

**SPECIAL BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING (IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING PUBLIC HEARING) AUGUST 22, 2011
7:00 P.M. TOWN HALL ROOM 224/5**

Present: First Selectman J. Flanders, Deputy First Selectman R. Newton, A. Varricchio, A. Halibozek, A. Waters, A. Spotts, P. Ahlquist
Absent: None
Also Present: Public and Press

A. Special Board of Selectmen's Meeting called to order. (Was called to order at 7:00 p.m. along with the Public Hearing)

B. New Business

1. Discussion and possible action on Charter Draft

Motion made by A. Spotts seconded by A. Waters and *carried* to approve the charter amendments proposed by the Cromwell Charter Revision Commission in its Draft Report dated August 10, 2011 and to submit the charter amendments to the electors for approval or rejection as one question at the next regular election to be held on November 8, 2011.

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

Nay: A. Varricchio, J. Flanders

Motion carried

A. Halibozek -In favor of this going to the voters in the fall. The best decision is to allow the public to vote on whether to change the form of town government. Along with others, including the Charter Revision Commission; Ms. Halibozek contemplated eliminating the Board of Finance or having the Town Clerk and Tax Collector's positions to be appointed. Ms. Halibozek determined, at this time, since there could be so many changes to the town that it would be prudent to wait until a future date to make those changes. Ms. Halibozek believes that the town manager should have a background in Finance, Engineering or Government. Ms. Halibozek strongly urged everyone to carefully read every page of this draft charter and education themselves on what it says, especially Article 10-01 and 10-02 on page 39.

A. Varricchio -Does not support this motion stating the following reasons; 1. There should not be any restrictions that anyone cannot talk to the town employees, 2. Feels Town Manager should be required to be a town resident, 3. The Human Resources position is being eliminated, 4. The Town Manager will have a large amount of power, 5. Just-cause is taken out, 6. There is no stipend for the council members. Mr. Varricchio stated that he believes this should go to the people for a vote but would like to see ac couple of things tweaked before it goes.

Ms. Halibozek stated that Mr. Varrichhio's statements were incorrect; the council would have the ability to talk to town employees.

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Mr. Varricchio replied to Ms. Halibozek's statement: if you can talk to a town employee the last sentence should be removed. Mr. Varricchio thanked the public for attending this meeting and stating their opinions.

R. Newton -Feels that since Cromwell is in the middle of the State a town manager is necessary. Mr. Newton stated that if the Town Manager form of government is chosen a head-hunter should be hired to fill the Town Mangers position. Mr. Newton spoke to two firms and found that the fees they charge are 20% of the Town Manager's first year's salary. Not the equalivant of a year's salary as some people had stated in the press. Mr. Newton stated that he feels that the people should have a chance to vote on this; it has been eight years since the public has had the opportunity to vote on Charter Revision.

A. Waters -Stated that the majority rules; let the voters decide.

A. Spotts -Thanked those who came out tonight and the Charter Revision Commission for their hard work. Mr. Spotts stated that the voters should have the chance to decide this November.

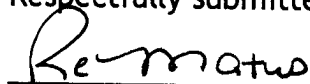
P. Ahlquist -Thanked everyone for taking the time to attend tonight's meeting and respects everyone's opinion. Mr. Ahlquist believes that the people should have the chance to vote on this issue.

J. Flanders -Stated that he found himself on the horns of a dilemma. The argument to send this to the people is a strong one. Mr. Flanders went on to say; this is a democratic society and questions like this should be decided by the people. However, in order to do that I would have to be voting in favor of something that I very strongly personally disagree with. Some interesting arguments for a town manager were presented tonight; the importance of continuity in good government, the need for a person with expertise in Finance, Engineering or Government; but is taking away the rights of the people to choose their leader the only way to get continuity in town government or expertise in Finance, Engineering or Government? I don't believe so. I believe that a good society can choose good leaders. I believe that the people will get a chance to vote on this and urged them to ask the question; is taking away your right to choose you leader worth the benefits that you will be getting? Is it worth taking away your voice? Is this the best thing for the Town of Cromwell; I don't think so.

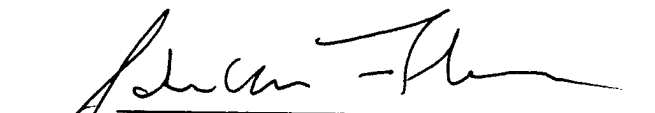
C. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,



Re Matus
Secretary



John Flanders
First Selectman