

TOWN OF CROMWELL  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY APRIL 13, 2011  
7:10 P.M. TOWN HALL ROOM 224/5

MINUTES

Present: First Selectman J. Flanders, Deputy First Selectman R. Newton,  
A. Varricchio, A. Halibozek, A. Waters, A. Spotts, P, Ahlquist

Absent:

Also Present: Chief of Police A. Salvatore, Director of Finance M. Sylvester, Public Works Director E. Hood, Senior/Human Services Director T. Strong, Charter Revision Chairman E. Maley, Economic Development Consultant C. Stevenson, Public and Press

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

First Selectman Flanders called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

**B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Additions to agenda:

E. Financial, 1. Tax Refunds # i. Michael S. or Sandra L. Gashgoria -\$9.14

H. Minutes, 4. Special Meeting, April 11, 2011

M. Appointments,

1. Cromwell Water Pollution Control Authority,

a. Tom Gunn, Alternate, Term Expires December 2011.

b. Robert Jahn, Regular Member, Term Expires January 2012

(Mr. Gunn & Mr. Jahn requested to swap positions)

2. Regional Mental Health Board, Inc.

a. Jennifer Donohue, Term expires April 2012

First Selectman Flanders proposed moving G1 to right after Citizens Comments

**Motion** made by A. Waters seconded by R. Newton and *unanimously carried* to approve the agenda as amended.

**Motion** made by A. Halibozek seconded by A. Waters and *unanimously carried* to move item G13 to G1.

**Main Motion** *unanimously carried* to approve the agenda as amended.

**C. CITIZENS COMMENTS**

1. R. Duffy, Oxford Lane -Spoke about the Cromwell Outboard Association lease renewal.

2. A. Kelly, Willowbrook Road -Spoke regarding Senator Drive Open Space.

3. C. Hodlin, Vincy Drive -Vice President Middlesex County Blue Star Mothers CT-3- Spoke about the Stephen Siller Tunnel 2 towers 5K Run/Walk.

4. S. Bayley, Chestnut Court -Spoke against G. 11 (Ordinance regarding Landlord Registration)
5. R. Waters, South Street -Spoke regarding G. 9 (Cromwell Outboard Association), Spoke against G. 10 (Dead Man's Swamp walking trails), and spoke regarding a grader that has been left outside to rust. Mr. Waters also spoke about G12 (Vehicle Use Policy).

G.1. Presentation from State DOT on Pipe Relining project on the South End of Main Street.

Connecticut Department of Transportation Representatives Scott A. Hill, Scott Bushee, Erika Lindeberg and Douglas Hummel presented a Project Overview of State Project No. 33-127, Culvert Rehabilitation at the Exit and Entrance Ramps to Route 9 (Exit 18) From Route 99 (Main Street). Pamphlet attached to minutes.

After the presentation the Board of Selectmen and audience were invited to ask questions regarding the project. Brian Armet, Executive Director of the Mattabassett District asked for DOT's assurance that the Mattabassett Staff and Emergency Vehicles would have access to the plant at all times.

#### **D. STAFF/BOARD LIAISON REPORTS**

1. Discussion and possible action on Report of the Charter Revision Commission. Charter Revision Chairman Maley asked the Board of Selectman to appropriate \$50,000 so an attorney with expertise in Charter Revision can be hired to revise the Charter to accommodate a Manager/Council form of government. Mr. Maley stated that he volunteered his time for the initial revisions that were recommended but does not have time to write a full scale revision of the Charter. Discussion followed. Selectmen Halibozek, Newton, Waters, Spotts and Ahlquist spoke in favor of appropriating the funds. Selectmen Varricchio and Flanders were hesitant to spend a large amount of funds without knowing if that is what type of government the majority of the residents want. Discussion followed regarding the possibility of polling the public and how that could be done. Mr. Maley stated that only one Charter can be presented to the Board of Selectmen and they then determine whether it should be brought to the people for a vote. Mr. Maley advised that if you ask the public the question; what form of government they want, without presenting a full charter of what each would involve they wouldn't be able to make an informed decision.

Further discussion followed.

**Motion** made by R. Newton seconded by A. Halibozek and *carried* to appropriate \$50,000 from the General Fund/Fund Balance under Legal Expense, Special Accounts for Charter Revision.

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

Nay: A. Varricchio, J. Flanders

*Motion carried*

2. March 2011 Economic Development Report.  
Craig Stevenson presented an EDC Report. (Attached to the minutes)
3. Public Works Department  
Eric Hood, Public Works Director presented a report to the Board. (Attached to the minutes).

## E. FINANCIAL

1. Tax Refunds
  - a. See Yea-Leei & Sian-tock -\$828.22
  - b. David & Beatrice Jordan -\$366.88
  - c. CAB East LLC -\$597.49
  - d. Daimler Trust -\$553.97
  - e. Robert Friedman -\$5.80
  - f. Pierre J. Roy -\$65.36
  - g. Donald B. Bighinatti -\$44.76
  - h. Nisar & Sairah Sandhu -\$1,585.84
  - i. Michael S. or Sandra L. Gashgoria -\$9.14

Motion made by R. Newton seconded by A. Spotts and *carried* to approve tax refunds a - i.

Aye: A. Halibozek, A. Varricchio, J. Flanders, R. Newton, A. Spotts, P. Ahlquist  
A. Waters was out of the room and did not vote.

2. Budget Reports  
Finance Director Sylvester presented the budget reports.

3. Discussion and action for Other Fund Budgets:

- a. Dog Fund

Motion made by R. Newton seconded by A. Spotts and *unanimously carried* to approve the Dog Fund Budget.

- b. Sidewalk Program Fund

Motion made by A. Waters seconded by A. Varricchio and *unanimously carried* to approve the Sidewalk Program Fund.

- c. Sewer Usage Fund

Motion made by R. Newton seconded by A. Waters and *unanimously carried* to approve the Sewer Usage Fund.

- d. Sewer Assessment Fund

Motion made by R. Newton seconded by A. Spotts and *unanimously carried* to approve the Sewer Assessment Fund

- e. Authorize First Selectman to set time and date of a Special Town Meeting for Other Fund Budgets.

Motion made by R. Newton seconded by A. Halibozek and *unanimously carried* to authorize First Selectman to set time and date of a Special Town Meeting for Other Fund Budgets. (First Selectman Flanders stated that the meeting date will be the same as the Annual Town Budget Meeting).

## F. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

## G. NEW BUSINESS

13. Discussion and possible action regarding the Investigation of Senator Drive.  
A short discussion followed.

A. Halibozek asked Chief Salvatore questions regarding the Investigation. R. Newton cautioned the Chief about answering some of the questions because of possible litigation regarding the Senator Drive issue.

T. Roohr stated that he reviewed the police report and it was more than adequate to do an Administrative Investigation Report. The report should be finished within a week or two.

**Motion** made by A. Halibozek seconded by P. Ahlquist and failed to censor the First Selectman.

Each Board member with the exception of Ms. Halibozek stated various reasons why they would not support the motion.

Aye: A. Halibozek,

Nay: R. Newton, A. Waters, A. Spotts, P. Ahlquist

Abstained: J. Flanders, A. Varricchio

*Motion failed*

2. Discussion and action for the Board of Education to enter in a multi-year financial loan agreement for the purpose of purchasing district technology equipment.

Rick Mandeville from the Board of Education Office was present to answer questions. Mr. Newton asked if the Town's Finance Director was involved in the process.

**Motion** made by R. Newton seconded by A. Varricchio and *unanimously carried* to authorize the Board of Education to enter into a multi-year financial loan agreement for the purpose of purchasing district technology equipment and authorize the First Selectman to set time and date of a Special Town Meeting to authorize alternate financing for Board of Education IT lease purchase.

3. Discussion and support request from Blue Star Mothers to use the first Lauren's Run route for Stephen Siller Tunnel 2 Towers 5k Run.

Chief Salvatore presented the request.

**Motion** made by R. Newton seconded by A. Waters and *unanimously carried* to support the request from Blue Star Mothers to use the first Lauren's Run route for the Stephen Siller Tunnel 2 Towers 5k Run.

4. Discussion and support for proposal to change course for Blum Shapiro 5K Road Race.

Chief Salvatore presented the request

**Motion** made by A. Varricchio seconded by A. Spotts and *unanimously carried* to support the proposal to change course for Blum Shapiro 5K Road Race.

5. Discussion and action to approve DOT Traffic Safety Concepts Grants.
  - a. Click it or Ticket It Media Checkpoint (seatbelt)
  - b. Traffic Control Enforcement Project (Rush hour traffic control enforcement).

**Motion** made by A. Waters seconded by A. Varricchio and *unanimously carried* to approve DOT Traffic Safety Concepts Grants.

6. Discussion and possible action for Operation Midnight Street Lighting Services.
  - a. Authorize First Selectman to call time and date of Public Hearing.

Chief Salvatore gave his opinion and stated that he was not in favor of this program because of possible public safety issues the lack of lighting could cause.

*No action taken*

7. Approve and authorize First Selectman to sign the Fair Housing Documents. Senior/Human Services Director T. Strong presented the request.

**Motion** made by R. Newton seconded by A. Spotts and *unanimously carried* to approve and authorize First Selectman to sign the Fair Housing Documents.

8. Approve applying for and authorizing First Selectman to sign any follow-up grant/contract executive documents for the SFY 2012 Preventive Health Block Grant.

Senior/Human Services Director T. Strong presented the request.

**Motion** made by A. Varricchio seconded by A. Spotts and *unanimously carried* to approve applying for and authorizing First Selectman to sign any follow-up grant/contract executive documents for the SFY 2012 Preventive Health Block Grant.

9. Discussion and action to approve the Boat Club lease agreement.

*R. Newton and A. Waters recused themselves and left the room.*

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

Boat Club Representative Jim Davis spoke regarding the lease.

A lengthy discussion followed regarding item 15 Right to Terminate and whether the words *development purposes* include recreational development.

**Amended Motion** made by A. Halibozek seconded by P. Ahlquist and *carried* to authorize the First Selectman to sign a 5 year lease following consultation with the Town Attorney to determine the parameters of the word development.

Aye: A. Halibozek, A. Varricchio, J. Flanders, A. Spotts, P. Ahlquist

R. Newton and A. Waters recused themselves and did not vote.

**Main Motion** *carried* to authorize the First Selectman to sign a 5 year lease following consultation with the Town Attorney to determine the parameters of the word development.

10. Discussion regarding Dead Man's swamp walking trails.  
Ron Bergeron, President of the Cromwell Fish & Game Club informed the board that they lease a parcel of property from Northeast Utilities in that area. The Fish & Game Club is concerned that a walking path may be installed in the near proximity of where the Club hunts.  
A short discussion followed.
11. Discussion and action regarding adding an Ordinance regarding Landlord Registration.
  - a. Authorize First Selectman to set time and date for a Public Hearing.  
A. Halibozek and A. Waters stated that they are opposed to the \$50.00 fee associated with this proposed ordinance.

**Motion** made by R. Newton seconded by A. Waters and *unanimously carried* to authorize the First Selectman to set time and date for a Public Hearing.
12. Discussion and possible action to approve Vehicle Use Policy.  
Discussion followed. The consensus of the board was that in these times the Town of Cromwell should have a Vehicle Use Policy. First Selectman Flanders stated that he would have a policy ready to present at the May meeting but it is an administrative decision, the First Selectman's decision, as to which employees are allowed to take a vehicle home. He is reluctant to allow this board to make a decision on who takes a car home.
14. Review of the current status and available balances of approved bond projects for Parks & Roads.  
Public Works Director Hood presented the report.  
A short discussion followed.
15. Authorize the First Selectman to set time and date of Annual Town Meeting.  
**Motion** made by R. Newton seconded by A. Spotts and *unanimously carried* to authorize the First Selectman to set time and date of Annual Town Meeting. First Selectman Flanders stated that he was planning on May 5<sup>th</sup> at the Cromwell Middle School.
16. Resolution to send Fiscal Year11/12 Annual Budget to Referendum.  
**Motion** made by R. Newton seconded by A. Spotts and *unanimously carried* to approve the Resolution to send Fiscal Year11/12 Annual Budget to Referendum.

#### H. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Regular Meeting March 9, 2011  
**Motion** made by R. Newton seconded by A. Waters and *carried* to approve the minutes of March 9, 2011.  
Aye: P. Ahlquist, A. Waters, R. Newton, J. Flanders, A. Varricchio, A. Halibozek  
Abstained: A. Spotts (did not attend this meeting)

2. Special Meeting March 25, 2011

Motion made by R. Newton seconded by A. Waters to approve the minutes of March 25, 2011.

Amended Motion made by A. Halibozek seconded by A. Waters and *unanimously carried* to Add: *Mr. Varricchio commented on the statements made in various venues about his family. (E. Executive Session)*

Main Motion *unanimously carried* to approve the minutes as amended.

3. Open Forum, Senator Drive April 7, 2011

Motion made by R. Newton seconded by A. Halibozek and *unanimously carried* to table.

4. Special Meeting April 11, 2011

Motion made by R. Newton seconded by A. Waters and *unanimously carried* to approve the Minutes of April 11, 2011.

#### I. FIRST SELECTMAN'S COMMENTS

1. First Selectman Flanders updated the board regarding Middletown's efforts in joining the Mattabassett District. Mr. Flanders also updated the board on the most recent proposals of the number of representative that each town would have to represent them on the Mattabassett Board. Senator Doyle and Representative Carpino are working hard on Cromwell's behalf.
2. The CRRRA arrangement will end late this year. There is discussion regarding the successor entity that will control the Mid-Connecticut plant where we send our trash. There is a bill in the legislator that will allow it to be turned over to the MDC and CROG. Covanta has approached the town; their prices are significantly cheaper. Mr. Flanders's is keeping a close eye on the situation.

#### J. GOOD & WELFARE

A. Halibozek -Requested that an item be added to this year or next year; Discussion and action to move GPS to next year's CNR Requests.

A. Spotts -Inquired why the Assessor sent the Sr. Tax Abatement forms out registered mail, return receipt requested. Mr. Spotts also inquired why town staff did not attend the P&Z walk-thru at Cobblestone.

#### K. COMMISSION REPORTS

A. Varricchio -P&Z accepted the new Regulations. They will become effective May 1, 2011.

#### L. RESIGNATIONS

None

**M. APPOINTMENTS**

1. Cromwell Water Pollution Control Authority,
  - a. Tom Gunn, Alternate, Term Expires December 2011.
  - b. Robert Jahn, Regular Member, Term Expires January 2012
2. Regional Mental Health Board, Inc.
  - a. Jennifer Donohue, Term expires April 2012

Motion made by R. Newton seconded by A. Waters and *unanimously carried* to approve appointments 1 & 2.

**N. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 p.m. by general consent.

Respectfully submitted,

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Re Matus  
Secretary

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John M. Flanders  
First Selectman