

**TOWN OF CROMWELL
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL MEETING
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 5, 2008
6:00 P.M. Town Hall Room 224/5**

MINUTES

Present: First Selectman J. Shingleton, Deputy First Selectman F. Monnes,
R. Newton, A. Waters, D. Murphy, R. Waters

Absent: M. Johnson

Also Present: Public and Press

A. CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Shingleton called the Special Meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made by A Waters seconded by F. Monnes and *unanimously carried* to approve the agenda as published.

C. CITIZEN COMMENTS

1. Ann Halibozek, Christian Hill Road - Member of Clean Energy Task Force - spoke in favor of items 1, 2 and 3.
2. Jim O'Rourke, State Representative, Lancaster Road - spoke in favor of items 1, 2 and 3.
3. Mike Gengler, Chairman Board of Finance, Forest Road - spoke in favor of items 1 and 2 and 3.
4. Stan Stachura, Geer Street - spoke in favor of item 1 and 2 and against 3.
5. Peter Keithan, Iron Gate Lane - spoke in favor of item 1 and 2 and against 3.
6. Jennifer Donohue, Franklin Road - spoke in favor of item 1 and 2 and against 3.
7. Dick Coughlin, Glenwood Terrace - spoke regarding the Senior Tax Abatement.
8. Al Spotts, Black Haw Drive - opposed to item 3.
9. Victor Harpley, Wildwood Road -spoke in favor of item 3.
10. Dick Coughlin, Glenwood Terrace - Recommended that in the future when tax exemptions are requested information is provided to the public regarding what the potential financial impact on the taxpayers would be.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Recommend continuing Senior Tax Abatement Program.
First Selectman Shingleton made the following recommendations for amending the Senior Tax Abatement Program:

- Make recommendation to the Board of Finance to continue cap of 1/10 of 1 mill times the grand list.
- Increase the overall benefit by 2.4%, which is the cost of living adjustment that was given to all exempt Town Hall employees.
- Qualifying income of non-spouses over the age of 22; take the lower of whatever the actual income is or assign a rental income that would value one or any residents in the house at no more than \$600 a month or \$7,200 a year. Income of caregivers living in the home is excluded.

Motion made by D. Murphy seconded by R. Waters and *carried* to recommend continuing Senior Tax Abatement Program with the amendments

Aye: R. Newton, J. Shingleton, F. Monnes, D. Murphy

Abstained: A. Waters, R. Waters

2. Discussion and action on amending the Code of the Town of Cromwell by adding section VIII, Chapters 211-32, 211-33 and 211-34, Property Tax Exemption for Qualifying Veterans and their Surviving Spouses.

Motion made by F. Monnes seconded by D. Newton and *carried* to approve amending the Code of the Town of Cromwell by adding section VIII, Chapters 211-32, 211-33 and 211-34, Property Tax Exemption for Qualifying Veterans and their Surviving Spouses.

Aye: R. Newton, J. Shingleton, F. Monnes, R. Waters

Abstained: D. Murphy, Al Waters

3. Discussion and action on amending the Code of the Town of Cromwell by adding section VII, Property Tax Exemption for Owners of Hybrid Passenger Cars.

Motion made by A. Waters seconded by F. Monnes to approve amending the Code of the Town of Cromwell by adding section VII, Property Tax Exemption for Owners of Hybrid Passenger Cars.

Discussion followed.

Motion amended by F. Monnes seconded by J. Shingleton to approve amending the Code of the Town of Cromwell by adding section VII, Property Tax Exemption for Owners of Hybrid Passenger Cars with exemption limited to \$3,000 of the assessed value of said vehicle.

Roll Call:

A. Waters Nay

R. Newton Aye

J. Shingleton Aye

F. Monnes Aye

D. Murphy Nay

R. Waters Nay

Motion Failed

Main Motion:

Roll Call:

A. Waters Nay

R. Newton Nay

J. Shingleton Aye

F. Monnes Aye

D. Murphy Nay

R. Waters Nay

Motion Failed

E. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by D. Murphy seconded by R. Newton and *unanimously carried* to adjourn the Special Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Re Matus
Secretary

Jeremy Shingleton
First Selectman