

TOWN OF CROMWELL - BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY – JANUARY 22, 2015
CROMWELL TOWN HALL (ROOM 224/225) @ 7:00 P.M.
Minutes and Records of Votes

Present: Chairman Jack Henehan, Bob Milardo, Julius Neto, Joseph Corlis, Ed Widders, Amanda Drew and Dan Kelly (arrived at 7:20 p.m.)

Also Present: Town Manager Jon Sistare, Director of Finance Marianne Sylvester and Mayor Enzo Falenza.

A. CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Henehan.

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

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

1. Regular Meeting – November 20, 2014

Motion was made by Ed Widders and seconded by Joe Corlis to approve the minutes of November 20, 2014. All were in favor except abstained by Amanda Drew – motion passed.

2. Regular Meeting – December 18, 2014 (CANCELLED) 1/30 2015 at 8:41 A.M.

D. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS – None

E. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

RECEIVED FOR FILING
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
CROMWELL, CONN.

Gloria Prendergast Aust
TOWN CLERK

Town Manager Jon Sistare requested Department Heads to submit their budgets. Mr. Sistare will be meeting with each Department Head to review their budgets.

Mr. Sistare presented two projects. The first project is for the LED lighting. Time and cost for this project are being refined. A better breakdown of time and costs should be available to present at the next Finance meeting. This project should save the town approximately \$100,000 per year. The return is just under 5 years. NOTE: CL&P is offering grants at 0% finance over 4 years.

The second project is the Solid Waste Disposal Fees. Mr. Sistare spoke to the Public Works Director Lou Spina who is still compiling his information. He is talking with other towns to see how they are doing it. Details to follow.

The White Collar Union Contract expires this year and is under review.

David Geer and a Hollywood Production Company (Blue Line) is shooting a movie in Cromwell. Shooting will be taking place at various residences and businesses.

This should give good exposure for the town. Shooting is to start week of January 26, 2015.

Searching for a replacement for the Town Manager position will be handle by MRI. MRI will compile resumes and select 25 candidates. The deadline to submit resumes is February 16, 2015 (NOTE: Any resume collected after the February 16th will also be considered). Background checks on all candidates selected will be done. Once 25 candidates have been selected the Council will select 15 to answer and essay. From the 15 the Counsel will interview 6 to 10 and hope to make an offer by June, 2015.

Mrs. Drew asked how much of an overlap there will be with the current Town Manager and the Acting Town Manager. The response was approximately three weeks.

- F. BUDGET REPORT - Ms. Sylvester stated that there are no significant issues and it appears that we are on target. She said that the Board of Education had issues and are being addressed by Karen Clancy. Attached is a memo dated 1/15/2015 from Karen Clancy with the 2014-2015 Board of Education Budget Status Updates. Mr. Neto suggested that this be monitored monthly and Ms. Sylvester will take this task on.
- G. REPORT TO THE TAX COLLECTOR – Refer to the handout (Monthly Cash Collection Report dated 1/16/2015 for December 2014) supplied by Ms. Sylvester. It was also noted that the collections compared to last year is a little low but not to be concerned.
- H. OLD BUSINESS - None
- I. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Auditor's Report (bring Audit Report-CAPR) – Scott Bassett of McGladrey LLP said that audit performed was clean. No findings were noted. Reference Audit Report for specifics. The audit was measured against GASB67 measurements. Next year, it will also oncorporate GASB68.

Mr. Bassett mentioned that Cromwell's rating has changed from AA to AAA. Cromwell financially is in good shape with the liability getting a good rate at return.

Members of the Board gave kudos to Ms. Sylvester and her department for a job well done.

Mr. Wenners asked Mr. Bassett if he saw the same structure with other towns as he did with Cromwell and he did.

Joe Corlis asked Mr. Bassett if he had any suggestions in regards to the Special Education issue – He did not since this is not in his field of expertise.

2. Approve Board of Finance Budget Request

A motion was made by Ed Wenners and seconded by Mr. Neto to approve the budget request – motion passed.

J. BOARD OF EDUCATION – LIASON REPORT

No changes in December 2014. The accounts with a deficit can be offset with those accounts with a surplus balance. Special Education is the biggest factor for the deficit. Joe Corlis stated that this is a problem statewide. He has been inquiring with other towns to see how they are handling the additional fees.

Ed Wenners also mentioned that he heard that the Federal Government is bringing in 9,000 illegal aliens and redirecting them to various states. Mr. Corlis noted that he had not heard anything of this but will inquire. Joe noted that he will be attending two more meetings to see what information he can get. Details to follow.

Mayor Falenza noted that the State Legislature is also looking into how this can be controlled. Mr. Neto asked if there were a sense of what the local communities budgets will be for next year and was responded with that until the budget is approved local communities will not know what the budget will be until it is approved. The Governor has requested that budgets are submitted by February 16, 2015.

K. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Ed Wenners and Joe Corless thanked Ms. Sylvester and her department for getting the budget done.

A note was received by the Board of Education expressed a wish that more people would vote.

L. VICE PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS - None

M. GOOD AND WELFARE - Welcome Amanda Drew back and congratulated her on her new baby.

N. ADJOURNMENT - A motion was made by Bob Milardo and seconded by Amanda Drew, Ed Wenners and Joe Corlis to adjourn at 7:52 p.m. All were in favor – motion was passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia Hardacker *Cynthia Hardacker*

Cynthia Hardacker
Recording Clerk

