

# MINUTES

## NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

March 18, 2008

Mayor Wright called the Special Meeting of the Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Helen Nelson Room of the Town Hall.

I PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II ROLL CALL

Councilors Present

Councilor Banach  
Councilor Boni  
Councilor Bottalico  
Councilor Bowen  
Councilor Cohen  
Councilor Lenares  
Councilor Nagel  
Councilor Nasinnyk  
Mayor Wright

Staff Present

John Salomone, Town Manager  
Lori Verreault, Executive Assistant  
Ann Harter, Finance Director  
Lisa Rydecki, Deputy Finance Director

III PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL - None

IV CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS

A Budget Review: Department of Senior and Disabled Center Services: Dianne Stone, Director

Major Budget Changes: Transfer of Utilities/Maintenance to Facilities Management, rental of a new photocopier, and change in Dial-A-Ride Driver make up from 2 full-time drivers to 1 full-time driver and 3 part-time drivers

B Budget Review: Human Services: Ken Freidenberg, Director

Major Budget Changes: Request for a part-time secretary was not funded/additional funds taken from the Revenue Account to fund additional hours to cover front office and process insurance forms; additional seasonal hours funded to cover peak times (generally summer programs)

There was general discussion about the addition of Social Workers in Schools v. Human Services so that there would be a continuum of services for youths when school is not in session and to address other needs children have that are not directly related to student performance in the school setting. Mr. Freidenberg suggested it could work either way; there is a cost benefit if there is a licensed School Social Worker working in an integrated setting. The School System is looking at it from a control/responsibility point of view while in the school setting. Needs best met in the context of communication, coordination and collaboration of all involved (SRO, Youth Officer, Social Workers, etc. – all enhance ability to identify youth at risk

and intervene at an early stage). There may be an impact on the Human Services Department, but that is a good thing.

C Budget Review: Public Safety (Fire, Police, Street Lighting, Civil Preparedness, EMS)

Fire: Chris Schroeder, Fire Chief/Fire Marshal; Kevin Ziegler, Chair, Kent Stoddard, Tom Jascowski, Board of Fire Commissioners

Major Changes: Funding for full year of Pay Per Call Program, transfer of Utilities/Maintenance functions to Facilities Management

There was discussion as to whether the Board of Fire Commissioners has jurisdiction over the buildings according to Charter, revisit once an opinion is received from the Town Attorney. Board is not concerned about Utilities and Fuel being transferred to Facilities Management but would like control of maintenance and equipment/materials for their facilities. Mr. Salomone indicated the maintenance issue is analogous to the maintenance of the fire apparatus, which is handled by the Highway Department mechanics.

EMS: Scott Woods, Chief, Newington Volunteer Ambulance Corps

Major Change: Additional \$5,000 included as contribution to the Money Purchase Plan (compound interest account) for NVA members to help retain volunteers and to start to bring parity to the Fire Department. The plan was created in 1990 and has not had any increases since then; the NVFD plan has had four increases and provides more investment vehicles.

Police: Chief Richard Mulhall, Administrative Assistant Roxanne Verbridge

Major Changes: Proposed addition of three new Police Officers (one new Sergeant position); additional funding for mandated physicals; Overtime trending lower; purchase of disposable blankets for cell blocks as a health measure; CMED dues being transferred to the Newington Volunteer Ambulance Corps; centralizing cost of radios; increased cost of certain types of ammunition; increase in training due to contractual obligations; centralizing of the School Resource Officer, Youth Officer, and the two Community Service Officers under Support Services under one supervisory function to better facilitate interaction with youths and the community; Utilities and building maintenance functions transferred to Facilities Management.

V PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL

VI REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

Councilor Cohen mentioned that in regard to a resident's concerns about the delay in posting property tax check through the Town's lock box procedure, her check cleared the following day so perhaps it was an aberration.

VII ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn meeting was made at 10:00 p.m. by Councilor Bottalico, and seconded by Councilor Bowen. Motion passed 9-0.

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Loretta R. Verreault, Executive Assistant to the Town Manager

**Audio verbatim transcript of meeting available in Town Clerk's Office.**

