

**TOWN OF CROMWELL**  
**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2009 6:30 P.M.**  
**CROMWELL MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
(See Preceding Legal Notice)

The meeting was called to order by First Selectman John Flanders at 6:35 P.M. Since this was an adjourned Town Meeting from November 5, 2009 the moderator remained Alice Kelly. The moderator asked the Town Clerk to read the Call of the Meeting and after the Call was read she explained that we will be voting on each of the three items separately, and that the First Selectman would give a brief explanation of each item.

**Item A.** The First Selectman explained that the \$303,150 is Stimulus money provided to engage in the progress. It will be used to repair and repave Geer Street and any money leftover will then be applied to resurfacing Willowbrook Road to Evergreen Road. The moderator then opened the floor for discussion.

Stan Stachura, 47 Geer Street – Asked if the project was already approved. Mr. Flanders said yes it was.

Jay Polke, 15 Harrison Drive – Questioned if the hump would be taken out of the road on Geer Street. Eric Hood, Public Works Directors said that it would be ground down a few inches and by Woodside it would help with a drainage problem.

Myron Johnson, 16 Pleasant Street – Asked what the length of it was. Mr. Flanders replied from Main Street to Court Street.

Richard Newton, 1 Elm Road – Board of Selectmen member gave information from his position as our Midstate representative. He explained that this stimulus money of \$303,150 was our portion that was divided amongst the Midstate Regional towns, and if we do not use it we have to give it back and it will be divided between the other towns.

Richard Haines, 8 Briadon Drive – Asked if there were no other streets in town that we could use this other than Geer Street. Mr. Flanders said that New Lane was another type of connector road, but that is was in much worse condition so there would not have been enough money to do that project. Mr. Hood explained that collector roads would be, for instance, road between Route 99 to Route 3. Mr. Haines asked if there was any consideration in widening Geer Street to make it easier for the school buses. Mr. Hood said not at this time, but it might be looked at in the future.

**Motion** made by Richard Newton for the Town of Cromwell to appropriate an additional \$303,150 from the General Fund fund balance for the purpose of pre-funding the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant for road improvements, seconded by Anthony Varricchio. The motion passed by majority with two opposed.

**Item B.** Mr. Flanders gave an update on the status of the 2 Wall Street property. It is his understanding that the owner has withdrawn the offer to sell to the town for around \$100,000.

Stan Stachura, 47 Geer Street – Spoke as a member of the past POCD Committee and asked if there was any particular plan?

Richie Waters, 84 South Street – Said that the owner is not going to sell it. That he had fixed the house up.

Myron Johnson, 16 Pleasant Street – Wanted people to know that the plan was to build a 5200 square foot building, and that we were buying it to accommodate the 5200 square foot building.

Marianne Sylvester, Finance Director – Wanted to make it clear that the bonding funds could only be used for downtown, but not for commercial purposes. Mr. Johnson said that the developer was building on his property and we would purchase the house for a parking lot that he could use and ABC Pizza.

Richie Water, 84 South Street – Reiterated that we can't buy property for commercial use, and if it was such a good deal why didn't the developer buy it.

Al Waters, 86 South Street – Asked why the town would want to be in that position with no letter of intent from the developer.

The moderator explained that a vote in favor gave the town permission to go forward and purchase the property. A Point of Order was brought up from Al Diaz that there was no price limit on this and said that it should be a limit of \$100,000.

**Motion** made by Richard Newton that the Town agree to purchase the property at 2 Wall Street, using funds as budgeted and approved by referendum, in March 200, for the Main Street Revitalization project, seconded by Anthony Varricchio. The motion failed by majority voting against the purchase, and one voting in favor.

**Item C.** Mr. Flanders explained that this is \$200,000 that he would like to explore options of what it should be used for in the downtown revitalization efforts. This money will be reimbursed by the State of Connecticut. He feels that personally we would be far better off taking the \$200,000 and exploring other projects.

Fran Monnes, 7 Old Colony Lane – Asked if there was a time limit to spend the money. Mr. Flanders said that it had to be used within one year.

Richard Newton, 1 Elm Road - As a member of the Downtown Revitalization Committee we know that people are not happy about what has happened on Main Street. We need to fix it. We should not turn down STEAP Grant money. We have done a lot of good, and the State looks at our planning and how serious we are. He agrees that something different needs to be done, and advocates fixing it and making it better.

Richard Haines, 8 Briadon Drive – He worked with the first group of people for the redevelopment of Main Street years ago to make improvements. He wanted to know if the money could be used for Stocking Triangle and the Memorial Green because both need work. He would like to see the money go towards them. Mr. Flanders said that there is a contract in place for working on Stocking Triangle and that they are just waiting to hear from Call Before You Dig before they can finish that work. As far as Memorial Green, he apologized for being a victim of political transfer of power and hasn't had a chance to study that yet, but hopes to work on Memorial Green.

Stan Stachura, 47 Geer Street – Asked if we are sure that the STEAP money will be there with the economy that the State is in. Mr. Flanders said that this money has already been approved and guaranteed by the State and is available to us. Mr. Stachura asked if this had already been submitted. Mr. Flanders said that it has been submitted and approved.

Mertie Terry, 589 Main Street – Asked the Finance Director if the money would come from the General Fund and be held in abeyance, and when were we notified that we were getting this money. Ms. Sylvester said that we were notified on September 29, 2009 with an award letter, and that we never had problems before on getting money. Ms. Sylvester also explained that we can ask for the money in increments as we spend it and get paid for it that way instead of one lump sum.

Myron Johnson, 16 Pleasant Street – Wanted to know if it was possible to use the money to correct things that are wrong downtown. Mr. Flanders said he understands that it is one of the possibilities, but that he is making no promise until he knows more.

The question was moved.

**Motion** made by Richard Newton that the Town of Cromwell appropriate an additional \$200,000 from the General fund fund balance for the purpose of pre-funding the 2010 STEAP grant award for continued Historic Downtown Revitalization, seconded by Michael Gengler. The vote the majority in favor of the appropriation with one opposed.

There being no further business, the moderator adjourned the meeting at 7:14 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene A. DiProto, Town Clerk

Dated at Cromwell this 25<sup>th</sup> day of November 2009