

Cromwell Fire District

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FIRE DISTRICT OFFICE
WATER DIVISION

FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS **SECOND ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING**

Monday, June 7, 2021

6:00 PM

Coles Road Firehouse

105 Coles Road

Cromwell, CT

The Second Annual Budget Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Cromwell Fire District was held on Monday, June 7, 2021, at 6:00 PM, at the Coles Road Firehouse, 105 Coles Road, Cromwell, CT.

Commissioners Lee Brow, Jason Hanners, Charles Epstein, David Colligan, Robert Donohue, Mertie Terry, Allan Spotts, Roger Rukowicz and Robert McIntyre were in attendance. Also attending was the Executive Director Julius Neto, Water Operations Manager Joseph Palmieri, Fire Chief Jason Balletto, Assistant Fire Chief Jason Brade, Dispatchers Justin Lonergan and Brian Petrocelli and Accountant Michael Alibrio. There were many Fire, EMS and Water Department personnel in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by President Lee Brow. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Brow.

Board Secretary Commissioner Charles Epstein read the Call of the Meeting. A copy is attached to the minutes on file in the Fire District Office.

It was noted that the meeting was being recorded on the Owl. The forum of the meeting would be that there would be a presentation by the Executive Director to explain the items in the budget that were adjusted in response to the first vote held May 24, 2021. Based on the vote of May 24, 2021, in which the CFD budget did not pass, the Executive Director explained that the proposed increase in the mil rate as first proposed at the May 24, 2021 meeting would remain the same with a proposed increase of ½ mil. The new proposed water rate increase will be 15%, rather than the 20% originally proposed at the May 24, 2021 meeting. After requests from the public at the May 24 meeting, there was a separate ballot at this meeting to ask the voters if they would like to see the Water and Fire Department budgets separated to be voted on separately.

There were public comments with people being concerned about the water rate increase. People were not aware of the projects and responsibilities of the Water Department. There is a lack of public information about the Fire District and how it conducts its business. The public was looking for clarification on the Water Department's 5 year plan and more specifics on the interconnection project. The Executive Director provided more information on what it costs to run the Water Department. Although the Fire District has not regularly increased water rates over

the last 20 years, some of the costs of doing business and complying with DPH requirements have been rising. The Water Department cannot continue to operate without passing along some of the increased costs to the customers.

Brian Petrocelli spoke on behalf of the Dispatchers and Communication Center. There was also some confusion on the responsibilities of the Police dispatch and the Communication Center dispatch. Mr. Petrocelli was able to explain all the functions of the Dispatchers in the Communication Center. There was some explanation about the 2 dispatches in Town and why they are separated.

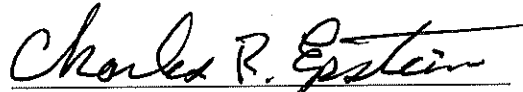
The Executive Director also explained the Fire Department budget and why the mil increase is needed. Lt. McKnight also had comments supporting the Fire Department's mission. The concerns and comments were similar to the ones made at the May 24 meeting.

The Call of the Meeting was acted on at this time. The Call was to consider and act upon a resolution to approve the budget for the Cromwell Fire District and its related funds, including but not limited to the Water Division, for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2021. All ballots being cast, there were 131 ballots cast IN FAVOR of the CFD 2021/2022 budget and 90 ballots cast NOT in favor of the CFD 2021/2022 budget.

Based on the results of the vote, Item B. on the Call of the Meeting will be enacted to lay a tax of 3 mils (an increase of ½ mil) on the taxable Grand List of the Cromwell Fire District and fix the tax rate of the District to Meet the expenses of the District for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2021.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Epstein, seconded by Commissioner Colligan and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 PM.

ATTEST:


Charles R. Epstein, Secretary

Nancy Deegan
Recording Secretary
6-14-21