

**TOWN OF CROMWELL
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2006
7:10 P.M. TOWN HALL ROOM 224/5**

MINUTES

Present: First Selectman P. Beaulieu, Deputy First Selectman S. Stachura, R. Newton,
A. Waters, M. Johnson, S. Salvatore, F. Monnes

Absent:

Also Present: Chief of Police A. Salvatore, Police Captain R. Nelson, Director of
Finance M. Sylvester, H/R Director T. Roohr, Public Works Director R.
Jahn, Acting Human Services Director T. Strong, Economic Development
Coordinator C. Stevenson, Town Hall Sign Committee Chairman Judy
Salamacha, Public and Press

A. CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Beaulieu called the meeting to order at 7:28 p.m.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- E. Financial, #2. Tax Refunds, a. Sold, #8. Honda Lease Trust \$114.74, b. #5.
Deborah Blakeslee -\$201.42, f. BOAA Reduced, #10, Kathleen Tolli -\$32.85,
#11, Fred or Kathleen Tolli \$35.67, #12 Kathleen Tolli, \$41.61, #13. Piekut Jerzy
-\$512.52, g. Elderly Prorate, #1. Debra Morris and Gary Sullivan, \$143.83.
- G. New Business, #1. Presentation and recommendation of the Town Hall Sign
Committee. #7. Discussion and action to appoint Senior Tax Abatement Program
Committee, a. Tom Beck, Dick Coughlin, Ray Mildren, Rev. Larry Wogman,
Delman Wolf, Ken Going, Alternate, Jack Henehan, Board of Finance liaison, to
be determined, Board of Selectmen liaison, Shawna O'Neil, Tax Assessor, Staff
liaison, Committee's Charge: The Committee shall undertake and complete
within a period not in excess of 60 days following their appointment, a study and
investigation with respect to property tax relief in accordance with Sec. 12-129 of
the CGS to provide for a pilot municipal property tax relief program for elderly
and totally disabled persons in the Town of Cromwell. The Committee shall
prepare a report to be presented to the Board of Finance, which report shall
include the following: (1) the fiscal effect of such property tax relief on property
tax revenue, and (2) recommendations with respect to the form and extent of such
property tax relief."
- H. Resignations, #2. Board of Finance, a. Douglas Payne, 3. Park & Recreation
Commission, Diane Flanigan
- I. Appointments, #1. Board of Finance, a. John Flanders, term expires 11/07.
Motion made by R. Newton seconded by S. Stachura and *unanimously carried*
to approve the agenda as amended.

C. CITIZEN COMMENTS

1. Tony Varricchio, Kowal Drive-spoke on behalf of Rep. O'Rourke and himself regarding a grant that was received in May 2003 for Pierson and Watrous Parks. Mr. Varricchio stated that the money that was set aside for a Skate Park had expired and advised that all the Town has to do is send a letter to the State and request that the grant be restored.
2. Marvin Selsky, Willowbrook Road-presented an FOIA request for the amount of money that the town spent in materials and overtime to clean up after a rain storm, which occurred on Sunday October 1st.
3. Frank Emanuele, Evergreen Road-Spoke regarding a drainage problem, which involves his property that is long standing. Mr. Emanuele urged the town to correct the problem and do the right thing.
4. Rich Waters, South Street-Spoke in favor of a Senior Tax Freeze. Mr. Waters also spoke regarding the lights at WIS, and advised the board that he heard that the High School roof is leaking. Mr. Waters also spoke regarding several other issues of concern.
5. Helen Zaleski, Geer Street-Spoke about speeders on Geer Street and other issues of concern.
6. Al Spotts, Black Haw Drive-Thanked the Board of Selectman, several Departments and members of Town Staff for the assistance that was provided to him through the years as Chairman of the Riverport Festival.
7. Bob Jahn, Woodside Road-Spoke regarding matters of public safety such as the signage and speed limits near the schools and several other topics of interest. Report attached.
8. Marvin Selsky, Willowbrook Road-supported Mr. Emanuele's request.

D. STAFF AND COMMISSION CHAIRMAN REPORTS

First Selectman Beaulieu stated that the State Bond Commission did not approve the Steap Grant for the northern tier however they did approve a \$250,000 grant for the downtown area. The town is in the process of auctioning off two vehicles, former police cruisers. A new fulltime driver for the Senior Transportation Program has been appointed. The lighting of the Christmas tree tradition will be resumed this year. First Selectman Beaulieu addressed Mr. Selsky's FOI request by advising him in regard to the heavy rainstorm that occurred on October 1st, the public works director was instructed to come up with a cost estimate for the clean up for the two construction areas. The cost has been determined and First Selectman Beaulieu has requested that the Town Attorney see if we can seek restitution from the performance bond. The town is well aware of Mr. Emanuele's problem. They did put the project out to bid and only received one bid that was far in excess of the amount that was appropriated. They did try and work with the bidder to see if they could bring the cost within the appropriated amount and could not come to an agreement. The project will be put back out to bid over the winter months and hopefully more bids will be received.

Public Works Director Jahn submitted a written report and was in attendance to answer questions and concerns.

Mr. Jahn responded to questions relating to replacement of sidewalks on Main Street, cleaning out Evergreen Road culvert and potential use of Waste Oil furnaces at Public Works garages.

E. FINANCIAL

1. Budget Reports

Finance Director M. Sylvester presented the budget reports. Ms. Sylvester advised that once again the area of significance would be legal fees particularly in the area of Labor Relations. They are in the process of closing out 05/06 budget, the auditors should be here the end of November to wrap things up. The fund balance went down by about \$200,000. Several large projects were done such as Geer Street. Money was set aside for the re-val process. First Selectman Beaulieu informed the board in regard to the Board of Finance's CNR recommendations that the Board of Finance took note of the status of our General Fund balance and deliberately targeted that we do not go less than 6 ½ % of the operating budget as far as the actual balance in the General Fund, which is prudent from the stand point of most bond rating agencies.

2. Tax Refunds

a. Sold

1. Richard Sponzo -\$79.91
2. James Mullen -\$55.45
3. Harrette H. Holmes -\$55.66
4. Helene Loveless -\$9.39
5. Edart Leasing Co LLC -\$236.86
6. SAAB Leasing Co. -\$206.67
7. Nissan Infiniti LT -\$532.37
8. Honda Lease Trust -\$114.74

b. Trade

1. Edward Skowronek -\$79.91
2. Michael D. Jacobs -\$475.92
3. Dana M. Lasek -\$ 48.87
4. Joseph R. Zebora Jr. -\$584.81
5. Deborah Blakeslee -\$201.42

c. Disposed

1. Marion D. Lombardo -\$7.20
2. Wei Tih Cheng -\$46.81
3. Toyota Motor Credit Corp. -\$207.70
4. Robert W. Rosenfeld -\$11.68
5. John Egan -\$22.28
6. Luis Alvarez -\$207.86

d. Overpayment

1. Sitara Hultman -\$47.06
2. Citizens Leasing Corporation -\$40.07
3. Master Halco -\$706.04

e. Out of State

1. Theresa J. Smith -\$17.55
2. Wei Tih Cheng -\$98.59

3. Donna Mount Executrix -\$24.59
4. Leola E. Landry -\$255.42
- f. BAA Reduced
 1. Brian P. Dugay -\$165.52
 2. Kenneth D. Rice -\$83.86
 3. Debra A. Morris -\$197.13
 4. Jeffrey Lamb -\$12.61
 5. Paul or Ruth Damico -\$27.54
 6. Debra or Emily Pember -\$196.19
 7. A Better Way Salka and Sons -\$331.04
 8. Allen Zolty -\$362.34
 9. John Barry -\$212.46
 10. Kathleen Tolli -\$32.85
 11. Fred or Kathleen Tolli -\$35.67
 12. Kathleen Tolli -\$41.61
 13. Piekut Jerzy -\$512.52

- g. Elderly Prorate
 1. Debra Morris and Gary Sullivan -\$143.83

Motion made by R. Newton seconded by S. Stachura and *unanimously carried* to approve tax refunds a – g.

3. Authorization to apply for and receive an Expanded 75% - 25% DUI Enforcement Grant.

Chief Salvatore presented the request. A short discussion followed.

- a. Approve appropriation of \$30,000 from Capital Non-Recurring for DUI Enforcement Grant (of which 75% will be reimbursed back to the Town) contingent upon approval by the Board of Finance.

Motion made by R. Newton seconded by S. Stachura and *unanimously carried* to authorize applying for and receiving Expanded 75% - 25% DUI Enforcement Grant and approve appropriation of \$30,000 from Capital Non-Recurring for DUI Enforcement Grant contingent upon approval by the Board of Finance.

F. OLD BUSINESS

None

G. NEW BUSINESS

1. Presentation and recommendation of the Town Hall Sign Committee.

Town Hall Sign Committee Chairman J. Salamacha presented the recommendations of the Sign Committee to the board. The committee worked on the design of the sign with New England Sign Carvers. The cost for the sign would vary depending upon the method of display selected. It will be up to the board if the sign would be mounted using a breakaway structure or constructed of brick masonry block at an additional cost.

Discussion followed.

Selectman Johnson stated that he contacted the Department of Transportation and was informed that they would be willing to work with the town to enable the town to

construct a masonry-mounted sign. Chief Salvatore concurred with Mr. Johnson's statement as he also spoke with a representative of the DOT, regarding a project that he is working on, and was given basically the same information.

The consensus of the board was to approve the concept as presented by the Sign Committee and attempt to get an exception from the Department of Transportation Rights-of-Way so a permanent sign can be placed in a desirable location in front of the Town Hall. The exception is necessary because much of the land in front of the town hall is owned by the State of Connecticut. First Selectman Beaulieu will assign the Professional Staff of the Town to apply to the State for an exception or other options that are available to the Town to construct a masonry sign in lieu of a 'break-away-sign'. The Town Hall staff will also be instructed to obtain pricing for the sign. Finance Director Sylvester reminded that the proper purchasing procedures must be followed. First Selectman Beaulieu and the members of the board thanked Ms. Salamacha and the Sign Committee for their efforts.

Selectman Stachura requested that pictures of the sign be displayed in the lobby of Town Hall so people can come and see what is being proposed.

2. Discussion and action on a transfer of \$250,000 from the General Fund Fund Balance to the Capital Non-Recurring Fund, as approved by the Board of Finance on 9/28/06.

Motion made by S. Salvatore seconded by S. Stachura and *unanimously carried* to approve transfer of \$250,000 for the General Fund Fund Balance to the Capital Non-Recurring Fund.

3. Discussion and action on the 2006-07 Capital Expenditure Requests.

Motion made by S. Salvatore seconded by F. Monnes to take up the requests.

A short discussion followed regarding several of the requests.

Motion made by S. Salvatore seconded by A. Waters and *unanimously carried* to approve requests in the amount of \$322,500 as recommended by the Board of Finance.

1. Public Works Solid Waste
 - a. Office Building with Restroom - \$20,000
2. Engineering Division
 - a. Townwide GIS Data Input - \$10,000
 - b. Control Points Survey - \$10,000
3. Highway Division
 - a. 1-Ton Pick-Up Truck w/plow - \$30,000
 - b. 15,000 6-Way Bulldozer - \$50,000
4. Computer Committee
 - a. Operating System Upgrade - \$13,500
5. Police Department
 - a. Police Vehicles (2) - \$54,000
6. Recreation Department
 - a. Gym Floor/Mats - \$12,000
 - b. Playground Structure - \$15,000
7. Transportation

- a. Handicap Accessible Vehicle - \$52,000
- 8. Board of Education
 - a. Special Services Bus (repl.) - \$56,000

4. Discussion and action to increase P&Z Permit Application Fees.

First Selectman Beaulieu advised the board that the P&Z Application Fees had not been increased in almost twenty years. The Planning and Zoning Commission voted to recommend that the Board of Selectmen increase the permit application fees as follows:

Site Plan Approval - \$100.00 plus \$15.00/unit for multifamily or \$25/1,000 sf for commercial construction.

Special Permit -\$150.00

Use Permit -\$50.00

Zone Change -\$100.00

Subdivision - \$100.00/lot on existing road; \$250.00/lot on new road.

Motion made by S. Stachura seconded by A. Waters and *unanimously carried* to approve the increase the fees as recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission. New fee schedule will be effective concurrent with the filing of these minutes.

5. Approve Electronic Voting Equipment Agreement Resolution.

Motion made by R. Newton seconded by S. Salvatore and *unanimously carried* to approve the resolution as amended to show that the town would begin to use the new voting machines with the first election in November 2007. The resolution as amended is attached to the minutes.

6. Discussion on acceptance of Transfer Station Access Road as a public road.

Economic Development Coordinator C. Stevenson and Attorney Salvatore Petrella requested that the Town of Cromwell accept the access road to the Recycling Station as a public road. C. Stevenson stated that this action would allow the town to develop plans for future expansion of the industrial area instead of maintaining the current right of way over a private road. Attorney Petrella advised the board that the majority of the property owners, abutters and holders of easement rights of way support the proposal. Attorney Petrella informed the board that he is awaiting the return of one additional signed petition and will forward it to the town upon its receipt.

Chief Salvatore cautioned the board that the proposal does not include a short stretch at the beginning of the driveway. The town presently holds an easement for 15.5 feet and is skeptical that the property owner would agree to turn over any additional property to the town at this time.

Lengthy discussion followed regarding other options such as contacting the Town of Rocky Hill and the Sysco Corporation to see if they would consider granting easement rights of way to the Town of Cromwell to have the road exit

through Rocky Hill. Chief Salvatore advised that the driveway to the Recycling Center would not meet the criteria for acceptance as a public road as presented. After further discussion the consensus of the board was to ask the Planning and Zoning Commission to consider granting 8-24 approval. If the 8-24 is granted by P&Z the matter will be brought back to the Board of Selectmen at a later date for further discussion. A poll of the Board indicated a consensus to go forward to seek Section 8-24 approval.

7. Discussion and action to appoint Senior Tax Abatement Program Committee
 - a. Tom Beck
 - b. Dick Coughlin
 - c. Ray Mildren
 - d. Rev. Larry Wogman
 - e. Delman Wolf
 - f. Ken Going, Alternate
 - g. Jack Henehan, Board of Finance liaison
 - h. Fran Monnes, Board of Selectmen liaison
 - i. Shawna O'Neil, Tax Assessor, Staff liaison

Motion made by R. Newton seconded by S. Stachura and *carried* to approve appointing the committee as shown above and present them with the following charge:

Committee's Charge: The Committee shall undertake and complete within a period not in excess of 60 days following their appointment, a study and investigation with respect to property tax relief in accordance with Sec. 12-129 of the CGS to provide for a pilot municipal property tax relief program for elderly and totally disabled persons in the Town of Cromwell. The Committee shall prepare a report to be presented to the Board of Finance, for their recommendation, which report shall include the following: (1) the fiscal effect of such property tax relief on property tax revenue, and (2) recommendations with respect to the form and extent of such property tax relief."

Aye: A. Waters, R. Newton, S. Stachura, S. Salvatore, F. Monnes
M. Johnson left the room at 9:55 and did not vote.

H. RESIGNATIONS

1. Inland Wetland and Watercourses Agency
 - a. Moira C. Robertson
2. Board of Finance
 - a. Douglas Payne
3. Park & Recreation Commission
 - a. Diane Flanigan

Motion made by S. Stachura seconded by R. Newton and *unanimously carried* to accept #1, 2 and 3 with regret.

I. APPOINTMENTS

1. Board of Finance
 - a. John Flanders –term expires 11/07

Motion made by S. Stachura seconded by S. Salvatore and *unanimously carried* to approve Mr. Flanders' appointment.

J. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Regular Meeting, September 13, 2006

Motion made by R. Newton seconded by S. Stachura and *unanimously carried* to approve the minutes of September 13, 2006.

2. Special Meeting, September 21, 2006

Motion made by R. Newton seconded by S. Stachura and *carried* to approve the minutes of September 21, 2006.

Aye: A. Waters, R. Newton, S. Stachura, M. Johnson, S. Salvatore

F. Monnes was not present at this meeting but did present written comments, which were attached to the minutes regarding the POCD.

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Union Issue

Motion made by S. Stachura seconded by R. Newton and *carried* to adjourn to Executive Session at 9:55 p.m. (after a 5 minute recess).

Aye: A. Waters, R. Newton, S. Stachura, S. Salvatore, F. Monnes

M. Johnson had left the room and did not vote but was present for the Executive Session after the 5-minute recess.

H/R Director T. Roohr was invited into Executive Session

Motion made by S. Stachura seconded by R. Newton and *unanimously carried* to authorize the First Selectman to sign settlement agreement between the Town of Cromwell and Local 222 CILU for the Niesyn grievance.

L. SELECTMEN COMMISSION REPORTS

F. Monnes- Park and Recreation and Fire Commission

S. Salvatore –Board of Education

M. Johnson –Planning and Zoning and POCD Committee

S. Stachura – Zoning Board of Appeal and Inland Wetlands

P. Beaulieu - Commission

R. Newton –Connecticut River Assembly

A. Waters – Historical Society and School Building Committee

M. GOOD AND WELFARE

F. Monnes- Inquired why Ann France wasn't appointed to take over the Human Services Director's duties in his absence as she had done in the past?

M. Johnson –Spoke about the Planning and Zoning Commission and stated that he would like to see the Town Staff liaison give more direction to the commission. Mr. Johnson expressed his disappointment that sidewalks were not installed on Washington Road by the developer as part of the project.

S. Stachura –Spoke about the Skate Park issue and requested that the Recreation Department look into the matter. Mr. Stachura also requested that the Evergreen Road project be put back out to bid as soon as possible.

N. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by S. Stachura seconded by R. Newton and *unanimously carried* to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Re Matus
Secretary

Paul C. Beaulieu
First Selectman