

**TOWN OF CROMWELL
TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 11, 2017
7:00 PM TOWN HALL ROOM 224/5**

**RECEIVED FOR FILING
10/13 2017 at 3:10 P.M.
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
CROMWELL, CONN.**

Gloria Prendergast, Asst.
TOWN CLERK

MINUTES

Present: Mayor E. Faienza, Deputy Mayor R. Newton, E. Weners, S. Slade
F. Emanuele, A. Waters, T. Tokarz

Absent:

Also Present: Town Manager A. Salvatore, Chief D. Lamontagne, Public Works
Director L. Spina, Finance Director M. Sylvester, Town Engineer J. Harriman, Public
and Press

A. CALL TO ORDER

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

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

T. Tokarz led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made by R. Newton seconded by F. Emanuele and unanimously
carried to approve the agenda.

D. COMMISSION CHAIRMAN REPORTS/LIASON REPORT

P. Sousa gave an update on recent Board of Education activities.

E. CITIZEN COMMENTS

1. T. Hasbrouck, Nooks Hill Road-Spoke regarding item M4. Letter attached regarding the same.
2. K. Smith, Allen Road-Spoke regarding item M4.
3. K. Kelly, Main Street-Spoke regarding several issues.
4. T. Pentlicki, Nooks Hill Road-Spoke regarding Item M4.

F. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Faienza reported:

- Several upcoming Grand Openings including the following:
- Molly Maid, Art Splash, My Hair Studio and Pizza Pie
- Save the Date received for Cromwell High School Boy's Basketball Reunion Fundraiser on January 26, 2018.
- Brother's Auto Body received the small business owner's award of the year.

- The Chamber Breakfast will be held Thursday October 12th.
- The Mayor thanked E. Widders and T. Tokarz for their service to the Town Council.

G. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Salvatore reported:

- No news as yet from Hartford regarding the budget for the State.
- Meeting will be held with the Finance Director, Superintendent and Town Manager regarding the upcoming budget.
- The Haughton, Gorski and Gilead suits are status-quo. The Town hasn't received anything formal in regards to Officer Alicea.
- Town Manager gave kudos to the Director and her staff for excellence in recent & upcoming projects regarding the Senior and Human Services Departments.
- Emma Russo-Savage was hired to fill the vacant Adult Services Librarian position in the library.
- The Library is back to its regular hours with additional hours added in January for mid-terms. Many upcoming programs have been added to the Library.
- The part-time Human Resource Coordinator's position has not been hired as of this date.

H. CHIEF OF POLICE'S REPORT

Chief Lamontagne reported:

- The Monthly incident reports were distributed for September 2017.
- Officer Mitchell Brooks completed his Field Training on October 4th.
- Officer Ryan Wobrock graduated from the Academy on September 19th and is in the Field Training Program.
- Police Department is working on the upcoming Trick R Trunk event to be held on October 21st in Pierson Park from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
- Chief LaMontagne gave kudos to Detective Pietraroia regarding his hard work on a large embezzlement case.
- Fill-a-Cruiser event is planned for December 2nd.
- Road clean-up after accidents was discussed. S. Slade gave kudos for efforts provided by Officer DiMaio regarding the prompt cleanup of road conditions following a recent incident.

I. PUBLIC WORK DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- L. Spina reported that Tilcon finished off the milling portion of project. Paving to be completed by middle of next week.
- Contract for Willowbrook Road has been signed.
- Project on Raymond Place is all but complete.

- Code of Ethics should be in place regarding Operational promises being made by candidates on behalf of the DPW staff.
- L. Spina thanked the Board for their service over the past two years.

J. FINANCIAL

1. Tax Refunds

Motion made by A. Waters seconded by S. Slade and *unanimously carried* to approve tax refunds 1 -54 .

K. FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. Budget Reports

Finance Director Sylvester reported:

- Budget Reports for December 17/18 are included in packet.
- State-Aid Budget is moving forward.
- Auditors have been on site for 5 weeks and are doing a thorough job which should be completed before Thanksgiving.
- E. Widders thanked M. Sylvester for a job well done.

STAFF REPORTS

1. A. Saada - written report.
2. K. Canney - written report.

M. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion and action regarding Illicit Discharge and Connection Stormwater Ordinance.

Item presented by John Harriman regarding operating under the MS4 permit.

- a. Authorize Mayor to set time and date of Public Hearing.

Motion made by E. Widders seconded by R. Newton and *unanimously carried* to authorize Mayor Faienza to set the time and date of a Public Hearing.

2. Discussion and possible action to amend Chapter 125-4 Excavation Fees.
Item presented by L. Spina. Item attached regarding fees.

Motion made by F. Emanuele seconded by E. Widders and *unanimously carried* to approve proposed fees.

- a. Authorize Mayor to set time and date of Public Hearing.

Motion made by T. Tokarz seconded by A. Waters and *unanimously carried*

to authorize Mayor Faienza to set the time and date of a Public Hearing.

3. Discussion and action to approve agreement between Town of Cromwell and the Town of Rocky Hill for Maintenance of a portion of County Line Drive located in Cromwell.

Town Manager Salvatore presented the request.

- a. Authorize Town Manager to sign agreement.

Motion made by A. Waters seconded by E. Wenners and *unanimously carried* to have the Town Manager sign the agreement.

4. Discussion and update on 35 Nooks Hill Road town owned property.

Motion made by A. Waters seconded by S. Slade and *unanimously carried* to preserve the open-space agreement. Town Clerk's office will retain history regarding the 35 Nooks Hill Road agreement.

N. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Regular Meeting September 13, 2017

Motion made by A. Waters seconded by E. Wenners and *carried* to approve the minutes of September 13, 2017

Aye: T. Tokarz, A. Waters, E. Faienza, R. Newton, E. Wenners, S. Slade

Abstained: F. Emanuele (unable to attend meeting)

2. Special Meeting September 25, 2017

Motion made by E. Wenners seconded by R. Newton and *carried* to approve the minutes of September 25, 2017

Aye: T. Tokarz, A. Waters, E. Faienza, R. Newton, E. Wenners, S. Slade

Abstained: F. Emanuele (unable to attend meeting)

3. Special Meeting October 4, 2017

Motion made by F. Emanuele seconded by A. Waters and *carried* to approve the minutes of September 13, 2017

Aye: T. Tokarz, A. Waters, E. Faienza, R. Newton, E. Wenners, S. Slade

Abstained: E. Wenners (unable to attend meeting)

O. APPOINTMENTS

1. Senior Services Commission

- a. Michael Parent, to fill a vacancy-Term Expires April 2018

Motion made by A. Waters, seconded by F. Emanuele and *unanimously carried* to appoint M. Parent to fill a vacancy on the Senior Services Commission, Term expires April 2018.

P. RESIGNATIONS

None


Q. TOWN COUNCIL COMMISSION LIAISON REPORTS

S. Slade - Thanked Fire Department for a job well done on 39 Grove Road.

R. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by S. Slade seconded by A. Waters and *unanimously carried* to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Marion Bironi
Acting Secretary



Denali National Park – Mt. McKinley Panorama

TCH - July 2011

October 11, 2017

Members of the Cromwell Town Council:

It was with interest that I read the letter penned by Attorney Olsen regarding alienation of property. Not surprisingly, I was disappointed in the letter's lack of consideration of the caveat of use on the 35 Nooks Hill Road land, with no discussion of the impact of Public Trust Doctrine on this matter.

The land on 35 Nooks Hill Road is open space, as it has been for more than a century. The Town Council, on April 25, 2017, wisely voted unanimously to not sell this land and keep it as open space.

Falsely assumed in the letter is that the historical trail of land ownership of 35 Nooks Hill Road is clear. Demonstrated in previous Town Council meetings is that there is no record of original conveyance of the property to the town. Land records in 1917 and 1918 for the power company's right of way describe this land as owned by the Town of Cromwell and commonly called 'the park property', referring to a 1915 map with this designation. Agreed is that the Town owns the land – but, when and who conveyed the land? Indeed, the attempt to remedy the lack of original conveyance in the 1978 quitclaim documents from the descendants of both Hubbard (possibly Horace or Samuel V) and Andrew Pierson clearly identifies that it was possible that either person may have conveyed the land to the town. One cannot sell land with murky clouds of doubt over clarity of title. We settled that in April with the Council's decision.

The topography of the land, with its steep slope, coupled with the existing power company right of way crossing the land north and south, and storm water drainpipe west to east, makes this an undesirable land sale. This was settled in April with the Council's decision.

In the 1978 Pierson quitclaim record, is the caveat (deed restriction) of intended purpose for the land, as had been long believed to be the case. The Town, at no expense, has kept this land as open space as long as anyone can remember and any anecdotal records, such as photographs, can show. This deed restriction, and the Public Trust Doctrine, was ignored in Attorney Olsen's letter. Attorney Olsen maintains that this open space is only for the benefit of a few – the neighbors. I am confident that she knows that open space is of benefit to everyone. The Public Trust Doctrine should guarantee that no one benefits unfairly. Only a few would benefit from any change in the use of 35 NHR. Once again, the Council settled this matter in April.

What should be the next steps?

There is one that can be immediately addressed. 35 Nooks Hill Road is identified as unrestricted publicly owned open space in the Cromwell Open Space Plan (2009/2011). With the Council having declared this open space to be the choice for the future in April, the next step would be that the Town Council declares 35 NHR to be Publicly Owned Restricted Open Space, and such designation to be included in future Open Space Plans. (The Plan should be corrected to identify the suspected source of this open space land, not the one listed in the current plan.)

The second step has two options, both for all of the reasons identified above. One is to further investigate the manner in which 35 NHR can be identified as *permanently* restricted open space. The second is to identify a land trust organization to which the land can be given for the purpose of permanently preserving it as open space.

I thank you for your time and consideration of this matter. Open Spaces are good for all town people, our environment and climate. Our work should be to preserve and expand the number of open spaces in town.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thad Hasbrouck". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Thad Hasbrouck
15 Nooks Hill Road
Cromwell, CT 06416

HOME OF THE CHAMPIONS

SAVE THE DATE

**CROMWELL HIGH SCHOOL
BOYS' BASKETBALL REUNION
1959-2017**



WHEN

**Friday, January 26, 2018
Reunion Game 5:00 p.m.**

WHERE

**Cromwell High School
Jake Salafia Gym
1 Donald Harris Drive, Cromwell**

TICKETS AT THE DOOR

**\$5 Adults
\$3 Students & Seniors
Cromwell Seniors with
Senior Pass - Free**

GAMES

**3:30 p.m. JV Game
5:00 p.m. Reunion Game
7:00 p.m. Varsity Game**

BENEFITING

Cromwell Human Services

CONTACT

**John Pinone
Boys' Basketball Coach
japinone@aol.com**



Panthers

Incident Statistics Report

09/01/2017 00:00 Thru 09/30/2017 23:59

Call Type Description	Total for Period
911 Hang Up Call	9
Administrative Matter	15
Alarm - All types	20
ALARM-FALSE BILLABLE	38
All Other Offenses	3
Animal Complaint	28
Assist Motorist	22
Assist Other Agency	29
Burglary	1
Car Seat Installation	3
Civil Matter	3
Dis Conduct/BOP	2
Domestic Incident	9
Drug/Narcotic Violation	1
DUI	5
Fight/Disturbance	1
Fingerprinting	17
FV Protocol / P.A.	6
Identity Theft	4
Juvenile Incident	8
K-9 Assist	1
Larceny - From Building	4
Larceny -Shoplifting	7
Larceny- Other	4
Medical Emergency	54
Missing Person	1
MV Accident	36
MV - Recovered	1
MV Abandoned	1
MV Parking Violation	15
MV Theft	5
MV Towed	1
MV Violation	168
MVA NR PRIV PROP	6
Neighbor Dispute	3
Noise Complaint	7
Nursing Home Fax Report	4
Patient Dispute	1
Property Check	182

Incident Statistics Report

09/01/2017 00:00 Thru 09/30/2017 23:59

Call Type Description	Total for Period
Property Lost/Found	7
Property Seized	1
Record Only Call	8
Road Cond/TCS Out	5
See Complainant	27
Serve Warrant INFO	2
Suspicious Activity	66
TEST CALL	5
Threaten/Harass/Intimidation	2
Traffic Assignment	29
Trespassing	2
Unfounded Complaint	7
Untimely Death	2
Unwanted Person	5
Well Being Check	13
Total:	906

SENIORS/HUMAN SERVICES

Transportation:

We have seen a significant increase in ridership and we have increased day trips including some weekend and evenings. (I can get you reports with numbers if you'd like)
Applied for 5310 Grant in March, awarded 1 new vehicle (take delivery June 2018)
Shared Vehicle with Portland-hoping to be up and running in November

Needs/Goals-Need additional driver. Too often Cathi is out on road, leaving senior center very short staffed. With the increased riders, we can't be without 3 drivers most days.

Human Services:

- We moved from a Brown Bag Food Pantry to A Client Choice Food Pantry in August.
- We purchased a refrigerator/freezer combo unit for the pantry and now offer perishable foods such as butter, eggs, ground meat and juice.
- We are working with community on establishing an Adopt A Family Holiday Program-changed from past years holiday gift program-seeking for the Fire Department to do a Stocking Stuffer Drive instead of collecting toys as in years past as feedback was that we had too many toys and if we have adopted a family, we will not need the additional toys, but stockings can get expensive and would fill a need.
- Partnership with Stop and Shop for Thanksgiving Program-Stop & Shop is going to do a Turkey Drive (so we no longer will provide gift cards as they did in past years for clients to purchase Turkeys as they will be supplied from the Turkey Drive-we will hand out the donated Turkeys.
- Pantry Hours-Now open 2 days per week with no appointment needed.
- Have applied to become a partner with the CT Food Bank-hopefully soon we will be a member where we can shop for many free items and shop for perishables/meats etc at very low cost (.10 cents pound)

Needs/Goals-Have applied to Maturity Works and our hope is to have a part time Pantry worker to assist with using Human Services donation monies to do shopping, restock pantry after pantry days, document pantry usage. Since offering client choice and perishables, the pantry numbers have increased significantly and more than one person is desperately needed.

Senior Center

- Many new programs offered since I've started:
Line Dancing, Pickleball, Reiki Therapy Sessions, Barnum Financial Monthly Lunch and Learns (financial topics), Health Care Agency Sponsored Monthly Lunch & Learns (health and wellness topics), Laughter Yoga, Facials, Tasty Tuesdays (when CRT lunch was cut), AARP CarFit Program and Safe Driver Courses, Live Entertainment Events
- MySeniorCenter Database-online database for tracking senior statistics/program sign ins/Emergency info etc. Since we have had the
- Re-vamped newsletter-offering much more information including a page designated to Human Services information detailing programs and services for low income.

- Applied for a mini grant to Community Foundation-6 ipad tablets/security stands-awards announced late December. This will allow for technology classes to be offered to teach seniors basics as well as more advanced topics.
- We celebrated Older American's Month (May) and Senior Center Month (September) with special events to raise awareness which I believe hasn't happened in past years.

Painted Senior Center in October

Cromwell Belden Public Library

- Library is back to regular operating hours-
Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 10-8
Wednesday 12-8
Friday & Saturday 10-5
- New Adult Services-Emma Russo-Savage
Emma jumped in and we can expect wonderful things from her. She is going forward with new Adult Programming ideas and ordering fiction and non-fiction for the adult collection.
- Logo-the library is working with a designer to create a new library logo. The Friends of the Library has agreed to pay for half of the cost. Once finalized the library will order cards with key tags.
- Plans for Expansion/Renovation
The plans are coming along very nicely. Only a few minor details to be changed before submitting to the State.
- Intergenerational Programs to look forward to-
Decorate an Ugly Holiday Sweater, Noon Year's Eve
- Coordinate with the high school to have the teens study for mid-terms at the library. The library will stay open late 2 evenings during the mid-term exam week (January 16th & 18th of 2018). The teens will be fed and asked to fill out a survey letting us know what other programs they would like from the library.
- The library has partnered with Covenant Village to offer them book delivery via their vehicle. Library card applications will be sent to Covenant Village and the residents will decide via the application if they would like delivery or still be able to pick up their own materials. The Library Director will be at their Resident's Council meeting on November 5th.
- One Book on the Riverbend
The Library will be participating in the program again. Book selections have not been finalized, but once chosen the library will be able to offer programming and book discussions correlating with the title.
- The furniture in the library will be moved to create space for the "New" collection giving more room to showcase new library materials and bringing back the "Express" collection for patrons looking for best sellers.
- The library will be hosting a "Meet the New Director" on October 20th at 3PM.