

**TOWN OF CROMWELL - TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
41 WEST STREET, CROMWELL, CT 06416
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, July 12, 2023 - 7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor S. Fortenbach, Deputy Mayor J. Henahan, Councilman J. Demetriades, Councilwoman P. Luna, Councilman J. Polke, Councilman A. Waters

Absent: Councilwoman J. Donohue

Also Present: Finance Director Sharon DeVoe, Attorney Durao, Town Engineer Jon Harriman, Chief Sifodaskalakis, Public Works Director Lou Spina

A. CALL TO ORDER

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

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Town Council stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION made by P. Luna and **SECONDED** by A. Waters to approve the agenda.
All in favor.

D. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Strategize and discuss Martin, Jr, Twyon v. Town of Cromwell

MOTION made by J. Henahan and **SECONDED** by P. Luna to invite in HR Generalist Bonnie Price, Town Manager Anthony Salvatore, Finance Director Sharon DeVoe, and Attorney Durao. **All in favor.**

The Town Council entered Executive Session at 7:07 p.m.

MOTION made by J. Henahan and **SECONDED** by J. Polke to come of out Executive Session. **All in favor.**

The Town Council came out of Executive Session at 8:04 p.m.

MOTION made by J. Demetriades and **SECONDED** by J. Henahan to authorize Cromwell's share of the Settlement of Martin, Jr, Twyon v. Town of Cromwell in the amount of \$95,000.

In favor: S. Fortenbach, J. Henahan, J. Demetriades, P. Luna, J. Polke

Opposed: A. Waters

Motion carried.

E. COMMISSION CHAIRMAN REPORTS/LIAISON REPORT/STAFF REPORTS

1. CMS Building Committee

A report was provided to the Town Council in their packets from CMS Building Committee Chairwoman Rosanna Glynn.

Councilwoman Luna read the attached letter from the Cromwell Youth Advisory Board into the record. See Attachment A.

F. MAYOR'S UPDATE

- He announced that the Summer Camp will be hosting Alex's Lemonade Stand on Friday July 14th. All proceeds go towards Pediatric Cancer research.
- LED lights have been installed in the Town Hall parking lot. We went from 31 heads to 12. EV Charging Stations are coming soon.
- West Street Sidewalks project is tentatively set to begin on July 17.
- There are 5 baseball and softball fields that are being renovated, two rear fields at Watrous Park, the front field next to the Police Department at Pierson Park, the High School Varsity baseball field and the High School Varsity softball fields.
- He attended Chief Lamontagne's retirement along with Councilwoman Luna and Councilman Demetriades
- He attended Chief Sifodaskalakis' Swearing-in Ceremony. He congratulated the Chief and said he knows he will do great.
- The Town Clerk's Office was awarded a \$5,000 grant to digitize older documents.

G. TOWN MANAGER'S UPDATE

The Town Manager informed the Council that he has been in and out due a medical procedure, however, he wanted to add to his report provided in the packet, that we were notified that the grant for the Senior Center Bus has been awarded for 100% funding. However, delivery is not until 2024.

H. FINANCIAL/FINANCE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

1. Budget Report

Sharon DeVoe was in attendance to present her budget report and to answer any questions of the Town Council.

- 2. Approve an interdepartmental transfer from Employee Benefits to Legal Expense for an amount not to exceed \$95,000.**

MOTION made by P. Luna and **SECONDED** by J. Henahan to approve an interdepartmental transfer from Employee Benefits to Legal Expense for an amount not to exceed \$95,000. **All in favor.**

3. Approve Amended Tax Refund for Tax Bill #2021-04-0080768

MOTION made by J. Henahan and **SECONDED** by P. Luna to approve amended tax refund for Tax Bill #2021-04-0080768 in the amount of \$189.87. **All in favor.**

4. Tax Refunds

MOTION made by A. Waters and **SECONDED** by J. Henahan to approve Tax Refund 1 of 1. **All in favor.**

I. CHIEF OF POLICE'S UPDATE

The Chief of Police was in attendance and presented his report to the Town Council. He congratulated two of his officers who responded to a call of two people who overdosed. The officers did an outstanding job administering Narcan and both people ended up being alright.

There was a brief discussion regarding the Travelers Championship, there were the larger crowds than previous years, it was a successful week, and Chief Sifodaskalakis commended the Cromwell Police Department in addition to several other police departments who assisted.

After some discussion, Councilman Polke asked if the Police Department had put any thought into encouraging residents to purchase ring cameras for their homes due to car thefts, etc. He asked if the Police Department could make information available to residents about home cameras. Chief Sifodaskalakis agreed that home cameras are beneficial and that he will look into a program to encourage the residents to purchase them and to get some information out.

J. PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Public Works Director Lou Spina was in attendance to present his report. He added that he met with Silver Petrucelli regarding Pierson Park improvements. Funding for demolition of red building will be taken from the highway project that was already budgeted for.

Town Engineer Jon Harriman was in attendance to answer any questions of the Council regarding the Drainage Report. He provided the Drainage Study Priority List to the Council. See Attachment B. He asked the Council if they prefer a full presentation from the company who conducted the Drainage Study or if they would prefer a presentation of only certain areas?

After a discussion, it was decided that the Town Council would prefer a presentation of the four most impacted areas. The presentation will be given at the Town Council meeting in August.

Town Engineer Jon Harriman also reported that there is a solicitation for a Connectivity Grant on Willowbrook Road which closes on Friday of next week. We are getting ready to submit something.

K. CITIZEN COMMENTS *(limited to 2 minutes per speaker, please be respectful)*

None.

L. NEW BUSINESS

1. Tax Deferral Appeal Recommendation from Senior Services Director for Resident Lana Tess

MOTION made by A. Waters and **SECONDED** by J. Henahan to accept the tax deferral appeal recommendation from Senior Services Director for Resident Lana Tess. **All in favor.**

M. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. June 14, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes

MOTION made by P. Luna and **SECONDED** by J. Henahan to approve the June 14, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes.

All in favor.

2. June 14, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

MOTION made by P. Luna and **SECONDED** by J. Henahan to approve the June 14, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes.

All in favor.

3. June 14, 2023 Public Hearing Minutes – Land Sale and Swap

MOTION made by P. Luna and **SECONDED** by J. Henahan to approve the June 14, 2023 Public Hearing Minutes – Land Sale and Swap.

All in favor.

4. June 14, 2023 Public Hearing Minutes – Ordinance

MOTION made by P. Luna and **SECONDED** by J. Henahan to approve the June 14, 2023 Public Hearing Minutes - Ordinance.

All in favor.

N. APPOINTMENTS

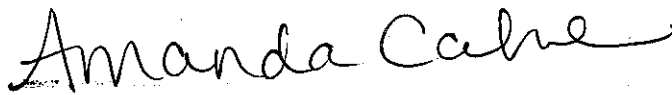
None.

O. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

MOTION made by J. Polke and **SECONDED** by A. Waters to adjourn.
All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amanda Calve". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Amanda Calve
Secretary

Cromwell Community Center Support Letter.

Dear Mr. Mayor Fortenbach and Members of the Cromwell Town Council,

The Youth Advisory Board would like to submit this letter in support of the Cromwell Community Center. The Community Center would be a benefit to Cromwell, and especially important to our town's youth. Young people in our town would greatly benefit from having a place to gather and it would make a positive impact in the following ways:

- If youth are engaged in activities they are less likely to get in trouble.
- Programs and activities could be geared towards leadership, teamwork, mentoring, and encouraging social interaction.
- The Cromwell Community Center could be a place for teens to meet and be actively engaged in prosocial activities. Engaging them would give teens a stronger sense of community and feel valued.

The Youth Advisory Board is unanimous in that we believe a Cromwell Community Center would be a safe place for youth in our town to call their own. The Youth Advisory Boards Youth members have high hopes and strong ideas about what the Cromwell Community Center would bring to residents of all ages. We believe the youth in Cromwell would utilize a Community Center for the following reasons:

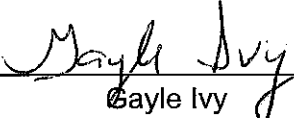
- Young people in town would like to see a special and unique space specifically for them to gather, socialize, learn, and grow.
- They would like to have a place to participate in structured and unstructured activities.
- Suggested activities include foosball, craft supply/table, table games, pool table, board games, and music. Additionally, enrichment opportunities, learning activities, and team building.

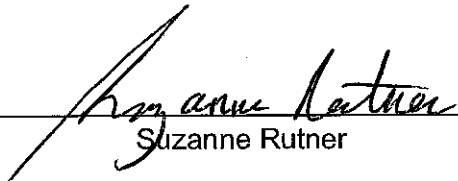
In closing, it is important to remember that the Community Center would be a substance-free safe environment. Cromwell is a supportive community and activities and supplies could be funded or partially funded by community donations or charging a fee. This community center would be a great addition to our town and provide youth with a safe place to receive guidance and support as they navigate their adolescent and teen years.

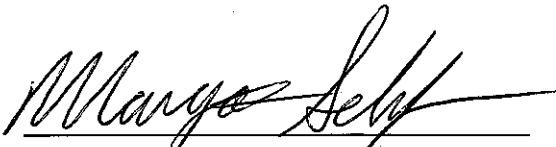
Thank you for your time and we ask you please consider our letter of support in future decisions and planning for the Cromwell Community Center.

Sincerely,

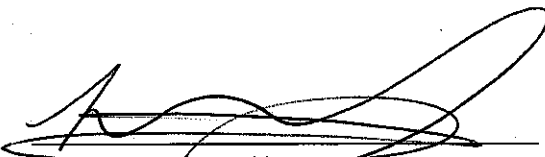
The Cromwell Youth Advisory Board


Bayle Ivy

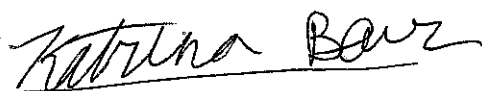

Suzanne Rutner


Margaret Schufer


Jason Barber


Whitney Simmons


Haley Stone


Katrina Barber

**Priority List
Drainage Study
Cromwell, CT**

Priority Rating (1=Highest, 10=Least)	Area	Recommendation	Conceptual Construction Cost Estimate	Total Project Cost Estimate
1	Area 6: Pierson Park	Alternate A: Additional 48" RCP culvert	\$420K	\$610K
2	Area 1: Cedar Drive/Coles Road	Alternate A: Increase stormwater pipe capacity on Coles Road & Cedar Drive	\$390K	\$500K
3	Area 4: Copper Knoll	Alternate A: Additional 7 ft by 3 ft box culvert	\$1.60 Million	\$1.85 Million
4	Area 7: Field Road	Alternate A: Intercept Runoff and Pipe to Existing Discharge Point at 111 Field Road	\$370K	\$500K
5	Area 2: Nooks Hill Road	Replace cross culvert and storm sewer with box culvert; install additional 60" RCP under RR embankment	\$3.2 Million	\$3.5 Million
6	Area 10: Willow Brook at 170 Evergreen	Alternate A: Replace culvert with 12 ft x 4 ft box culverts	\$380K	\$470K
7	Area 5: Geer Street	Replace both culverts with two 12 ft by 4 ft box culverts	\$860K	\$1.10 Million
8	Area 3: Willow Brook at Evergreen	Alternate A: Replace existing culvert with 8 ft x 5 ft box culvert	\$700K	\$930K
9	Area 8: South Street	Alternate C: Install gates to close road during flooding	\$30K	\$40K
10	Area 9: Franklin Rd & Chelsea Drive	Alternate A: Replace 36" RCP with 48" RCP at Franklin Rd; Replace Chelsea Drive culvert with 6 ft x 4 ft box culvert	\$870K	\$1.10 Million