

**Town of Newington CIP Committee
Conference Room L101, Town Hall
Minutes of Thursday, February 5, 2015 Meeting**

1. Chairperson Terry Borjesen called the meeting to order at 4:43 p.m.

2. Roll Call - Members Present: T. Borjesen, Chair
 C. Castelle, Town Council
 R. Tofeldt, Board of Education
 S. Soares, Board of Education
- Members Absent: M. Klett Town Council

Others Present:	
J. Salomone, Town Manager	W. Collins, Superintendent of Schools
A. Harter, Director of Finance	L. Jachimowicz, Chief Finance & Operations Officer
L. Rydecki, Deputy Finance Director	

3. Public Participation – John Slusarski, – 40 Grandview Drive: Concerned about how the CIP works. In the past he called it a slush fund but was corrected by Councilor Cohen. He commented on the big project for STEM at the high school costing \$12 million. He commented on the student enrollment being 1800 at the high school when he attended; his daughter's graduating class in 2001 was 1200. If enrollment is declining why is there a need for more labs costing \$12 million? The project should be voted on and bonded. He commented that we should leave room in the CIP in case the State gives us less funding.

4. Minutes Of Previous Meeting – C. Clarke made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 15, 2015 meeting as submitted. Motion seconded by R. Tofeldt. Motion passed 4 in favor.

5. Old Business

Review of Proposed Projects

C. Castelle asked for a clarification regarding the \$2.1 million NHS Career Tech project and school construction grants offset of \$500,000. A. Harter and J. Salomone explained that the town is required to appropriate 100% of the cost. The reimbursement of 50% for the project may not be received for several years in the future. Committee members had several questions regarding the Board of Education CIP request. W. Collins addressed the committee regarding the STEM project noting that this will keep kids in house rather than paying for magnet school placement costs. The project is \$6.1 million not \$12 million. It includes a small addition which includes space for health services. Mayor Woods asked why the increase from the original amount of \$1.3 million to \$2.1 million. W. Collins commented that the project can be done in phases and something needs to be done with the wood and automotive spaces which are vacant and defunct. It is an odd shape and currently used for storage and assembling computers. Construction prices have gone up from the original estimate of five years ago. It is the same space and the same program.

Mayor Woods commented that we are in strange situation now that we have not taken on any new debt and the original committee never envisioned spending over \$5 million on pay-as-you-go.

Status of Current Projects

A listing with the balances for the current capital accounts was reviewed. J. Salomone and A. Harter addressed the committee's questions regarding certain projects.

6. Public Participation –

Pat Foley, 51 Crown Ridge: Asked what the principal and interest payments were. According to the list of proposed projects, the funding level we are trying to achieve is \$5,072,169 and we are trying to get to \$6.3 million which leaves approximately \$300,000 for principal and interest on debt which

doesn't sound right. On the list of proposed projects, #30 NHS Career Tech we were told tonight will total \$6 million. She lives in a condo and reserves are wonderful and great for budgeting, but she would like to know how many of these projects are partial payments. She noted some of the projects are Phase I of II. Is there a way to show what is requested in future years? She would like to see those schedules.

Rose Lyons, – 46 Elton Drive: She was fine with the explanation of the Garfield Street/Town Hall Site Improvements but if it is to be used as a placeholder like Fenn Road she hopes it isn't used for something else two years later without anyone noticing. It seems that she goes to several meetings of different committees including the project building committee and the members are looking at things that are not in their purview. There was a lot of talk about the gym floor. From what she reads, sees on television and social media this has gotten out of hand. She commented on the removal of the snow in the center of town. She asked if Mill Pond Playscape is a viable project. She commented that Parks and Playfields Improvements has balance on 2/15 of \$257 thousand and requesting another \$100,000 and the title has been changed to Parks/ Pools/Playfields. She asked about the five year schedule which was told is an internal document.

7. Next Meeting – February 12, 2015 at 4:30 P.M.
8. Motion to adjourn was made by C.Castelle. R. Tofeldt seconded the motion. Motion passed to adjourn the meeting at 5:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ann Harter".

Ann Harter, Director of Finance