

TOWN OF CROMWELL
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
REGULAR MEETING

JUNE 13, 2018

7:00 P.M. TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MINUTES

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

Absent: A. Waters

Also Present: Town Manager A. Salvatore, Chief D. Lamontagne, Captain K.
Vandersloot, Officer Augenstein, Dispatcher Cyr, Director of Finance M. Sylvester,
Public Works Director L. Spina, Town Engineer/Asst. Public Works Director J.
Harriman, Parks and Grounds Supervisor M. Conant, members of the public.

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Faienza called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

James Demetriades led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Faienza asked that the agenda be amended as follows: add #6. Discussion
and possible action regarding sworn strength of Cromwell Police Department.
Inter change the order of items 1 and 5 under New Business.

Motion made by F. Emanuele seconded by S. Slade and *unanimously carried* to
amend the agenda.

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

D. COMMISSION CHAIRMAN REPORTS/LIASON REPORT/STAFF REPORTS

1. Chief Lamontagne's presentation of Department Citation for Meritorious
Service to Officer Augenstein and Letters of Commendation to Sgt. Maslauskas,
Officer Cunningham and Dispatcher Cyr.
2. Director of Planning & Development/EDC Coordinator S. Popper submitted a
written report.
3. Board of Education liaison P. Sousa updated the Council on recent Board of
Education activities.
4. F. Emanuele spoke regarding the Little Mermaid production; he has a small
part.
5. M. Johnson spoke about his father in honor of Father's Day.

E. CITIZEN COMMENTS

1. E. Long, Middlesex Plate Glass and Greenhouse, 211 Shunpike - Spoke
regarding the ZEO asking them to remove their signs.

2. J. Corlis, Redwood Court -spoke regarding several items of concern.

F. MAYOR'S UPDATE

Mayor Faienza reported:

- Asked that the Council stay on point due to a long agenda.
- Reported that H/R coordinator B. Price will be reaching out to the sub-committee to review Council Statement/rules and procedures.
- The Mayor hosted a tour of the Town Hall, Library, Police Department and Fire Department for the entire 3rd grade class. It was a wonderful event.
- Attended the Flag Day Ceremony, as always it was awesome.

G. TOWN MANAGER'S UPDATE

Town Manager Salvatore reported:

- The negotiations with the Town Hall Union are done. It will come to the Council in the near future.
- The sea-wall on River Road has major problems. An application was made to DEEP and received permission to secure the wall.
- Presented the insert that will go out with the tax bills explaining the mill increase by the Fire District.
- Distributed a hand out regarding Cromwell Brook.
- A shred-it day for Cromwell Residents will be held on June 30th from 9 a.m. - 12 noon, or until the truck is full.
- New Spring/Summer banners are going up on Main Street.
- Three trees were taken down on Main Street because they were growing into the power lines and coming through the cement. They will be replaced with appropriate trees for the location.
- He granted the American Legion's request to maintain Valor Green until November.
- The Library Expansion is moving forward through the process.
- Pride's Corner donated rose bushes for planting around the Welcome to Cromwell signs. A thank you note was sent to them for their generous donation.
- The town has been informed that we are being investigated by the Department of Justice for the Gilead Group Home matter.

H. CHIEF OF POLICE'S UPDATE

Chief Lamontagne reported:

- On May 30th Office Augenstein responded to call and used Nar-Cam; it was the first time it was used by CPD.
- The Detective Bureau is busy investigating 3 burglaries, two stolen cars and stolen tires at Cromwell Hills.
- Sgt. Kogut participated in multi training with the Coast Guard and various towns for search and rescue.
- Traveler's Tournament starts next week.
- The Department participated in the Torch Run for the Special Olympics.

I. PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Public Works Director Spina reported:

- Paving Contractors' will be paving Coles to Willowbrook.
- Shunpike Road was milled this morning.
- They are in the process of leveling Frisbee Park.
- They are working on the drainage problems on Hicksville Road
- The Willowbrook project should be hopefully be done late July.

J. FINANCE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Director of Finance M. Sylvester reported:

- Budget Reports are through the end of May. Revenues are strong in a few areas such as Supplemental Motor Vehicles, Building Permits and investment revenue.
- There are no areas of concern with the Expenditures.
- The Auditors will begin the preliminary audit in July.

K. FINANCIAL

1. Tax Refunds

Motion made by R. Newton seconded by S. Slade and *unanimously carried* to approve tax refunds 1 - 6.

2. Discussion and action to appropriate \$65,000 within the CNR Fund for the refurbishing of the 19—tri-axel.

Public Works Director Spina presented the request. He feels that since the truck has low mileage and hours that it would be worthwhile to refurbish it. A new truck would cost approximately \$170,000.

Motion made by R. Newton seconded by S. Slade and *carried* to appropriate \$65,000 within the CNR Fund for the refurbishing of the 19-tri-axel.

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

Nay: M. Johnson

Motion carries

3. Discussion and action to increase the 2018-19 CNR Fund request for a Handicap Accessible Van by \$5,000, changing the total allocation to \$70,000. (Note: This expenditure will be 80% reimbursed to the Town through a 5310 Department of Transportation grant.)

Motion made by R. Newton seconded by F. Emanuele and *unanimously carried* to increase the 2018-19 CNR Fund request for a Handicap Accessible Van by \$5,000, changing the total allocation to \$70,000. (Note: This expenditure will be 80% reimbursed to the Town through a 5310 Department of Transportation grant.)

4. Discussion and action to approve an interdepartmental transfer from Public Works to Transportation Services for \$3,000.

Motion made by R. Newton seconded by F. Emanuele and *unanimously carried* to approve an interdepartmental transfer from Public Works to Transportation Services for \$3,000.

Mayor Faienza called for a recess from 8:31 - 8:41 p.m.

L. NEW BUSINESS

5. Discussion and possible action to replace Football Scoreboard at Pierson Park. Parks Supervision M. Conant presented the information he obtained to replace the present scoreboard at a cost of approximately \$40,000.

Brian Dufresne presented the information he obtained to replace the scoreboard at a cost of approximately \$65,000

After a lengthy discussion the consensus of the council was to approve the scoreboard that Mr. Dufresne recommended because it could be used by the High School technology students to put stats., school information and player information up on the screen. It could also be used to show movies and bring people to downtown Cromwell. Presently the field is used approximately four times by the High School Football team and four times by Cromwell football.

They feel a new scoreboard will encourage more sport teams and activities to come and use the field. Deputy Mayor R. Newton stated that he favors the \$40,000 scoreboard because it will provide all of the necessary functions of a scoreboard and also is uncomfortable spending an additional \$25,000 because of the uncertain economic times. He went on to state that is his opinion but he will support the majority.

J. Demetriades read a statement from A. Waters who was unable to attend the meeting. (Attached to minutes)

Town Manager Salvatore stated that he spoke with Superintendent of Schools J. Maloney and he agreed to split the cost of a new scoreboard with the town. The Booster Club doesn't have any funds to contribute to the scoreboard.

Mayor Faienza polled the Council on which scoreboard they would support.

All were in favor of the \$65,000 scoreboard including R. Newton who again stated that he favored the \$40,000 purchase but would support the majority.

Motion made by S. Slade seconded by R. Newton and *unanimously carried* to approve the \$65,000 scoreboard.

Motion made by S. Slade seconded by F. Emanuele and *unanimously carried* to transfer \$65,000 from General Fund fund balance to CNR Fund fund balance.

Motion made by S. Slade seconded by F. Emanuele and *unanimously carried* to appropriate \$65,000 in CNR Fund

2. Public Works Excavation Permit and Transfer Station Pass Proposal.
Public Works Director L. Spina and Town Engineer/Asst. Public Works Director presented the request.

A short discussion followed; the consensus of the Council is that taxes should be paid before town services are used. M. Johnson disagreed and stated if people can't pay their taxes and therefore can't get permits it takes away their ability to make money.

Motion made by S. Slade seconded by R. Newton and *carried* to accept the Public Works Excavation Permit and Transfer Station Pass Proposal as presented.

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

Nay: M. Johnson

Motion carries

Mayor Faienza called for a short recess

3. Union Grievance - NIPSEU

- a. Sgt. Pam Young

Attorney E. Brown presented the grievance on behalf of the Police Union. The grievance was filed because of a two day suspension that Sgt. Young received. Officer Haughton was involved in the incident with two more infractions and received a written reprimand. Attorney Brown feels that Sgt. Young should receive the same discipline as Office Haughton. This incident happened last December.

Chief Lamontagne presented the response to the grievance on behalf of the Town. The two-day suspension is just because Sgt. Young is a supervisor and is held to a higher standard. Chief Lamontagne presented the series of events that led up to the discipline and informed the Council that Sgt. Young has completed her Supervisory Training in March.

The Council was given the opportunity to comment and ask questions. After discussion the Council was concerned that the discipline given for the incident was too lenient.

Motion made by S. Slade seconded by R. Newton and *unanimously carried* to deny the grievance and support the actions of the Chief of Police.

4. Union Grievance -NIPSEU

- a. Officer Frank DiMaio

Attorney E. Brown presented the grievance on behalf of the Police Union. The grievance was filed because the union feels that the Willowbrook Road Project is not a town project and the officers working should be paid at Extra -Duty Rates.

Chief Lamontagne presented the response to the grievance on behalf of the Town. At the beginning of the project the officers were paid at an Extra-Duty rates in error. Chief Lamontagne was advised on April 6th by Town Engineer Harriman that the project is a town project and should be paid at regular overtime rates. Chief Lamontagne informed the department by e-mail on April 6th that she was informed by the town that the project is a town project as stated in the grant and from then on they would be paid at regular overtime rates.

Finance Director Sylvester informed the Council that the project is a town project funded by State and Federal Grants. The town put the entire amount up front and is receiving reimbursement as the project progresses.

Town Engineer/Asst. Public Works Director J. Harriman stated that the town is using a contractor, Baltazar, but it is a town project. Baltazar is hiring the officers on an as needed basis. Mr. Harriman is allowing this because the contractor has a better handle on when the officers are needed; days and times, etc. The funds to pay the officers was included in the grant amount at the regular overtime rate.

A very lengthy discussion followed. The Council could see merit in both arguments but the consensus was to deny the grievance. Councilor Demetriades disagreed.

Motion made by M. Johnson seconded by R. Newton and *carried* to deny the grievance.

1. Discussion and possible action to approve agreement between the Town of Cromwell and the United Public Service Employees Union, Unit 33, for Town Planner to perform additional duties on an interim basis as the Town's Economic Development Director July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019.
Town Manager Salvatore presented the request. M. Johnson feels that the Town Planner has too many responsibilities to be an effective Economic Development Coordinator.
Mayor Faienza objected to Mr. Johnson's statement and stated for the record that our Economic Development efforts have been really, really good over the past five years under Mr. Popper.

Motion made by S. Slade seconded by R. Newton and *carried* to approve agreement between the Town of Cromwell and the United Public Service Employees Union, Unit 33, for Town Planner to perform additional duties on an interim basis as the Town's Economic Development Director July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019.

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

Nay: M. Johnson

Motion carried

6. Discussion and possible action regarding sworn strength of Cromwell Police Department.

Town Manager Salvatore and Chief Lamontagne presented the request. This is a request to temporarily increase the strength of the sworn officers of the department to 28. This request is being made because several officers are talking about retiring and since it takes so long to fill the positions, they would like to be pro-active and begin the hiring process.

M. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Regular Meeting May 9, 2018

Motion made by R. Newton seconded by F. Emanuele and *unanimously carried* to approve the minutes of May 9, 2018 with the correction under Commission Chairman Reports to change the amount of the Senior Services Music Night donations from \$3,000 to \$300.00

2. Special Meeting June 5, 2018

Motion made by R. Newton seconded by F. Emanuele and *carried* to approve the Minutes of June 5, 2018.

Aye: M. Johnson, E. Faienza, R. Newton, F. Emanuele, J. Demetriades

Abstained: S. Slade (was unable to attend this meeting)

N. **RESIGNATIONS**

1. Cromwell Water Pollution Control Authority

a. Timothy Griffin

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

O. **ADJOURN**

Motion made by S. Slade seconded by R. Newton and *unanimously carried* to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 11:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Re Matus
Secretary

Dear Mr. Mayor and my fellow Councilmen,

As most of you are aware, I have been a loyal fan and supporter of the Cromwell football team since its inception in 2001. Although I will not be able to attend Wednesday night's Council meeting, I am writing to recommend you approve the purchase of a new scoreboard.

Cromwell High School did not have a football team for many years. In the past, kids would hang around street corners and the parks with nothing to do. Now sports — and football in particular — have become very important in the Cromwell school system. Kids are motivated more than ever to keep their grades up to a certain standard for them to play, whether the game be soccer, baseball, lacrosse, or football.

The Pierson Park football field is not only used by the high school football team, it is used for many other football activities by the people of Cromwell. We have invested a lot of money in the Pierson Park field over the past few years, including adding sprinkler systems, improving the landscape for proper drainage, improving the bleachers, and most recently installing lights which have afforded the nighttime football games more visibility (and consequently increasing attendance).

However, a new scoreboard is desperately needed to replace the obsolete one that is in disrepair and for which parts cannot be found to make it operable.

Fortunately the Board of Education has expressed its willingness to share the cost for a new scoreboard. This is a win-win opportunity. Instead of going with the cheaper, lower-quality \$38,000 scoreboard, I am in favor of spending the additional money for the higher-quality, more durable and versatile \$63,000 model that will last the town 18 to 20 years.

62,917

In closing, I urge the council and my colleagues to vote for the new scoreboard and preserve the investment we have already made so that it will continue to benefit our community for years to come.

Sincerely,
Councilman Al Waters