

Cromwell Fire District

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FIRE DISTRICT OFFICE
WATER DIVISION

FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Annual District Budget Meeting
Tuesday, May 22, 2018
6:00 PM

The Annual District Budget Meeting of electors and citizens qualified to vote in meetings of the Cromwell Fire District, Cromwell, Connecticut was held at the Coles Road Firehouse, 105 Coles Road, in the Town of Cromwell, Connecticut on Tuesday, May 22, 2018, at 6:00 PM.

The meeting was called to order by President Craig Murphy at 6:00 PM. President Murphy confirmed there was a quorum of legal voters and citizens of the Cromwell Fire District present. There were 22 qualified voters in attendance. The District Clerk, Commissioner Charles Epstein, read the Call of the Meeting. A copy is attached to the minutes on file in the Fire District Office. Copies of information related to the meeting agenda were available to attendees for review prior to the meeting being called to order. President Murphy opened the meeting up to the floor for discussion. He began the discussion by highlighting two items worth noting. The first is that the budget does reflect replenishing the Equipment Reserve Fund which has not been kept up for a few years due to other taxes that the District was not able to collect such as vehicle taxes. The District currently has aging equipment that they need to prepare to replace. Another item is a serious communication infrastructure project including radios and towers to improve communications for the Fire Department and EMS. The budget for the General Fund has total revenues of \$3,943,786; and total expenses of \$4,300,707. This makes a shortfall of a balanced budget of \$356,921. That includes the two major projects mentioned. The Water Division Enterprise Fund is reflecting a balanced budget.

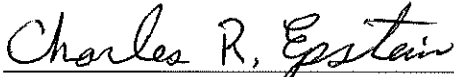
Samantha Slade, 128 Nooks Hill Road, commented that she received feedback from town's people that had no idea this meeting was taking place. She stated the meeting notice was not posted on the Fire Department's electronic boards or posted on the District's website. It appears as a lack of transparency for the District although it is the usual attendees that are at every budget meeting. She expressed that people are concerned. The State of Connecticut is cutting back and she was concerned about the District's budget shortfall. President Murphy noted that the concerns are valid, but that the Fire Department's fleet is aging and there are three vehicles that are over 20 years old. In addition, vehicle tax revenue was not available for the last few years. That was part of the issue. The communication tower is also over 25 years old. The District's mil rates have not moved substantially over the last few years, but unfortunately, this is the year. The proposed mil rate increase is ¼ mil.

A motion was made by Commissioner Julius Neto, seconded by Commissioner Roger Rukowicz and approved 20 in favor and 2 nay votes 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, 2018.

A motion was made by Commissioner Julius Neto, seconded by Commissioner Jason Hinnens and unanimously approved to consider and act upon a resolution to lay a tax 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, 2018. It was noted that the tax rate laid will be 2.50 mils.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Johnathon Hamlin, seconded by Julius Neto and unanimously approved to adjourn the Annual District Budget meeting at 6:12 PM.

ATTEST:



Charles R. Epstein, District Clerk

Nancy Deegan
Recording Secretary
6-12-18