

**TOWN OF CROMWELL
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY MAY 11, 2011
7:10 P.M. TOWN HALL ROOM 224/5**

MINUTES AND RECORD OF VOTE

Present: John Flanders, Pat Ahlquist, Al Waters, Richard Newton, Tony Varricchio and Ann Halibozek

Absent: Allan Spotts

Also Present: Chief of Police Anthony Salvatore, Police Captain Ed Kosinski, and Director of Finance Marianne Sylvester

A. CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman John Flanders called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Richard Newton added the following agenda item:

Under **New Business**:

10. Executive Session to discuss Senator Drive.

John Flanders added the following agenda item:

Under **New Business**:

6a. Authorize interdepartmental transfers from Employee Benefits to Legal Expense, Charter Revision and Board of Assessment Appeals.

Ann Halibozek added the following agenda item:

Under **New Business**:

11. Discussion and possible action on Employee Vehicle Take-Home Policy.

A **motion** was made by Al Waters, **seconded** by Ann Halibozek and it was *unanimously approved* to approve the agenda, as amended.

C. CITIZENS COMMENTS

Peter Keithan of 24 Iron Gate Lane spoke regarding maintenance issues at the High School. Mr. Flanders said he would pass the information along to Dr. Bisceglia.

Myron Johnson of 16 Pleasant Street stated his opposition to Richard Waters' appointment to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Richard Waters of 84 South Street said he did nothing wrong to Mr. Johnson.

D. STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Flanders said Eric Hood was out of town.

E. FINANCIAL

1. Tax Refunds- none

2. Budget Reports

Finance Director Marianne Sylvester said the budget is being closely monitored. Based upon historical data, she is projecting a slight operating surplus at year's end.

F. UNFINISHED BUSINESS- none

G. NEW BUSINESS

1. Grievance UE Local #222- Third Step
 - a. Alan P.Clark

Human Resources Director Tom Roohr discussed the timeline of events leading up to the grievance. On January 27, 2011, Mr. Clark was denied overtime that was offered to all other maintenance employees during a major snowstorm. Mr. Clark offered testimony and discussed a list of problems with the current line of command in his department. He explained that he takes great pride in his work, but is not supported by management. Mr. Newton asked if it was policy to that everyone gets called in during storms, and Mr. Roohr said it depends upon the operational needs. Mr. Roohr stated that Public Works Director Eric Hood and Building Maintenance Director Frank Thomas were not available at the time and Frank Esty made the decision to exclude Mr. Clark from overtime. Mr. Varricchio asked if every employee should have been called in because of the severity of the storm, and Mr. Roohr said yes. Mr. Ahlquist said the chain of responsibility must be tightened up. Ms. Halibozek asked if Mr. Esty has ever received managerial training and Mr. Roohr said he has only received on-the-job training. Chief Salvatore said Mr. Clark is an excellent employee who does his job very well.

A **motion** was made by Richard Newton, **seconded** by Al Waters and it was *unanimously approved* to find in favor of Mr. Clark and pay him \$217 for the 12.5 hours of overtime he was denied. *Motion passed.*

2. Charter Revision Report

Enzo Faienza, Chairman of the Charter Revision Commission and Phil Gagnon, Vice Chairman of the Charter Revision Commission spoke regarding the Commission's recent activity. The Commission is moving forward with a focus on a Council/ Town Manager form of government, using the 2003 draft revised charter as a starting point. Mr. Faienza distributed price estimates for two different legal consulting firms, and discussed the

proposed costs associated with producing a revised charter to be presented to the public for a vote. The timeline was discussed, with the goal of getting the revised charter on the November ballot. Mr. Flanders stated that the Board of Selectman has already approved an expenditure of up to \$50,000, but the Board of Finance denied the expense.

A **motion** was made by Richard Newton, **seconded** by Pat Ahlquist and it was *approved* to authorize the First Selectman to enter into a contract with a legal consulting firm if the expenditure is approved by the Board of Finance, with four in favor and John Flanders and Tony Varricchio opposed. *Motion passed.*

3. Adopt a Resolution authorizing the First Selectman to make application for \$300,000 Small Cities Community Development Program and to execute an Assistance Agreement.

A **motion** was made by Al Waters, **seconded** by Richard Newton and it was *unanimously approved* to adopt a Resolution authorizing the First Selectman to make application for \$300,000 Small Cities Community Development Program and to execute an Assistance Agreement. *Motion passed.*

4. Approve request for Educational Assistance- Officer Ryan Bengston for summer and fall semester \$2,000.

A **motion** was made by Al Waters, **seconded** by Ann Halibozek and it was *unanimously approved* to approve the request for Educational Assistance for Officer Ryan Bengston for summer and fall semester in the amount of \$2,000. *Motion passed.*

5. Discussion and action to form a Veteran's Affairs Commission.

Mr. Flanders introduced Cecile Fazio of 8 Vincy Drive, who is President of the local chapter of Blue Star Mothers. Ms. Fazio described the work done by the group to support troops, veterans and their families and requested that a Veteran's Affairs Commission be formed in Cromwell.

A **motion** was made by Richard Newton, **seconded** by Al Waters and it was *unanimously approved* to authorize the First Selectman to establish a Veteran Affairs Commission with seven members. *Motion passed.*

6. Discussion and action to approve an appropriation of \$6,800 from CNR Fund-fund balance to pay the Planning Consultant's supplemental services for the Planning and Zoning New Zoning Regs project.

A **motion** was made by Tony Varricchio, **seconded** by Al Waters and it was *unanimously approved* to appropriate \$6,800 from CNR Fund-fund balance to pay the Planning Consultant's supplemental services for the Planning and Zoning New Zoning Regs project. *Motion passed.*

- a. Discussion and action on Interdepartmental Transfers from Employee Benefits to Legal Expense, Charter Revision and Board of Assessment Appeals.

Finance Director Marianne Sylvester briefly discussed the need for the transfers.

A **motion** was made by Richard Newton, **seconded** by Al Waters and it was *unanimously approved* to approve a transfer of \$25,000 from Employee Benefits to Legal Expenses, a transfer of \$1,000 from Employee Benefits to Charter Revision and a transfer of \$12 from Employee Benefits to Board of Assessment Appeals. *Motion passed.*

7. Authorize First Selectman to sign postage meter lease renewal with Pitney Bowes.

Mr. Flanders noted that the contract costs less this time than it did last time.

A **motion** was made by Tony Varricchio, **seconded** by Richard Newton and it was *unanimously approved* to authorize the First Selectman to sign the postage meter lease renewal with Pitney Bowes. *Motion passed.*

8. Discussion on Riverview Place improvement and acceptance as a Town Road.

A **motion** was made by Dick Newton, **seconded** by Al Waters and it was *unanimously approved* to table New Business item 8. *Motion passed.*

Mr. Flanders suggested discussing item 11 first, and then going into executive session for items 9 and 10. His suggestion was approved by general consent.

11. Discussion and possible action on Employee Vehicle Take-Home Policy.

Mr. Flanders said the policy consists of a directive written by Stan Terry in 2003, which authorizes supervisors and managers to use town vehicles to go back and forth to work. Currently five staff members in the Public Works department, two staff members in the Sewer Department and three police officers take home town-owned vehicles. State law gives Police Chiefs authority over police vehicles and they will not be impacted by any policy change.

A lengthy discussion followed. Mr. Newton noted that the directive was likely established without Board of Selectman approval and that the town can no longer afford such perquisites. The Board members agreed by general consent that they would like Mr. Flanders to present a revised policy at the next meeting.

9. Executive Session to discuss Alcap Ridge.
10. Executive Session to discuss Senator Drive.

A **motion** was made by Al Waters, **seconded** by Richard Newton and it was *unanimously approved* to enter into executive session to discuss Alcap Ridge. *Motion passed.*

A **motion** was made by Al Waters, **seconded** by Richard Newton and it was *unanimously approved* to enter into executive session to discuss Senator Drive, with Tony Varricchio abstaining. *Motion passed.*

The Board members reconvened from Executive Session at 9:30 p.m.

A **motion** was made by Al Waters, **seconded** by Ann Halibozek and it was *unanimously approved* to authorize Mr. Flanders to hire attorney John Watts as special counsel for the Alcap Ridge property. *Motion passed.*

H. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Open Forum, Senator Drive- April 7, 2011- Tabled

A **motion** was made by Al Waters, **seconded** by Ann Halibozek and it was *unanimously approved* to take item 1 off the table. *Motion passed.*

A **motion** was made by Richard Newton, **seconded** by Al Waters and it was *approved* to approve the minutes as submitted, with four in favor and Pat Ahlquist and Ann Halibozek abstaining. *Motion passed.*

2. Regular Meeting, April 13, 2011

A **motion** was made by Richard Newton, **seconded** by Al Waters and it was *unanimously approved* to approve the minutes as submitted. *Motion passed.*

I. FIRST SELECTMAN'S COMMENTS

Mr. Flanders said the town budget passed at referendum and the mill rate has been set at 28.8, which is a slight decrease from the current year's mill rate of 28.84.

Mr. Flanders noted that several dying trees were removed from the WWI memorial green. They will be replaced by a variety of flowering trees before the Memorial Day parade. He will make sure Paul Doyle and Christie Carpino are notified about the parade.

Mr. Flanders discussed the town's negotiations with the Mattabasset district, and said the make up of the Mattabasset Board has been 96% determined. There are still discussions ongoing regarding the PILOT payment that the District will begin sending to Cromwell, but it will be in the six figures, and be paid annually, in perpetuity.

Mr. Flanders made a resolution that the Board wishes member Allan Spotts a full and speedy recovery and the Board unanimously approved the resolution.

J. GOOD & WELFARE

Mr. Waters asked Mr. Flanders to make sure the sidewalk in front of Town Hall is fixed before someone gets hurt. Mr. Flanders said the project is already out for bid.

There was brief discussion regarding the letter from Sal Petrella requesting a refund for land purchased from the Town. Mr. Flanders said he would have more information from the State by the end of the week and would forward that information to the Board members.

K. COMMISSION REPORTS

Mr. Varricchio said the Fire District is placing another well in the well field. Also, the Fire District has concluded that the trees at Frisbee Landing died because the water table there is too high; they did not die from lack of watering.

Ms. Halibozek said that both ZBA and P & Z have complained that several public hearings have had to be rescheduled because proper legal notice did not occur. There has been a breakdown in the system, and Tom Roohr should be notified.

L. RESIGNATIONS- none.

M. APPOINTMENTS

- a. Richard Waters to fill vacancy on Planning and Zoning Commission

Ms. Halibozek asked Mr. Waters what he would bring to the Commission.

Mr. Waters said it is his desire to protect the town. He is retired and has time to go all over town and watch over projects.

A **motion** was made by Richard Newton, **seconded** by Tony Varricchio and it was *unanimously approved* to approve the appointment of Richard Waters to the Planning and Zoning Commission. *Motion passed.*

N. ADJOURNMENT

A **motion** was made by Richard Newton, **seconded** by Tony Varricchio and it was *unanimously approved* to adjourn at 9:46

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Larson
Temporary Recording Secretary
5/12/11

John Flanders
First Selectman