

**TOWN OF CROMWELL  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SPECIAL MEETING  
BUDGET WORKSHOP  
THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2011  
TOWN HALL ROOM 224/5 6:00 P.M**

**MINUTES**

Present: First Selectman J. Flanders, Deputy First Selectman R. Newton (arrived at 6:05 p.m.), A. Halibozek, A. Varricchio (arrived at 6:22 p.m.) , A. Waters, P. Ahlquist (arrived at 6:45 p.m.)

Absent: A. Spotts

Also Present: Director of Finance M. Sylvester, Staff Accountant J. Murphy, Tax Collector S. Ramsay, Town Clerk/Treasurer D. DiProto, Election Administrators M. Terry & L. Duren, Chief of Police A. Salvatore, Police Captain E. Kosinski, Public Works Director E. Hood, Town Planner C. Minor, Health Director W. Bell, Asst. Building Official J. Egan, Zoning/Wetland Enforcement Officer Fred Curtin, Public and Press

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

First Selectman Flanders called the Budget Workshop to order at 6:07 p.m.

**B. CITIZENS COMMENTS**

1. S. Bayley, Chestnut Court –Concerned with budget cuts in some areas of the budget such as Senior Services and the Library. Mr. Bayley felt as though the employees should offer give backs this year and was concerned that the meeting time was set for 6:00 p.m.

**C. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Discussion and possible action to transfer \$33,518 from the General Fund fund balance to the CNR Fund fund balance and appropriate the same amount for Phase II of the LED Lighting Upgrades.  
Public Works Director Hood presented the request.  
*Motion* made by R. Newton seconded by A. Waters and *unanimously carried* to approve action to transfer \$33,518 from the General Fund fund balance to the CNR Fund fund balance and appropriate the same amount for Phase II of the LED Lighting Upgrades

**D. BUDGET WORKSHOP**

**a. Discussion and Action on General Fund Budget Requests:**

**17. Tax Collector's Office -\$181,504**

*Motion* made by A. Varricchio seconded by A. Waters and *unanimously carried* to approve \$181,504.

**2. Town Clerk -\$204,696**

**Motion** made by A. Waters seconded by R. Newton and *unanimously carried* to approve \$204,696.

**19. Treasurer's Office - \$275.00**

**Motion** made by R. Newton seconded by A. Varricchio and *unanimously carried* to approve \$275.00.

**3. Elections Department - \$63,079**

**Motion** made by R. Newton seconded by A. Waters and *unanimously carried* to approve \$63,079.

**35. Police -\$2,826,206**

**Motion** made by R. Newton seconded by A. Waters and *unanimously carried* to approve \$2,826,206.

**36. Animal Control -\$82,871**

**Motion** made by R. Newton seconded by A. Halibozek and *unanimously carried* to approve \$82,871.

**37. Health Department -\$145,255**

**Motion** made by A. Waters seconded by A. Halibozek and *unanimously carried* to approve \$145,255.

**23. Developer/Planner -\$89,244**

Finance Director Sylvester stated that an incorrect amount of \$88,019 was given for the Town Planners salary. The correct amount is \$85,705 which makes the Department total \$86,930.

**Motion** made by A. Waters seconded by A. Halibozek and *unanimously carried* to approve the corrected amount of \$86,930.

**24. Development Compliance -\$69,048**

**Motion** made by A. Halibozek seconded by A. Varricchio and *unanimously carried* to approve \$69,048.

**34. Emergency Management -\$9,200**

**Motion** made by A. Halibozek seconded by A. Varricchio and *unanimously carried* to approve \$9,200.

**26. Engineering -\$261,603**

**Motion** made by R. Newton seconded by A. Halibozek and *unanimously carried* to approve \$261,603.

**27. Building Inspection -\$149,566**

**Motion** made by A. Waters seconded by A. Varricchio and *unanimously carried* to approve \$149,566.

**28. Public Works – Administration -~~\$285,264~~**

**Motion** made by A. Halibozek seconded by A. Varricchio to approve.  
Discussion followed.

A. Halibozek asked Public Works Director Hood to explain the new Operations Manager Position. After Mr. Hood gave a brief overview of the new position he explained that he is currently responsible for all the duties that would be assigned to the Operations Manager. The Public Works Department is currently responsible for maintaining six departments and will be taking on more with the Engineering Department re-assignment. The Operations Manager would be able to focus on the efficiency of the field forces and fleet management and looking at other opportunities that he would be able to free up. Mr. Hood stated that he was previously a Operations manager in another town and understands the benefit of that position. First Selectman Flanders explained that they are not increasing staff and some of the salary would be taken from another internal position that won't be filled.

Ms. Halibozek stated that she can't support this; Mr. Hood's salary is up to \$103,500 and this is already included in his job description. Employees that are out there doing the work need to take more accountability; they are being paid well.

R. Newton asked Mr. Hood to name the six supervisors and asked if a job description was prepared for the new position. Mr. Newton stated that he is perplexed because it states in the budget that more Highway positions are needed and now a position is being taken away. Mr. Newton needs more convincing that the Highway Department could function properly if a position is taken away from them. Mr. Newton stated that he would need to see a job description and would need to see what the duties would be.

A. Waters asked if the position is approved if the person would take a vehicle home and is the person now doing so. Mr. Hood stated that the Highway Foreman and the Assistant Foreman are on call 24/7 and they both are currently taking a vehicle home.

A. Varricchio agreed with Mr. Newton and Ms. Halibozek and needs more information before he makes a decision.

J. Flanders made a proposal to table this matter until Saturday's budget workshop. The consensus of the board was that they believe the information needed to make a decision won't be ready for Saturday's meeting.

R. Newton **amended the motion** by eliminating the position of Operations Manager (-\$76,034) seconded by A. Halibozek and *carried* to approve the amendment.

Aye: A. Halibozek, A. Varricchio, R. Newton, A. Waters, P. Ahlquist

Nay: J. Flanders.

**Main Motion** to approve *unanimously carried* as amended to deduct Operations Managers position (\$-76,034) and approve bottom line of **\$209,230.**

**29. Solid Waste Removal -~~\$635,751~~**

**Motion** made by A. Halibozek seconded by A. Varricchio to approve.

R. Newton amended the motion by increasing the Gas & Fuel line to \$3,085 (+\$160.00 due to the increased cost at lock-in time) seconded by A. Waters and *unanimously carried* to approve the amendment.

**Main Motion** *unanimously carried* as amended to add \$160.00 to the Gas & Fuel line item and approve bottom line of **\$635,911.**

**30. Highway Department -~~\$1,109,474~~**

**Motion** made by A. Varricchio seconded by A. Halibozek to approve.

R. Newton **amended the motion** by adding back \$44,700 to the Reduction for Promotion line seconded by A. Halibozek and *unanimously carried* to approve the amendment.

R. Newton amended the motion by increasing the Gas & Fuel line to \$64,990 (+\$5,440 due to the increased cost at lock-in time) seconded by A. Halibozek and *unanimously carried* to approve the amendment.

**Main Motion** *unanimously carried as amended* to add \$44,700 to the Reduction for Promotion line item and \$5,440 to Gas & Fuel and approve the bottom line of **\$1,159,614.**

**30VM. Vehicle Maintenance -~~\$279,678~~**

**Motion** made by R. Newton seconded by A. Halibozek to approve.

R. Newton amended the motion by increasing the Gas & Fuel line to \$26,890 (+\$320.due to the increased cost at lock-in time) seconded by A. Halibozek and *unanimously carried* to approve the amendment.

**Main Motion** *unanimously carried* as amended to add \$320.00 to the Gas & Fuel line item and approve bottom line of **\$279,998.**

**31. Building Maintenance -~~\$518,591~~**

**Motion** made by A. Halibozek seconded by P. Ahlquist and *unanimously carried* to approve **\$518,591.**

**32. Parks & Grounds -~~\$282,227~~**

**Motion** made by A. Halibozek seconded by A. Varricchio to approve.

R. Newton **amended the motion** by increasing the Gas & Fuel line to \$10,204 (+\$480.due to the increased cost at lock-in time) seconded by A. Halibozek and *unanimously carried* to approve the amendment.

**Main Motion** *unanimously carried* as amended to add \$480.00 to the Gas & Fuel line item and approve bottom line of **\$282,707**

**33. Public Works – Other Expense -~~\$480,725~~**

**Motion** made by R. Newton seconded by A. Halibozek and *unanimously carried* to approve **\$480,725.**

**4. Economic Development -\$35,550**

**Motion** made by R. Newton seconded by A. Varricchio and *unanimously carried* to approve \$35,550.

**9. Committee to Support People with Disabilities -\$525**

**Motion** made by R. Newton seconded by A. Varricchio and *unanimously carried* to approve \$525.

**20. Planning Commission -\$2,140**

**Motion** made by A. Waters seconded by R. Newton and *unanimously carried* to approve \$2,140.

**21. Zoning Board of Appeals -\$1,100**

**Motion** made by A. Halibozek seconded by R. Newton and *unanimously carried* to approve \$1,100.

**22. Inland Wetlands -\$1,415**

**Motion** made by A. Halibozek seconded by A. Waters and *unanimously carried* to approve \$1,415.

**25. Conservation Commission -\$1,070**

**Motion** made by A. Halibozek seconded by A. Waters and *unanimously carried* to approve \$1,070.

**E. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion** made by A. Halibozek seconded by R. Newton and *unanimously carried* to adjourn the Budget Workshop at 7:40 p.m.

Finance Director Sylvester advised the board that there is a reduction of \$27,248 in the budget as a result of this evening's action.

Respectfully submitted,

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Re Matus  
Secretary

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John M. Flanders  
First Selectman