

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING  
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
APRIL 15, 2024 6:50 P.M.**

**TOWN OF CROMWELL  
LEGAL NOTICE  
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**

Notice is hereby given to electors and those qualified to vote at Town Meetings in the Town of Cromwell that a Special Town Meeting will be held on April 15, 2024 at 6:50 p.m. at the Cromwell Town Hall, Council Chambers, 41 West Street, Cromwell, Connecticut to act upon the following:

1. To authorize the appropriation within the Special Revenue Funds for the 2024-2025 Budgets as follows:
  - a. Sewer Usage Fund                      \$2,701,302.00
  - b. Sewer Assessment Fund              \$33,000.00

Copies of these budgets are on file in the office of the Town Clerk.

Dated at Cromwell, Connecticut this 8th day of April 2024.

James Demetriades, Mayor  
For the Town Council

Mayor Demetriades called the Special Town Meeting to order at 6:51 p.m.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Julia Aurigemma to appoint Mayor Demetriades as Moderator; seconded by Town Manager Salvatore; motion carries. A motion was made by Town Manager Salvatore to waive the reading of the Legal Notice, seconded by Councilman Jack Henahan; motion carries.

Director of Finance, Sharon DeVoe, provided her comments on the Sewer Usage Fund. Director DeVoe's opinion was to not raise the sewer usage annual fee to \$295, but to keep it at the \$285 annual fee, which it was raised to last year. The sewer usage fund has a healthy balance at \$2.4 million, with a budget of \$2.7 million. They almost have 100% in reserve – the town keeps a 60-day reserve.

Councilman Jack Henahan asked Director DeVoe if this means that the CWPCA has almost enough money to fund their entire year. Director DeVoe stated that this is correct.

Councilwoman Aurigemma asked Director DeVoe who wanted to raise the fee and why? Director DeVoe said that the Sewer Administrator brought it up. Director DeVoe asked Public Works Director Lou Spina to speak on that. Director DeVoe mentioned that the Sewer Commission also has a CNR account that has \$1.6 million in it. Mayor Demetriades stated that this would be for capital non-reoccurring projects, such as if they needed to put in any pumps.

Jay Polke, 15 Harrison Drive, asked what the actual cost per household would be. Director DeVoe answered that it would be a \$10 increase per household; increasing from \$285 to \$295 per year.

Councilman Brian Bonneau asked if this increases every year. Public Works Director Lou Spina stated that historically, over the last 10 years, he has seen an increase every three years. His perspective of why the commission wanted to raise the fee is that they are looking ahead to future projects; but the other perspective is why raise the fee with the balance that they already have?

Mayor Demetriades asked if the commission had any large projects or a strategic plan that would require them to start saving now? Director Spina said that there is not in the short-term, but his take was that if they did come up with a plan right now, it would take 12-18 months to put the shovel in the ground.

Mayor Demetriades asked how much more additional revenue would be generated by the \$10 extra per household per year raise for the commission. Director Spina said that the difference would be about \$81,000.

Steve Fortenbach, 8 Amy Lane, asked what is the difference between the residential and commercial sewer usage fee. Director Spina stated that it is based on EDUs and most single-family homes are assessed at one EDU, while a large commercial building could be paying 10 or 12 EDUs.

Mayor Demetriades asked if there were any public comments. There were no public comments. Mayor Demetriades also asked if anyone from the CWPCA was there who wanted to speak on the proposed budget; there was not.

Town Manager Salvatore recommended that we deny the budget and recommend that the CWPCA go back and take a look at their numbers; specifically at their assessment fee, and hopefully they adjust it. Then, those citizens that have paid – that be taken into consideration for next year for a credit.

Town Manager Salvatore made a motion to deny the budget; the motion was seconded by Councilman Jack Henehan.

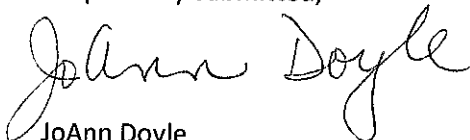
Jay Polke, 15 Harrison Drive, stated that there was not a clear answer on commercial property fees and asked to table the discussion to get more clear answer. Jay Polke made a motion to table. Councilman Brian Bonneau seconded the motion.

Mayor Demetriades asked for a vote in favor of tabling the budget vote for a future meeting. Thirteen Cromwell residents voted in favor of tabling the budget for a future meeting. There were no opposing votes to table the budget or abstentions; motion carries.

A motion was made by Town Manager Salvatore to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Jack Henehan; motion carries.

Mayor Demetriades adjourned the Special Town Meeting at 7:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



JoAnn Doyle  
Cromwell Town Clerk

Dated at Cromwell, Connecticut this 17<sup>th</sup> day of April 2024