

**TOWN OF CROMWELL  
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 2010 7:00 P.M.  
TOWN HALL – ROOM 224/225  
(See preceding Legal Notice & Resolution)**

The meeting was called to order by Deputy First Selectman Richard Newton at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Newton asked for nominations for a Moderator. Allan Spotts nominated Richard Newton as Moderator, seconded by Stanley Stachura. There were no other nominations from the floor. Michael Camilleri moved the nominations be closed seconded by Robert Jahn. Mr. Newton was unanimously approved as Moderator.

The Moderator asked the Town Clerk to read the Call of the Meeting. After the call was read and prior to approval of the call, the Moderator explained that our Bond Council submitted a Resolution that we need to attach to the question we will be voting on. He also explained that this was approved by both the Town Attorney and the town's Bond Council. Motion to amend the call was made by Michael Camilleri, seconded by Robert Jahn, with the majority voting in favor and one opposed. Motion made by Allan Spotts to approved the amended call of the meeting, seconded by Robert Jahn and approved. The Moderator opened the floor for discussion:

Jay Fletcher, Board of Ed Member – stated that he is very troubled by the motion. The Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance, by State law, cannot tell the Board of Education how to expend line items. He personally does not find this binding, nor should the Board of Selectmen have anything to do with signing this contract.

Carol Joyce Cannito – asked that someone could explain why we were having this Town Meeting.

The Moderator explained that per the recommendation of Bond Council we needed this meeting in order to comply with the Town Charter, and that he spoke to the Town Attorney who concurred with Bond Council.

Mike Camilleri, 14 Centerwood Drive, Board of Education Member - wanted to point out for the record that at first the First Selectman told the Board of Education that he would listen to the Board of Education's attorney who said that this did not have to go to a Town Meeting because it was already voted on in the Board of Education Budget, but then after getting information from the Board of Education's attorney, he went to the town attorney, and that is why we are here.

Michael Gengler, 5 Forest Road, Member of the Board of Finance – wanted to make a motion for this, but was explained that the motion is already on the floor and what was left was to vote on it. The Moderator wanted to give everyone a chance to speak on this.

Stan Stachura, 47 Geer Street – does this set precedence in having to go to a Town Meeting?

Carol Joyce Cannito – asked how old these computers were?

Lucille DiTunno, Principal at Edna C. Stevens School – said that some of them were hand me downs after they became obsolete at the high school.

Tom Litwinczyk, Information Systems Manger for the Board of Education – explained that the computers from the high school were at least 8 years old, and that we also received some from the Navy.

Jay Fletcher – said that the Board of Education has been working on this for the last 3 years. That they have updated the high school and the middle school and now it is time for ECS.

Victor Harpley, 17 Wildwood Road – is the Project Manager for Electric Boat and that he was the one who had gotten some of the computers donated to the school. He stated that they were obsolete when they were brought in, because a computer life cycle is about 4 years old.

Anthony Varricchio, 6 Kowal Drive, Member of the Board of Selectmen – is in favor of this project. He stated that we need good equipment, and the Board of Education has already put the money in this year budgets. We should vote on this now and solve who was legally in charge later on.

Ann Halibozek, 7 Christian Hill Road, Member of the Board of Selectmen – said that the Board of Education Budget has the \$75,000 in it for this year, but would like people to be aware of Section C603(a) of the Town Charter and what is required for us to go to a Town Meeting.

March Young, 4 River Park Drive – said it would be nice if we have equal to what other schools have, but at this point we don't know if this is a high or low number. He would like to see transparency in what the numbers are.

The Moderator explained that we are here because of the multiyear funding. That the Board of Education has done it due diligence in putting this together in the first place, and that if anyone has any questions they should ask Board of Education members.

Michael Camilleri – said that the Board of Education supported the purposed budget and that they were unanimous that we need this.

A resident from 17 Sovereign Ridge asked what the ration of working computers to children was now.

Matt Basceglia, Superintendent of Schools – it is one computer per 4 children in k-12. This is not new he explained because since he became superintendent he has been upgrading technology. At this time ECS does not have what is available at the Middle School or the High School. They want to turn the machines back and get updated computers. The confusion is whether this is a lease or a purchase.

Joe Cardillo, 10 Prospect Hill Road – said the children deserve this and is in favor of this.

Michael Gengler – said as a member of the Board of Finance he feels this is the best way to finance these computers.

Peter Keithan, 24 Iron Gate Lane – is in favor of this.

Victor Harpley, Alternate on the Board of Finance – said that the Board of Education came before the Board of Finance and that the Board of Finance voted unanimously to support this.

Ray Duffy, 24 Oxford Lane – asked about the Cromwell School Demographics.

Dr. Basceglia said that from the study that was done there will be an increase in the next 5 years then it will level off. He said that this is a normal cycle.

There being no other discussion the Moderator asked for a vote. The motion passed by majority with 2 opposed. There being no other business the Moderator adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene A. DiProto  
Town Clerk

Dated at Cromwell, Connecticut this 17<sup>th</sup> day of June 2010.