

Cromwell Fire District

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FIRE DISTRICT OFFICE
WATER DIVISION

FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS **SPECIAL DISTRICT MEETING**

Tuesday, January 21, 2020

6:30 PM

**105 Coles Road
Cromwell, CT**

A Special District Meeting of the electors and citizens qualified to vote in meetings of the Cromwell Fire District was held on Tuesday, January 21, 2020, at 6:30 PM, at the Coles Road Firehouse, 105 Coles Road, Cromwell, CT to consider and act upon the Annual Report of the Treasurer (Audit Report).

Commissioners Lee Brow (President), Allan Spotts, Roger Rukowicz, Robert Donohue, Mertie Terry, Johnathon Hamlin, Jason Hinnens and Charles Epstein were in attendance. Commissioner Colligan had an excused absence. Also attending were Executive Director Julius Neto, Fire Chief Michael Terenzio, Michael Alibrio from Blum Shapiro and the auditors.

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 PM, by President Brow. It was noted that there was not a quorum to vote on the Auditor's Report. However, the report will still be submitted to the Town of Cromwell whether it is voted on or not. As is standard practice a copy will be forwarded to the Town Clerk and another copy will be forwarded to the Finance Director. The Board will be looking into whether or not a Special District meeting needs to be held for the sole purpose of approving the report because it was noted that the report is submitted as a final report and would not be amended if the Town were to vote not to approve it.

President Brow read the Call of the Meeting. A copy is attached to the minutes on file in the Fire District Office.

The President gave the Executive Director the floor. Mr. Neto apologized for not being able to provide copies of the Audit Report to the public, but the report just became available right before this meeting. Two of the auditors were present to answer any questions the public may have. They were Jason Cody and Stephanie Brown from Hoyt, Filippetti & Malaghan, LLC. They had good news about the audit. They explained that good news with audits are usually boring and quick. The audit was given a "clean opinion" which was the same as the previous two years. A Clean Opinion is the best opinion you can have in an audit. It means that the Financial Statements were fairly presented. There are no internal control issues. The Cromwell Fire District conducts business, handles transactions and documents the activities of the financial resources of the District to meet all internal control standards. They added that the General Fund had a positive year. The fund balance went up \$420,000. Revenues came in ahead of budget by \$34,000. Expenditures were under budget by \$386,000. That leaves an unassigned fund balance

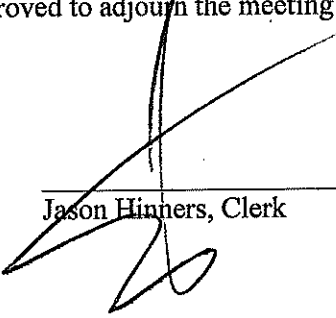
of \$900,000. It represents about four months' worth of expenditures. It also means the District could survive for at least four months if something were to happen to the District's finances.

The President opened the floor to any Commissioners that had questions. Commissioner Epstein wanted to know if there was some type of formal letter or document to highlight the Fire District's excellent results of its audit. There was a discussion regarding capital projects being planned for the next budget. It will involve using some of the reserve funds because of the need for replacement apparatus and work being done in the Water Department.

Mr. Alibrio addressed Commissioner Epstein's question regarding a letter or document highlighting the result of the Fire District's audit. Mr. Alibrio explained that there is a letter which is the first page of the audit report titled, "Independent Audit Report." Page 2 states the Clean Opinion. Page 4 is the manager's discussion and analysis which is a summary of all the highlights for the fiscal year. The first ten or fifteen pages of the audit tries to explain the District's financial activities throughout the year in laymen's terms. The first independent auditor's report gives the clean opinion statement. The information will all be published on the District's website, with the State and available in the District office.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Spotts, seconded by Commissioner Hinnners and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 PM.

ATTEST:



Jason Hinnners, Clerk

Nancy Deegan
Recording Secretary
1-30-20