in Favor – Motion Passed.*

Budget Line #15 Insurance Expense - A motion was made by Mr. Spotts and seconded by Mr. Wygonowski to approve \$588,200 for Line Item #15 Insurance Expense. *All in Favor – Motion Passed.*

Additional discussion questioning if the Covid 19 virus is going to be an issue. The Town Manager noted that it appears at this time it will not be an issue. It was also asked if the Town had Cyber Insurance and it was noted that it was include in the package.

Budget Line #16 General Expense - A motion was made by Mr. Spotts and seconded by Mr. Wygonowski to approve \$928,503 for Line Item #16 General Expense. *All in Favor – Motion Passed.*

This line item was reduced as a result of deferring Capital projects but may come back when funds become available.

Budget Line #45 Employee Benefits - A motion was made by Mr. Wygonowski and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve \$3,897,360 for Line Item #45 Employee Benefits. *All in Favor – Motion Passed.*

It was noted that Health Insurance increased by 6.5%. Additional discussion regarding pension payout was a concern and it was noted that it depended on the financial market.

Budget Line #46 Debt Services - A motion was made by Mr. Wygonowski and seconded by Mr. Spotts to approve \$3,575,200 for Line Item #46 Debt Services. *All in Favor – Motion Passed.*

It was noted that incorporated in this line item was self-funding projects such as Willowbrook Road project.

Budget Line #47 Board of Education – A motion was made by Mr. Wygonowski and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve 32,586,892 for Line Item # 47 Board of Education. After much discussion regarding some concerns (additional staff, transportation needed, technology for the students such as Chromebooks, class size, etc.) a new motion was made by Mr. Spotts and seconded by Mr. Wygonowski to approve \$31,775,289 (a 3.5% increase). *Opposed by Mr. Ireland, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Maley and Mr. Wygonowski and Mr. Spotts approved – Motion did not pass.*

A new motion made by Mr. Maley and seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve \$31,925,000 (3.99% increase). *Opposed by Mr. Spotts, Mr. Ireland and Mr. Wygonowski and Approved by Mr. Kelly and Mr. Maley – Motion did not pass.*

Chairman Neto expressed his concern. Deferring the taxes and sewer bill collections will take a toll on the General Fund balance. Noted that this not a normal year. He wants everyone to understand that there may be a slight increase in the mill rate. Mr. Neto also mentioned that funds can be reviewed at a later date one funds become available. The General Fund balance is going to be used to support the Town's expenses (payroll and necessities). He cannot express enough the necessity to maintain the General Fund balance needed to run the town's expenses. It is uncharted time that incoming taxes is a big chunk of money.

Another motion was made by Mr. Spotts and seconded by Mr. Ireland to approve \$31,789,186 (3.55% increase). *Opposed by Mr. Kelly, Mr. Maley and Mr. Wygonowski and Approve by Mr. Ireland and Mr. Spotts – Motion did not pass.*

It was noted that anything over 3.55% will affect the mill rate. Recommended that the Board of Education once things go back to normal submit a supplemental to their budget and the Board will then approve or disapprove.

A new motion was made by Mr. Spotts and seconded by Mr. Ireland to approve \$31,805,990 for Line Item 47 Board of Education. *Approved by Mr. Ireland, Mr. Spotts and Mr. Wygonowski and Opposed by Mr. Maley and Mr. Kelly – Motion Passed.*

Chairman Neto reminded everyone that the Mill Rate will be determined at the April 23, 2020 Regular Meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Spotts and seconded by Mr. Wygonowski to adjourn the Special Meeting of April 7, 2020 at 10:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Hardacker

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Recording Clerk