

**Minutes- Special Town Meeting
January 10, 2018
Resolution-2017 Cromwell Belden Library Expansion and Renovations
CORRECTED MINUTES
(To add approval of motion to the call of the question)**

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Enzo Faienza at 6:16 pm.

Motion was made and seconded to nominate Deputy Mayor Richard Newton as moderator.
Motion passed.

Moderator explained that the legal notice and resolution are available and asked that the call of the meeting be waived. Motion was made and seconded.
Motion passed to waive the call of the meeting.

Moderator explained the process to get to a town meeting that on July 27, 2017 a resolution was passed at the Board of Finance meeting to go to a Town Meeting.

Moderator introduced the consultant David Stein from the firm of Silver Petrucelli & Associates Inc. He stated that this is not a sales pitch but the consultant was just giving us the facts.

David Stein: Showed a slide presentation of the proposed improvements, and addition to the library, including functional spaces, redesign and renovations.

Moderator explained that the Town staff is here to answer questions from Engineering, Finance, Town Manager, Library Director and the Mayor. This meeting is to appropriate the money.

Speakers:

Marie Roberto, 28 Watch Hill Circle: Spoke in favor of the appropriation. Represents the Library Commission, all the members were in attendance. The Commission's purpose is to listen to the town residents regarding library services and to keep current. In 2008, Eileen Branciforte, former library director, came to the commission and asked for support to apply for a grant. They were successful and received a One Million dollar grant from the Connecticut State Library. The state is holding this money until March 2018. We need to stop thinking of the library as just a repository but also a meeting place. We need to approve this tonight or the money goes away. This will include new office and meeting place, warming center and community space. Our library is for everyone, a great community resource.

Larry Anderson, 11 Allen Road: Lives across the street from the library. He is in support of the appropriation. He has one request, that somewhere Eileen Branciforte's name be embossed in the expansion. This was her dream and it should be recognized.

Ellen Paris, 11 Alexander Drive; She is a member of the Altrusa organization and has used our facility for her senior poetry contests. They are in support of the expansion. They bring folks from other towns to our town hall and library. Cromwell library is now going to start a senior poetry contest. They would love a place to go and have their event.

Ann Grasso, 70 Strand Circle, (part of Covenant Village): She is the town liaison from Covenant Village. She offers their support. She has a list of names of people who were not able to attend, but are in favor of the appropriation. They also have a bus that brought people here tonight. We add all of our voices I support. She thanked Kara Canney, library director for putting together so quickly a new program she suggested.

Julia Hadman, 43 New Lane: Spoke on behalf of the Friends of the Library. She spoke about another area of library services. We benefit everyone with park and museum passes, and free programs. All of these areas have been outgrown. We need more handicap accessibility and more space. Cromwell does not have a teen center which we need and a community media center. This can be all of that.

Michael Allan Dickerson (AI), 2 Shanley Court: Spoke as a member of the Library Commission in favor of the appropriation. He raised six children; all grew up going to the Belden Library.

Stanley Jasiecki, 33 Shadow Lane: As people struggle in town with car repairs and food, asked what it will cost per person.

Marianne Sylvester, Finance Director: There are variables that will impact a homeowner including the actual cost of the project, the interest rate, the number of years for the bond, 15 or not. We are working to reduce the cost of the construction. We are not going to borrow until we are shovel ready. Approximately the cost would be \$20 per \$100,000 of assessed value. Town Manger, Anthony Salvatore also mentioned it would cost a tax payer \$40 on \$200,000 of the assessed value of your property.

Myron Johnson, 16 Pleasant Street: He said this is not the time for the project. What's next, public works building, new school? We haven't done the necessary work. Let's be responsible.

Michael Rooslund, 3 Doering Drive: His children have gone through the Cromwell school system. Schools will be asking for the same thing, better technology. Taxes are going up. People will be moving out of town and out of the state. Will the grant be there for the schools?

Kara Canney, Library Director: Technology can be accessed only during school hours. Our kids will have jobs that we don't even know exist yet. We now offer things like genealogy classes. We do not have enough computers, can't learn without hands on. Expansion is very important, the library needs help. Please vote yes.

Alice Kelly, 47 Willowbrook Road: She is the chairman of boards and commissions and the registrar of voters. We need a place for meetings. She recently had a public hearing that had to be moved to the gym and used a cassette player. We need to move forward, we need a community room. Now we are not adequate. Get behind this and vote yeas.

James Demetriades, 7 Bonnie Briar: He is a millennial and a law student. The future of the library requires technology. Services are available to get access of technology. Example, people need computers to apply for jobs. We need a computer lab. How can we get these services to the residents?

Madeleine Lowry, 22 Franklin Road: Made a motion for a call of the question. Seconded by Janina Augeri, 25 Mystique Lane.

Moderator asked for a show of hands in favor to approve the motion for a call of the question. Motion passed.

Moderator asked for show of hands in favor of the appropriation. Resolution passed.

Moderator adjourned the meeting at 7:20 pm.

Respectively Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joan Ahlquist". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Joan Ahlquist, Town Clerk