

RECEIVED FOR FILING
312 2015 at 11:24A.M.
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
CROMWELL, CONN.
Gloria Brundage
TOWN CLERK

TOWN OF CROMWELL - BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY – February 26, 2015
CROMWELL TOWN HALL (ROOM 224/225) @ 7:00 P.M.
Minutes and Records of Votes

Present: Chairman Jack Henehan, Julius Neto, Joseph Corlis, Ed Weners, Dan Kelly and Dan Delisle

Also Present: Interim Town Manager Chief Anthony Salvatore, Director of Finance Marianne Sylvester, Board of Education Business Manager Karen Clancy, Board of Education Facilities Manager Steve Rose and Doug Sienna

- A. CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chairman Henehan.

SEAT ALTERNATES – A motion was made to seat Dan Delisle and Dan Kelly as alternates. All were in favor; the motion passed.

- B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA -- A motion was made by Ed Weners and seconded by Julius Neto to approve agenda. All were in favor - motion passed.

- C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Regular Meeting February 26, 2015

Changes to January 22, 2015 meeting minutes were made (copy of amended minutes are attached). Motion was made by Ed Weners and seconded by Julius Neto to approve the amended minutes of January 22, 2015. All were in favor – motion passed.

- D. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS – None

- E. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

1. Update of Streetlight Project - Interim Town Manager Anthony Salvatore announced that the project was presented to the Council and approval to move forward was given by the Council.

Ownership of the street lights - a) poles for lighting only will be owned by the town and b) the town will own the hangers and the lights only on utility poles.

John Henehan questioned the maintenance for the lighting. Chief Salvatore responded that bids for maintenance agreements would be requested. Maintenance of utility poles and lights will be handled by outside sources; under a service contract (yet to be determined). Payment for the maintenance contract is referenced on the handout supplied.

Ed Wenners asked about the timeline and cost savings for the LED lighting project. This is also referenced in the handout. Approximate yearly saving is \$100,000.

Julius Neto concerned that the town is working with estimates and need to refine the numbers. Mr. Neto also thanked Chief Salvatore for clarification of lighting ownership.

Chief Salvatore also discussed that he would like this proposal to be offered to the private developments to see if they would also like to convert to the LED light for their complexes.

Joseph Corlis wanted assurance that if the condo complexes decide to convert to the LED lighting that they would be responsible for any repairs.

Dan Kelly asked if other towns have been using the LED lighting and Chief Salvatore stated that Middletown, Torrington and Southington to name a few are beginning to convert.

John Henehan wanted to know if Eversource has issues with the loss of revenue due to the savings using the LED lighting. Chief Salvatore not able to answer question at this time.

2. Other Topics –

- a) Budgets – Budgets were finished and went to Council on Monday and Thursday.
- b) Solid Waste Disposal – Public Works Director Lou Spina is still gathering data.
- c) White Collar Union Contract – White Collar Agreement has been extended for one year to allow the new Town Manager to settle in.

- F. BUDGET REPORT (see handout) - Ms. Sylvester stated that there are no significant issues and it appears that we are on target. She is waiting to hear from the Public Works Director Lou Spina to see where they are as a result of the extra payroll and material incurred from the winter storms.

Salt budget is over extended but Mr. Spina indicated that they have the budget to cover it.

Julies Neto questioned the spike in legal services. Marianne Sylvester noted that there have been a few assessment appeals that are impacting this budget. Chief Salvatore also mentioned that there have been other legal matters and tax assessments (some are being challenged) that the town would benefit from. He said that he is monitoring attorney fees and wages.

Joseph Corlis asked if the Town of Cromwell qualifies for FEMA but does not.

G. REPORT TO THE TAX COLLECTOR – Refer to the handouts (Monthly Cash Collection Report dated 2/18/2015 for January 2015). Doug Sienna reported that collection is a little behind but should be on target and caught up by next month. He reported that there were no property auctioned, no residents going to tax sales and there were drops in real estate. The board questioned some of the collections processes. Due to the software conversion there has been some software issues. There are two years that still need to be reconciled. Mr. Sierra is still trying to obtain the detail reports he used to get. Kinks are still being worked out and hope to have resolved within the next week or so.

H. OLD BUSINESS - None

I. NEW BUSINESS

1. Updates on Public Act 13-60, pertaining to non-educational expenditures within the Board of Education budget (refer to handout) – Karen Clancy presented the Public Act 13-60 and requested any recommendations from the Finance Board within 10 days. Karen mentioned how communication between the Board of Finance and the Board of Education has been great.

John Henahan asked if there were other areas where there can be opportunities to save. He doesn't want everyone to get too comfortable where some areas are overlooked and not considered for savings. Such areas as the lights in the parking lot, maintenance to the school grounds, etc. Steve Rose commented that bids are obtained from vendors and also use town assistance where applicable for whatever savings can be made. Town will have the right for first refusal. This is dependent on available labor and materials, etc.

Karen also responded that IT is another area that was reviewed to see if there can be savings in this area.

Dan Kelly requested a list of specifics line items for review to see if there can be other savings. John Henehan concurred and would like this list emailed to him so he can distribute to board members.

2. Set Public Hearing and Deliberation dates for 2015-2016 budget – Public Hearing Dates are set as follows:

March 31, 2015	Woodside	7:00 p.m. Public Hearing & Deliberations
April 6, 2015	Town Hall Rm 224/225	7:00 p.m. Deliberations
April 9, 2015	Town Hall Rm 224/225	7:00 p.m. Deliberations

*** BOE – Karen will check and confirm.

J. BOARD OF EDUCATION – LIASON REPORT

Joe Corlis reported that there were three meetings that were held since the last the last meeting. On January 27th the budget showed a 30% increase for Special Education (1.4 to 1.8 from last year). State Agencies dictates where the child is placed within the state causing budget deficits. He also reported that illegal alien children are distributed to cities and not to towns. On February 10th Superintendent of Schools proposed a budget increase 4.46% over last year – it was declined and was asked to lower it. On February 24th it was revised to 3.96% which was also declined and asked to split the difference revising it to 4.21% (\$28,468,505). Note that approximately 2% was for Special Education.

Ed Wenners asked about students ages 18 to 21 with disabilities. They are review on a case basis. Towns are then responsible to the financing of these students depending on their needs. Asked where they are sent – Karen said that these students are sent to Middlesex Academy for the most part incurring costs of \$40,000 to \$150,000. Also mentioned that this occurs in all towns.

Ed Wenners also asked if it appears that people will move to Cromwell as a result as to how Special Ed students are taken care of. Karen was not able to answer since there is no clear evidence of this.

Joseph Corlis reiterated that the State assigns the child to a town.

Julius Neto asked who finances the residents of the group homes in Cromwell? Each situation is different depending on their needs.

Dan Delisle asked what the dollar amount is for the 2% increase - approximately \$438,000.

After all the discussion concerning the Special Education needs Karen Clancy also mentioned that the budget appears to still be on target.

K. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

John Henahan wants everyone to get prepared for the budget season and will be looking for the email from Karen Clancy for list of specifics for distribution to the Finance Board.

Julius Neto apologizes for not being able to attend the March 31st meeting but will be in attendance for the balance. He also wants to thank everyone for their continued support.

L. VICE PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS - None

M. GOOD AND WELFARE - None

N. ADJOURNMENT - A motion was made by Julius Neto and seconded by Ed Widders to adjourn at 8:27 p.m. All were in favor – motion was passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia Hardacker

Cynthia Hardacker
Recording Clerk