

**TOWN OF CROMWELL
TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY MARCH 11, 2020
7:00 P.M. TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MINUTES**

Present: Mayor E. Faienza, Deputy Mayor J. Donohue, S. Fortenbach, J. Henehan,
P. Ahlquist, A. Waters, J. Demetriades

Absent:

Also Present: Town Manager A. Salvatore, Director of Finance M. Sylvester, Chief of
Police D. Lamontagne, Director of Public Works L. Spina, Town
Engineer/Assistant Public Works Director J. Harriman

A. CALL TO ORDER


Mayor Faienza called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

J. Demetriades led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Faienza added the following items:

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
Mar 18, 2020 01:50P
JoAnn Doyle
TOWN CLERK
CROMWELL, CT 

1. Financial: 3a. Approve appropriation of \$10,500 from CNR Fund-Fund Balance, of which 100% will be reimbursed to the town.
2. New Business 1. Discussion and action to approve Resolution Authorizing Indemnification and Defense for all Town Council Members and the Town Manager.
3. New Business 2. Discussion and action to purchase land, 617 Main Street.
4. Add M2. Resignations, 1. Senior Commissions, a. Pat Alsup
Motion made by S. Fortenbach seconded by S. Fortenbach and unanimously carried to amend the agenda.
Motion made by J. Demetriades seconded by S. Fortenbach and unanimously carried to approve the agenda.

D. COMMISSION CHAIRMAN REPORTS/LIASON REPORT/STAFF REPORTS

None

E. CITIZEN COMMENTS

1. A. Grasso, Strand Circle - Spoke in favor of H. #5. Senior Center Fees.
2. S. Pelletier, South Street - Spoke regarding her traffic concerns on South Street.

F. MAYOR'S UPDATE

Mayor Faienza reported:

- He attended the Fire District meeting along with Deputy Mayor J. Donohue. The Joint Study with the Town was approved with the caveat that the Town upfront the cost until July when the Fire District will reimburse the town for their share.
- The Board of Education formed a School Sub-Committee.
- The Health Department established a Unified Command for the purpose of the Corona Virus.
- The Mayor along with the Town Manager, Health Coordinator, Representative Carpino and Senator Lesser will continue to work on the Vaping Issue. They will continue planning informational sessions and forums on the topic.
- Grand Opening for Peaceful Chaos Yoga LLC on March 27th at 1:00 p.m.
- The Cromwell Division of the Chamber will meet tomorrow at Mosaic.

G. TOWN MANAGER'S UPDATE

Town Manager Salvatore reported:

- Commended staff for the outstanding job on this year's budget.
- Building Maintenance has stepped up their cleaning and sanitizing efforts; especially in the Public areas.
- The Highway Department is working on the Community Field Road Parking Lot; the lot will provide 90+ much needed stalls for the downtown area.
- Health Coordinator S. Nesci is doing an outstanding job with the current health situation. A staff meeting was held today and it was determined that the Senior Center will remain open to Cromwell Residents Only. Weekly meetings are scheduled weekly until the situation improves
- The Recreation Brochure was mailed out this week; Recreation Director Kieras and his staff were commended for a superb job on the brochure and also the selection of Unified Programs.
- No news has been received on the closing of the Red Lion.
- Sysco is looking to expand; they may need a traffic review.
- ARCO (Scannell) received their permits.
- Shadow Lane is slated to be paved; we are waiting for 3 houses to be built so the new road won't be cut up during the construction. They are also waiting for DEEP Permits.

H. FINANCIAL/FINANCE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Finance Director M. Sylvester reported:

1. Budget Reports are thru February.

- Town Attorney Fees may exceed budget; they should be able to make the overage up using other line items. Snow expenses were very light this year.
- Revenue is still coming in strong.
- Everything else is on target.

2. Tax Refunds

Motion made by A. Waters seconded by J. Henehan and *unanimously carried* to approve tax refunds 1 - 21

3. Discussion and action to approve applying for and receiving the 2020 Distracted Driving High Visibility Grant.

- a. Approve appropriation of ~~\$40,500~~ \$10,150 from CNR Fund -Fund Balance, of which 100% will be reimbursed to the town.

Motion made by A. Waters seconded by S. Fortenbach and *unanimously carried* to approve applying for and receiving the 2020 Distracted Driving High Visibility Grant.

Motion made by A. Waters seconded by S. Fortenbach and *unanimously carried* to approve appropriation of \$10,150 from CNR Fund -Fund Balance, of which 100% will be reimbursed to the town.

4. Discussion and action regarding funding of North Road Extension Bridge over Coles Brook.

Discussion followed. J. Demetriades stated that he would have preferred to have detailed information regarding the increase prior to the meeting. Jon Harriman informed the Council that the project is currently out to bid so a release of information may affect the bidding process.

- a. Authorize Mayor Faienza to set the time and date of a Special Town Meeting.

Motion made by J. Henehan seconded by P. Ahlquist and *carried* to approve increasing the funding for the North Road Extension Bridge to \$2,830,000.

Aye: S. Fortenbach, E. Faienza, J. Donohue, P. Ahlquist

Nay: J. Demetriades, A. Waters

J. Henehan had stepped out of the Chambers and did not vote.

Motion carries

Mayor Faienza called for a break at 8:06 p.m. The meeting resumed at 8:10 p.m.

5. Discussion and action Senior Center Program fees.

After discussion and a question and answer period the consensus of the Council was to table this until further information and recommendations are received.

Motion made by J. Henehan seconded by A. Waters and *unanimously carried* to table.

6. Discussion and action to approve Other Fund Budgets for FY 2020-2021.

- a. Dog Fund: \$23,900

Motion made by S. Fortenbach seconded by J. Henehan and *unanimously carried* to approve Dog Fund -**\$23,900.**

b. Sidewalk Fund: \$7,500
Motion made by S. Fortenbach seconded by J. Henehan and *unanimously carried* to approve Sidewalk Fund -**\$7,500**.

- c. Authorize the Mayor to set the time and date for a special town meeting for all four special revenue funds (Dog Fund, Sidewalk Fund, Sewer Usage Fund, Sewer Assessment Fund).

Motion made by S. Fortenbach seconded by A. Waters and *unanimously carried* to authorize the Mayor to set the time and date for a Special Town Meeting for all four special revenue funds.

7. Discussion and action on any unfinished 2020-2021 budget matters.
None

8. Discussion and action on proposed depository changes
Motion made by S. Fortenbach seconded by J. Henehan and *unanimously carried* to approve depository changes. (Add Baker Group drop Morgan Stanley)

9. Discussion and action to purchase new payloader, with accessories from CNR at a cost of \$200,000.

Motion made by S. Fortenbach seconded by J. Henehan and *unanimously carried* to approve purchase of new payloader with accessories from CNR at a cost of \$200,000.

I. CHIEF OF POLICE'S UPDATE

Chief Lamontagne reported:

- Monthly incident report distributed for February.
- Officer Jespersen will graduate from the Academy on April 8th.
- Eight applicants are in the back-ground stage for the open positions.
- They are hoping to obtain spots in Satellite Academy's for the successful candidates.
- Officer Perlino is back to work; a juvenile summons has been issued regarding to the case.
- Spoke on Ms. Pelletier's citizen comments regarding South Street.
- Gave kudos to Officer S. Alicia regarding an incident with CHS students. Chief Lamontagne received a letter of thanks to Officer Alicia for the outstanding way that she handled the issue.
- ACO C. Gagnon will be recognized by Cat Tales on April 18th.

J. PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR UPDATE

Public Works Director Spina reported:

- Provided update on DPW/Sewer Facility project.
- Provided update on the Community Field Parking Lot.
- Coles Road reconstruction continues.

K. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion and action to approve Resolution Authorizing Indemnification and Defense for all Town Council Members and the Town Manager.

Motion made by A. Waters seconded by S. Fortenbach and *unanimously carried* to approve Resolution Authorizing Indemnification and Defense for all Town Council Members and the Town Manager. (attached to the minutes)

2. Discussion and action to purchase land, 617 Main Street.
After discussion it was the consensus of the Council to table until further information is received.

Motion made by S. Fortenbach seconded by A. Waters and *unanimously carried* to table.

L. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Public Hearing, February 12, 2020

Motion made by J. Demetriades seconded by S. Fortenbach and *unanimously carried* to approve the Public Hearing minutes of February 12, 2020.

2. Special Meeting, February 12, 2020

Motion made by J. Demetriades seconded by S. Fortenbach and *unanimously carried* to approve the Special Meeting minutes of February 12, 2020.

3. Regular Meeting, February 12, 2020

Motion made by S. Fortenbach seconded by A. Waters and *unanimously carried* to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of February 12, 2020

4. Special Meeting, Budget Workshop March 2, 2020

Motion made by J. Demetriades seconded by J. Henahan and *unanimously carried* to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of March 2, 2020.

5. Special Meeting, Budget Workshop March 3, 2020

Motion made by S. Fortenbach seconded by J. Donohue and *carried* to approve the minutes of March 3, 2020.

Aye: S. Fortenbach, E. Faienza, J. Donohue, J. Henahan, P. Ahlquist

Abstained: A. Waters, J. Demetriades

M. APPOINTMENTS

1. Board of Finance

- a. Ann Hulick, Alternate

Motion made by A. Waters seconded by S. Fortenbach and *unanimously carried* to appoint Ann Hulick as an Alternate to the Board of Finance.

M2. RESIGNATIONS

1. Senior Commission

a. Pat Alsup

Motion made by A. Waters seconded by J. Donohue and *unanimously carried* to accept Ms. Alsup's resignation with regret.

N. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS

J. Demetriades -Youth Advisory Board - Cromwell Creative District

A. Waters -CWPCA -EDC- Historical Society

S. Fortenbach -EDC

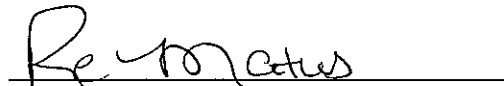
J. Donohue -Fire District - Support People w/ Disabilities

J. Henahan -Board of Education

O. ADJOURN

Motion made by J. Donohue seconded by S. Fortenbach and *unanimously carried* to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Re Matus", is written over a horizontal line.

Re Matus
Secretary



70 Strand Circle • Cromwell, CT 06416 • T 860.632.7735 • C 401.273.9563
AnnGrasso.com • AnnGrassoPatternArt.com • AEGrasso.com • Ann@AEGrasso.com

DATE: March 11, 2020
TO: Cromwell Town Council
FROM: Ann Grasso
RE: Senior Center request to charge for *specific* programs

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the request by Amy Saada, Director of Cromwell Senior Center, to charge for *specific* programs. I am speaking as one member of the Senior Center Commission as well as a Cromwell taxpayer.

This past Monday, the Senior Center Commission met and discussed the concept of minimal charges for *specific* programs. While no vote was taken, there was general consensus that charging, as Amy has outlined, makes sense.

It is important to keep in mind that most of the programming remains free. It is this portion of programming that is covered by our taxes. However, due to Amy's excellent leadership, the Senior Center now offers more programming than in the past and there are considerably more people using these services and programs than in the past. The delight in these new programs has resulted in participants asking for even more classes and programs. Hiring new teachers is not within the scope of the existing budget. Therefore, adding programs requires either increasing the budget which will have to wait until 2021 or requires requesting minimal charges.

Also note, when any of us pay for something, we are more invested in participating. An interesting example at the Senior Center are the luncheons: when they were free, if 100 people said they would attend, perhaps only 60 would show up. Cleverly, the Senior Center instituted the following policy: pay \$5.00 up front and it would be returned when you show up for the meal. A large donation jar was available and many participants placed the \$5.00 in the jar.

As a taxpayer, I do expect certain services in return. However, I *prefer* to have *choice* in some specialty programs and pay a minimal cost instead of having my taxes raised in an overall budget increase. If I choose not to participate, I don't pay, and my taxes don't go up.

YES, the Town Council can vote to have only FREE programming at the Senior Center. This decision simply means there will be fewer programs, and fewer options. I believe if your constituents understood this, they will be delighted that you voted to include *specific* programs having a minimal fee.

Thank you for considering this worthy request.

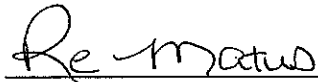
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING INDEMNIFICATION AND DEFENSE

WHEREAS, it is in the Town's best interest to support its public officials in any legal action when acting in their official capacity and in the best interests of the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Town can and should defend and indemnify its public officials when acting in their official capacity on behalf of the Town.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Town of Cromwell does hereby declare that it will indemnify, defend and hold harmless each and every member of the Town Council and the Town Manager for all money damages, if any, that any of them is required to pay as a result of any civil law suit brought by anyone in which any member of the Town Council and/or the Town Manager, acting in their official capacity, is named as a party to such lawsuit and pursuant to which there is claimed liability of a personal nature.



Clerk of the Town Council