

**TOWN OF CROMWELL
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2007
7:15 P.M. TOWN HALL ROOM 224/5**

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TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
CROMWELL, CONN.

MINUTES

Gloria Prendergast, Asst.
TOWN CLERK

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, Captain R. Nelson, Director of Finance M. Sylvester, Director of Public Works Robert Jahn, Recreation Director Sue Schein, Woodside Intermediate School Subcommittee, Public and Press

A. CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Beaulieu called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

Under D. Staff and Commission Chairman Reports, # 2. Report of Woodside Intermediate School Subcommittee G. New Business, #11. Approve application for Emergency Preparedness Grant. F. Old Business, #2 Update on Boat Club activities
Motion made by S. Stachura seconded by F. Monnes and *unanimously carried* to approve the agenda as amended.

C. CITIZEN COMMENTS

1. Dick Coughlin of 19 Glenwood Terrace –Spoke regarding the CNR and Town Improvement Fund requests. He asked if the Town Improvement Fund request was in addition to the CNR money. Mr. Beaulieu said the CNR money is based upon the Capital Program and the Town Improvement Fund is a separate account.
2. Peter Keithan of 24 Iron Gate Lane –Spoke regarding the fields at Woodside School. He said Michael Millane is doing a great job; make sure the job gets done properly this time.
3. Alan Schumann of 505 Main Street –Spoke regarding the fields at Woodside School. He said its time to stop trying to lay blame and resolve this quickly. The five parties involved should all share the cost.
4. Rich Waters of 84 South Street –Spoke regarding Woodside School- the general contractor should be blamed for all of it. He spoke regarding the CNR Requests; sewer department garage- don't waste money fixing that ceiling when the highway garage is horrendous. An oil-fired furnace at the highway garage would save the town money. Skateboard park- should be in Pierson Park, not Watrous. Watrous Park is isolated and it could be a safety risk. He spoke regarding an alternative polling place- instead of moving the voting; police officers should be there for the safety of the children.

5. Christa Drzewiecki of 11 Fern Street –Spoke regarding the fields at Woodside School- it's time to move things along and get the job done. She spoke regarding using the Middle School as a polling place while school is in session; the safety of the students should come first. There are other places such as Town Hall or the High School that should be used instead.

D. STAFF AND COMMISSION CHAIRMAN REPORTS

1. Report of Director of Public Works

Bob Jahn, Director of Public Works gave a brief overview of current activities: the sidewalks on Washington Road will be installed soon; the Evergreen Road project was completed on time and under budget; the Christian Hill Road bridge project is moving along. The department is undertaking several FEMA initiatives including a Debris Management program and revisions to the Flood Plain ordinances. The Transfer Station has started accepting cardboard and recyclables and it is working out very well, with no additional cost to the Town. The play-scape at ECS is scheduled for demolition next week. Mr. Stachura asked about the leaf collection schedule. Mr. Jahn said a plan is in place. Mr. Johnson commended Mr. Jahn on the improvements at Valor Park, and asked him to explain the problems with the new Municipal Building sign. Mr. Jahn said the foundation has been poured and electricity has been run for the lights. The slope will be adjusted once the sign is complete.

2. Report from the Woodside Intermediate School Athletic Field Subcommittee
Michael Millane, Chairman of the Subcommittee gave a report of the work done on the fields. The deep subsoil has been plowed; numerous boulders have been removed. The land should be seeded by next Wednesday. It is imperative that the Town continues to maintain the fields once the work is completed. He requested an additional \$10,000 for a relief pipe to help with drainage. Mr. Newton said he had visited the fields and was amazed with the difference already. Mr. Johnson offered his opinions regarding the correct way to fix the fields. Mr. Millane said he appreciated his advice, but his ideas are very expensive. There was a lengthy discussion of the work that needs to be done and the costs involved.

Motion made by R. Newton seconded by F. Monnes and *motion carried* to appropriate \$28,000 from the School Building Project Fund for storm drainage and tree remediation, with M. Johnson opposed.

Motion made by S. Stachura seconded by R. Newton and *motion carried* to transfer the balance out of the Contingency Fund line item within the School Building Project Fund into the Construction line item, with M. Johnson opposed.

E. FINANCIAL

1. Budget Reports

Finance Director Sylvester presented the reports. No action necessary.

2. Tax Refunds

- a. Sold
 1. Wheels Inc. -\$112.73
 2. Mark Martin -\$10.87
 3. MMCA Lease LTD -\$297.01
 4. Honda Lease Trust -\$634.94
- b. BAA Reduction/Over Assessed
 1. Robert Barrows -\$109.31
 2. Antonsen Vahlstrom, D A -\$77.85
 3. Debra Alleva -\$79.10
 4. John F. Lomartra -\$41.42
 5. Prison Family Outreach Ministry -\$84.39
 6. John Kupchik -\$115.84
 7. Jerzy Piekut -\$281.97
- c. Donated/Totaled
 1. Ross E. Helm or Bonnie -\$17.78
 2. VW Credit Leasing LTD -\$147.82
 3. Fred Brown -\$40.05
- d. Moved/Out of State
 1. Michael Fagan -\$69.75
 2. William Cohen or Anita -\$29.77
 3. William G. McPhee or Janice -\$38.79
 4. Wendy K. Zazzaro -\$30.33
 5. Marjorie A. McCormack -\$25.16
 6. Janis or John Torchia -\$24.17

Motion made by S. Salvatore seconded by S. Stachura and *unanimously carried* to approve tax refunds a.-d., with M. Johnson absent from the vote.

3. Discussion and action on a transfer of \$250,000 from the General Fund fund balance to Capital and Non-Recurring Fund, as approved by the Board of Finance on 9/27/07

Mrs. Sylvester said the CNR balance would be \$508,000 after the transfer.

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

4. Discussion and action on the appropriation of funds in the amount of \$123,400 within the Town Improvement Fund for the following Capital Expenditure Requests:
 - a. Sewer Garage Ceiling -\$30,000
 - b. Skate Park- Watrous Park- \$67,000
 - c. Baseball/Softball Backstops- \$26,400

Mrs. Sylvester said the Town Improvement Fund was created by a state grant in the late 80's. The Town received 80,000 and it has been built up to 212,000. The fund has not been tapped until this year, to pay for the sidewalks on Washington Road. There was brief discussion on each item.

Motion made by S. Salvatore seconded by S. Stachura and *unanimously carried* to approve the appropriation of funds in the amount of \$123,400 within the Town Improvement Fund for the above listed Capital Expenditure requests.

5. Discussion and action on the 2007-08 Capital Expenditure Requests.

Motion made by S. Salvatore seconded by R. Newton to approve Capital Expenditures for FY 07-08 in the amount of \$440,000 for discussion.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the various department requests. Mr. Waters questioned the purchase of a new SUV for the Police Department. Chief Salvatore explained that an SUV with 80,000 miles on it would be rotated out of the department and given to the Building Inspectors, as their current vehicle is over 16 years old.

Motion made by A. Waters seconded by F. Monnes to amend the CNR request, by denying the purchase of an SUV for the Police Department and reducing the CNR expenditure by \$35,000 to \$405,000.

Mr. Beaulieu requested a roll call vote.

- A. Waters- aye
- R. Newton- nay
- S. Stachura- nay
- M. Johnson- aye
- T. Salvatore- nay
- F. Monnes- aye
- P. Beaulieu- nay

The motion failed.

Motion made by S. Salvatore seconded by R. Newton to approve Capital Expenditures for FY 07-08 in the amount of \$440,000.

Mr. Beaulieu requested a roll call vote.

- A. Waters- nay
- R. Newton- aye
- S. Stachura- aye
- M. Johnson- nay
- S. Salvatore- aye
- F. Monnes- nay
- P. Beaulieu- aye

The motion carried.

F. OLD BUSINESS

1. Accept Robertson Road and Kelly Lane as Town Roads -Tabled

Left on table.

2. Update Cromwell Outboard Association activities

Mr. Waters said the Club is complying with the DEP and are in the process of obtaining permits. Mr. Stachura asked if there is any written correspondence and Mr.

Waters said it has been verbal only. The Boat Club has hired a consultant to represent them.

G. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion and action on suggested Affirmative Action Policy Statement.

Motion made by S. Stachura seconded by M. Johnson and *unanimously carried* to allow the First Selectman to sign the document.

2. Discussion and action on request from Cromwell Board of Education to consider an alternative polling place.

Mr. Beaulieu said the BOE has concerns with using the middle school as a polling place when school is in session. School is not held during the general election in November, so that would not be a problem. The problem occurs during primaries and referenda voting. Ms. Salvatore said it is not necessary to act upon this right away. Mr. Stachura suggested cordoning off the hallway to separate voters from students. Chief Salvatore said the police could have an officer stationed at the school; but there is time to find the right solution.

The Board reached a consensus to deny the request right now but to have the First Selectman write a letter to the Board of Education stating that the Board of Selectman will re-visit the issue prior to the budget referenda in the spring.

3. Approve resolution authorizing the First Selectman to act on behalf of the Town of Cromwell regarding the FY 2008 Emergency Management Performance Grant Program.

Resolved: That Paul Beaulieu, First Selectman, be and hereby is authorized to act on behalf of the Town of Cromwell in executing a Memorandum of Understanding with the State of Connecticut, Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, for participation in the FY 2008 Emergency Management Performance Grant Program.

Motion made by S. Stachura seconded by R. Newton and *unanimously carried* to approve the above resolution.

4. Authorize First Selectman to sign the Tobacco Prevention & Enforcement Police Partnership MOA upon its revision and renewal.

Motion made by S. Stachura seconded by R. Newton and *unanimously carried* to approve the authorization.

5. Authorize Police Department to temporarily increase the strength of the department to 26 for the period of October 15, 2007 until November 1, 2007.

Motion made by M. Johnson seconded by A. Waters and *unanimously carried* to approve a temporary increase to the Police Department for the purpose of enrolling the new recruit in the Police Academy on October 22nd.

The Chief requested that the Board allow the new officer, who currently works for the town in another capacity, to transfer his accrued sick and vacation time to his new position rather than receive a payout. The Board agreed by general consent.

6. Grant permission to apply for and receive an Expanded 75%-25% 2007-08 comprehensive DUI Enforcement Grant.
Discussion followed. The net cost to the Town is \$7,500. Captain Roy Nelson shared statistics that show how successful this program has been.
Motion made by S. Stachura seconded by S. Salvatore and *unanimously carried* to grant permission to apply for and receive an Expanded DUI Enforcement Grant.
7. Approve request for Educational Assistance for the fall semester from Captain Roy Nelson for \$179.00
Motion made by A. Waters seconded by S. Stachura and *unanimously carried* to approve the request.
8. Approve request for Educational Assistance for the fall session from Sgt. Ed Kosinski for \$780.00. The cost of the books is unknown at this time.
Motion made by A. Waters seconded by S. Stachura and *unanimously carried* to approve the request.
9. Discussion and action on Blight Committee Report.
Chief Salvatore said the recommendation of the Committee is to revise ordinances to allow the Health Inspector or Zoning Enforcement Officer to issue municipal citations for blight violations. Individuals who receive a citation would be able to appeal to the Municipal Hearing Officers. The report showed the various statutes and ordinances that cover blight offenses. Mr. Johnson warned against the potential for abuses. The Board agreed by general consent to forward the recommendations from the Blight Committee to the Town Attorney.
10. Discussion of erection of Welcome to Cromwell Sign on lower Main Street Town property.
Mr. Johnson stated his concerns over the quality and design of the sign. He is working with the State to see if the State right-of-way could be used for a permanent sign. Mr. Waters said this sign was erected during the Golf Tournament and was well received.
Motion made by S. Stachura seconded by A. Waters and *motion carried* to erect the Welcome to Cromwell sign on lower Main Street on Town property, with M. Johnson opposed.
11. Grant permission to apply for and receive an Emergency Preparedness Grant in the amount of \$48,000.
Motion made by S. Stachura seconded by R. Newton and *motion carried* grant permission for the application of the Grant.

H. RESIGNATIONS

1. Mental Health Board

a. Albert E. Kane

Motion made by R. Newton seconded by S. Stachura and *unanimously carried* to accept the resignation with regret.

I. APPOINTMENTS

1. Senior Services Advisory Board

a. Cathy Kelley, Term expires 04/08

Motion made by A. Waters seconded by S. Stachura and *unanimously carried* to approve the appointment.

J. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Regular Meeting, September 12, 2007

Motion made by R. Newton seconded by S. Stachura and *unanimously carried* to approve the minutes of September 12, 2007.

2. Special Meeting, September 26, 2007

Motion made by S. Stachura seconded by R. Newton and *unanimously carried* to approve the minutes of September 26, 2007.

3. Special Meeting, October 3, 2007

Motion made by S. Stachura seconded by R. Newton and *unanimously carried* to approve the minutes of October 3, 2007.

K. SELECTMEN COMMISSION REPORTS

A. Waters --Economic Development Commission- discussion of property by the river and potential environmental concerns. Historical Society- Lois Donohue has been elected President.

R. Newton --Midstate Regional Planning and CWPCA. Nothing to report. Mr. Newton said he had enjoyed working with Selectwoman Salvatore and Selectman Stachura and thanked them for their service.

P. Beaulieu --Said he has a draft of a document from Sysco Foods giving the Town a permanent easement on their property, which abuts the Transfer Station Road.

S. Stachura --Zoning Board of Appeals- New member Bob Jahn had to recuse himself from the Lowes application, which caused the Board to have a lack of quorum. The application will be heard at the next meeting. Inland Wetlands- They've instituted new procedures, allowing them to process applications more efficiently.

M. Johnson --Economic Development- did not attend. Planning and Zoning- Mr. Johnson's application was approved.

S. Salvatore- Board of Education- nothing to report.

F. Monnes- Park and Recreation- the commission was asked to form a Swimming Pool Committee to look into the cost of indoor vs. outdoor pools. Fire District- the approved renovations to the Court Street firehouse will cost \$900,000. Grants will cover \$400,000 and the rest will come out of reserved funds.


L. GOOD AND WELFARE

P. Beaulieu – Said it has been an adventure working with the Board the last two years, and they had many accomplishments to be proud of.


M. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by A. Waters seconded by S. Stachura and *unanimously carried* to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim Spurlin
Acting Secretary



Paul C. Beaulieu
First Selectman