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TOWN OF CROMWELL
TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 13, 2017
7:00 PM TOWN HALL ROOM 224/5

L. Conarchy, Asst.
TOWN CLERK

CORRECTED MINUTES
(Spelling correction in item J.)

Present: Mayor E. Faienza, Deputy Mayor R. Newton, Councilors F. Emanuele, S. Slade, J. Demetriades, M. Johnson

Absent: A. Waters

Also Present: Town Manager A. Salvatore, Chief of Police D. LaMontagne, Finance Director M. Sylvester, Tax Collector D. Sienna, Director of Planning and Development S. Popper, Town Engineer J. Harriman also attended as Acting Public Works Director, Public and Press

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Faienza called the Regular 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 to the agenda:

M. New Business #5. Accept Bucks Crossing and Fawn Run as Town Roads subject to the Town Manager executing MOA with developed over road repairs.

Motion made by R. Newton seconded by F. Emanuele and *unanimously carried* to amend the agenda as requested.

Motion made by J. Demetriades seconded by R. Newton and *unanimously carried* to approve the agenda as amended.

D. COMMISSION CHAIRMAN REPORTS/LIASON REPORT

Board of Education liaison P. Sousa presented an update on Board of Education activities.

E. CITIZEN COMMENTS

1. B. Jahn, Woodside Rd - Advised that under Appointments some of the term ending dates are incorrect.

F. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Faienza reported:

- Presented a Pension Committee meeting update.
- Cromwell retained their AAA Bond Rating.

- They are monitoring the State very closely as with this new deficit number of \$200 Million. Governor is once again proposing to cut municipal aid.
- The Manager's 2017 goals and objectives will be discussed in January.
- This month's business visits were made to Mosaic and Molly Maids.
- The first Town Forum will be scheduled the end of January or the beginning of February.
- The Christmas Tree Lighting & Holiday Stroll was very successful. Kudos to Heather Polke for her work with the Holiday Stroll.
- The procedure for appointing a Town Historian will be investigated.
- The Cromwell Division of the Chamber will be tomorrow in the Arch Room.
- Attended the Police Chief's Winter Meeting hosted by Chief LaMontagne. He gave welcoming remarks.
- Stuff a cruiser was a huge success, thanked Chief Lamontagne, Captain LaMontagne and all those other officers and department staff that helped out.
- Mentioned the Public Service commercial featuring Chief LaMontagne and Officer Tolton.
- We received a Certificate of Appreciation from the High School to the town employees for participating in the Cromwell High School Work Experience.
- Wished everyone a Happy Holiday Season.

G. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Salvatore reported:

- Updated the Council regarding the lawsuits, Haughton, Gorski and Gilead.
- Officer Alicia is on light duty; and Federal Mediation continues.
- Cromwell Landing; permits are at a higher cost than anticipated. A presentation will be held at the January meeting.
- Frisbee Park had a gate and fence installed. DOT wants the guard rails down.
- Staff in Recreation and Social Services did an outstanding job with the Holiday Programs.
- A concert was held in the Belden Library; it was a well attended event.
- The Christmas Tree lighting and Holiday Stroll was very successful and well attended.
- The Public Works Director is on sick-leave. Jon Harriman has been appointed Acting Public Works Director.
- Presented Budget information and his expectations at the last Staff Meeting.

H. CHIEF OF POLICE'S REPORT

Chief LaMontagne reported:

- Monthly Incident Reports were distributed for October and November
- Officer Wobrock is in the last phase of FTO.
- Narcam training was held early in November. Chief has obtained a prescription to outfit 4 cruisers.

- Fill-a-Cruiser was held on December 2nd at Stop and Shop. It was one of the best collections both for food and cash donations. Chief gave Kudos to Lori Ouellette and Officer Steve Dorais.
- Sgt. Kogut, Detective Pietraroia, Officer Carlson (with K-9 Bane), Officers Perricone and Augenstein participated in the Reach Foundation Shop with a Cop Program on December 7th.
- On November 29th the Department went out with the DEMAS Tobacco Prevention Team. One Cromwell business was sighted for selling tobacco to a minor.
- Detective Jones was recently assigned to the Detective Division. She is doing an exceptional job; solving 3 out of 4 larcenies at Lowes.

I. PUBLIC WORK DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Acting Public Works Director J. Harriman presented the following:

- The Town Crew did 2 or 3 passes to collect leaves. They also sanded and plowed because of the snow storm.
- The Raymond Place project has been completed.
- Willowbrook Road is in Winter Shutdown.
- Presented update on Coles Road and North Road Culverts.
- Rocky Hill is going before their P&Z for County Line Drive.

J. FINANCIAL

1. Tax Refunds

Motion made by S. Spade Slade seconded by F. Emanuele and *unanimously carried* to approve tax refunds 1 - 24.

K. FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Finance Director Sylvester reported:

1. Update on Budget Reports

- Spoke regarding the Town's AAA rating.
- Pricing for refunding will take place on Tuesday the 19th.
- The Audit reports will be delivered next week. They will be distributed and placed on line.

L. STAFF REPORTS

S. Popper, Director of Planning submitted a written report.

M. NEW BUSINESS

1. Grievance -UPSEU -Town Hall Union
 - a. Sarah Voog
 - b. Action if necessary

Union Attorney, Christine Sweet, presented the Union's side of the Grievance.

Tax Collector, Doug Sienna presented the Town's side of the Grievance.

The Councilors were given the opportunity to ask questions of each side.

Attorney Sweet stated that she feels that this and the other problems happened due to a lack of communication between the employee and the Department Head. She also stated that the employee feels that she had not received adequate training to perform her job duties that are listed in her job description.

Tax Collector Sienna stated that this was progressive discipline and other discipline is in the employees' personnel file. He feels that the employee refuses to perform her job as he asks and doesn't recognize his authority. He has an open door policy and is available for his employees to come and ask for assistance. This employee seldom uses this resource.

A very lengthy discussion followed among the Council regarding a possible lack of communication and training within the Tax Department. Mr. Sienna asked if he would be willing to have meetings with his employee with a third party present to open the line of communication. He replied in the affirmative.

Ms. Voog was given the opportunity to speak. She stated that she had a very difficult time in the beginning but now recognizes the Tax Collectors authority and is willing to perform her duties based on the Tax Collector's procedures. She stated that she would like to start fresh as of tonight and be cross-trained in the Tax Department so she is able to be a productive member of the department when her co-workers are absent.

Motion made by R. Newton seconded by S. Slade and *unanimously carried* to approve the grievance.

Mayor Faienza called for a short recess at 8:51 p.m.

Mayor Faienza called the meeting back to order at 9 p.m.

2. Grievance - NIPSEU - Police Union
 - a. Sgt. Pamela Young
 - b. Action if necessary

Union Attorney Josephine Miller presented the Unions side of the grievance.

Chief Denise LaMontagne presented the Town's side of the grievance.

The Councilors were given the opportunity to ask questions of each side.

Attorney Miller maintained that Sgt. Young didn't disregard a direct order given by Captain VanderSloot by sending an email to the other Sergeants but was only to provide information to them.

Chief LaMontagne and Captain VanderSloot spoke regarding the importance of following a direct order especially in a militaristic environment. Sgt. Young was ordered by Captain VanderSloot "not to do anything" and sending out an e-mail to other Sergeants went against his order.

After a very lengthy discussion the Council determined that the grievance should be denied because Sgt. Young did not follow a direct order.

Motion made by S. Slade seconded by R. Newton and *unanimously carried* to deny the grievance.

3. Discussion and action to approve attached resolution to authorize the Town Manager to sign the FFY 2017 State Homeland Security Grant Program Region 3 Memorandum of Agreement.

Motion made by R. Newton seconded by F. Emanuele and *unanimously carried* to approve attached resolution to authorize the Town Manager to sign the FFY 2017 State Homeland Security Grant Program Region 3 Memorandum of Agreement.

4. Discussion and action to approve Exchange of Properties at 100 and 120 County Line Drive and 161 Coles Road.
Director of Planning and Development/EDC Co-coordinator S. Popper presented the request.
S. Slade stated that this land swap will allow Scannell to wrap up and get this process started and done and allow us to have enough land to accomplish what we need to do.
M. Johnson believes that a few years ago the Town had a vote on purchasing land for a new Public Works facility. The public was against purchasing land. He is against this and it is news to him and he believes it will be news to the public.
Mayor Faienza stated that this has been discussed over the past 18 months. We are just going through the process of obtaining the land. We will still have to go through the process for any plans for the property.
M. Johnson said in the interest of transparency for the Cromwell taxpayers they should be aware that you are making plans for spending of millions of dollars.
E. Faienza completely disagreed and for the record stated that this has been in the 5 year Capital Expenditure Program and discussed for the past 18 months. All they are doing tonight is swapping land that would benefit Scannell and the Town. It is a land swap with no monies changing hands.

Before anything is done to spend money to build a facility it would have to go through the Town Council and Board of Finance and then a Town Meeting.

M. Johnson stated that in his opinion he hasn't heard anyone beating the drum for a new public works facility.

J. Demetriades stated that it is now on the record that there will be a complete process to build a facility. This land exchange will bring more tax dollars to the Town and it will benefit the tax payers.

Further discussion followed.

Motion made by R. Newton seconded by S. Slade and *carried* to approve Exchange of Properties at 100 and 120 County Line Drive and 161 Coles Road and authorize the Mayor to call a Public Hearing.

Aye: S. Slade, E. Faienza, R. Newton, F. Emanuele, J. Demetriades

Nay: M. Johnson

Motion carried

5. Accept Bucks Crossing and Fawn Run in Northwood Estates as Town Roads.

S. Popper presented the item.

Motion made by R. Newton seconded by F. Emanuele and *unanimously carried* to accept Bucks Crossing and Fawn Run as Town Roads subject to the Town Manager executing MOA with developed over road repairs.

N. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Regular Meeting October 11, 2017

Motion made by R. Newton seconded by F. Emanuele and *carried* to approve the minutes of October 11, 2017.

Aye: S. Slade, E. Faienza, R. Newton, F. Emanuele

Abstained: M. Johnson and J. Demetriades (They were not on the Council)

Motion carried

2. Special Meeting November 13, 2017

Motion made by F. Emanuele seconded by J. Demetriades and *unanimously carried* to approve the minutes of November 13, 2017.

P. RESIGNATIONS

1. Park and Recreation

a. Mark Carroll

Motion made by R. Newton seconded by F. Emanuele and *unanimously carried* to accept Mr. Carroll's resignation with regret.

O. APPOINTMENTS

1. Zoning Board of Appeals

a. John Whitney, to fill a 2 year vacancy, Term expires 11/19.

b. Brian Fisk, reappointment, alternate, term expires 11/19.

c. Steven Wygonowski, reappointment, alternate, term expires 11/19.

Motion made by S. Slade seconded by R. Newton and *unanimously carried* to approve appointments a, b, and c.

2. Sub-Registrars
 - a. Jay Doolittle, Cromwell Funeral Home, Term expires 11/19.
 - b. Louis Sarno, D'Angelo's Funeral Home, Term expires 11/19.
3. Board of Finance
 - a. Allan Spotts, Alternate, Expires 12/19.
 - b. Daniel Kelly, reappointment, Term expires December 2019
4. Municipal Agent for the Elderly
 - a. Amy Saada, reappointment, Expires 12/19.
5. Comcast Advisory Council
 - a. Paul Duren, reappointment, Term expires December 2019
 - b. Marco Iacoveillo, reappointment, Term expires December 2019
 - c. Jay Polke, reappointment, Term expires December 2019
6. Civil Preparedness Director
 - a. Chief Denise LaMontagne, Director, reappointment, Term expires 12/19
 - b. Captain Kevin VanderSloot, Deputy, , reappointment, Term expires 12/19
7. EMS (North Central EMS)
 - a. Charles Epstein, reappointment, term expires 10/19
8. Planning and Zoning Commission
 - a. John Keithan, reappointment, alternate, term expires 12/19
 - b. David Fitzgerald, reappointment, alternate, term expires 12/19
9. Park and Recreation Commission
 - a. Michael Holcomb, Term expires 12/19
 - b. Ruth Checko, Term expires 12/21
 - c. Dan Brission, Term expires 12/21
 - d. John Schmaltz, Term expires 12/21
10. CWPCA
 - a. Allan Spotts, to fill a vacancy, term expires 1/18

Motion made by R. Newton seconded by J. Demetriades and *unanimously carried* to approve appoints 2-10

Q. TOWN COUNCIL COMMISSION LIAISON REPORTS

M. Johnson -P&Z

S. Slade -Fire District and ZBA

R. Newton -I/W and CWPCA

F. Emanuele -Board of Education

R. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by S. Slade seconded by J. Demetriades and *unanimously carried* to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 11:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Re Matus

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Secretary