

Cromwell Fire District

1 West Street
Cromwell, CT 06416
Telephone 860-635-4420

FIRE DISTRICT OFFICE
WATER DIVISION

FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS **Special Board of Commissioners' Meeting**

Tuesday, November 9, 2021

5:30 PM

**Coles Road Firehouse
105 Coles Road
Cromwell, CT**

A Special Board of Commissioners' Meeting was held on Tuesday, November 9, 2021, at 5:30 PM, at the Coles Road Firehouse, 105 Coles Road, Cromwell, CT to consider and act upon Special Fire District business.

Commissioners Jason Hinnens (Vice President), Mertie Terry, Charles Epstein, David Colligan, Robert McIntyre and Robert Donohue attended. Also attending were Executive Director Julius Neto, Fire Chief Jason Balletto and Acting Assistant Fire Chief Brian Petrucelli. Commissioners Lee Brow, Roger Rukowicz and Chip Darius were absent.

- I. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 5:32 PM, by Vice President Hinnens.
- II. Approval of Agenda. A motion was made by Commissioner Epstein, seconded by Commissioner Terry and unanimously approved to accept the agenda as submitted.
- III. Public Comment. There was no public comment to report.
- IV. New Business
 - A. Discussion and Decision on a Resolution for Appropriation and Borrowing Authorization for the Purchase of Fire Apparatuses, an Ambulance, District-Wide Security & Access System and Water Division Equipment, and to set a Town Meeting to Consider and Act Upon the Resolution.

The Executive Director explained that the resolution to be acted on is for the District to borrow \$2.25 million for the apparatus, ambulance, District-wide security and access system and Water Division equipment. This is part of the agenda from the budget approval process. It is now time to move to the next phase of the borrowing process.

The process requires that everything be fully documented which includes requesting a Town meeting. These are the recommendations based on criteria that has been provided to the District regarding what needs to happen. The earliest possible time to have a District-wide Town meeting would be November 30, 2021. That is a suggestion for the earliest possible date.

The meeting will be a typical Town meeting with a show of hands for the voting process. Mr. Neto had documentation to support the bonding schedule the District currently has. One bond will be ending at the end of 2021. The result will be a negative impact on the mil rate. The new debt will be less than the old debt. They will be dropping \$180,000 worth of debt and adding \$150,000. Mr. Neto will be working with the Bond Counsel and Mr. Alibrio, the District's Financial Administrator, to evaluate private placement of funding through a bank in addition to bonding options.

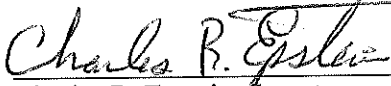
If this funding request is rejected by the Town, the Board will need to find out why, and come up with an alternative plan. There was a discussion regarding possibly raising the amount to borrow. Currently, based on the public's feedback from the budget process, the safe way to go would be to stay with the original amount to borrow and to confirm the fact that it will not affect the mil rate. The taxpayers deserve honesty and straightforwardness.

The point was made that there are other items that need to be addressed that are not a part of the bonding/borrowing package. The package being presented is the bare minimum that the Fire Department and Water Department can live with. There was some discussion regarding what items may be cut from the request if it is not approved on November 30.

A motion was made by Commissioner Epstein, seconded by Commissioner Colligan and unanimously approved to accept the resolution for appropriation and borrowing authorization for the purchase of fire apparatuses, an ambulance, District-wide security & access system and Water Division equipment, and to set a Town Meeting to consider and act upon the resolution. The resolution was read in its entirety by the Executive Director. A copy is attached to the minutes on file in the Fire District Office.

- V. Commissioners' Comments. There were no comments to report.
- VI. Adjournment. There being no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner McIntyre, seconded by Commissioner Hinnners and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 PM.

ATTEST:


Charles R. Epstein, Secretary

Nancy Deegan
Recording Secretary