



John L. Salomone
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

MAYOR JEFF WRIGHT

MINUTES

NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

May 13, 2008

Mayor Wright called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the Helen Nelson Room of the Newington 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 L. Salomone, Town Manager
Lori Verreault, Executive Assistant
Tanya Lane, Town Clerk

III PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL (none)

IV CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS

- A Approve Amendments to the “Classification and Pay Plan” (Revised Job Descriptions – Account Clerk II, Librarian I, Librarian II)

Councilor Nagel moved the following:

RESOLVED:

The Newington Town Council hereby approves of amendments to the “Classification and Pay Plan” by approving revised job/position descriptions for Account Clerk II (C-10), Librarian I (T-2) and Librarian II (T-3) as recommended by the Town Manager in his capacity as Personnel Director.

Motion seconded by Councilor Cohen. Motion passed 9-0.

B Approve 2008 Blighted Property List

Town Manager Salomone explained that the blighted property list has limits, for example, a property must be abandoned or unoccupied in order to be eligible for the blighted property list. He stated that there are several properties in Town that may appear to be blighted but those properties cannot be on the list because they are occupied or in use. He stated that there are four properties on the list, two of which have been on the list in the past. He stated that two of the properties: 21 Boulevard and 690 Cedar Street are in the process of moving forward with some type of resolution. Town Manager Salomone stated that the property on 476 Fenn Road is new to the list and stated that it is a former gas station that has become neglected and is adjacent to residential areas. He stated that if the Council approves the resolution then the Town can give the property owners one more chance to remedy the situation before it levies a fine of \$100.00 per day. Town Manager Salomone noted that the owner of the Fenn Road property did contact him after the initial notice of the blight list and claimed that he had a plan to redevelop the property but there is no redevelopment plan filed with the Town at this point. Town Manager Salomone stated that the property on 9 Adam Drive, also new to the list, is an abandoned home in a residential area. Councilor Bowen asked whether the property at 9 Adam Drive had been on the list in the past. Town Manager Salomone replied in the negative. Councilor Bowen noted that the Council had spoken about the property in the past.

Town Manager Salomone stated that he has talked to the Town Attorney about broadening the blighted property ordinance to include other types of properties that may or may not be occupied. He stated that there are several properties that are occupied but are still a blight to the neighborhood and present quality of life issues to the area. He suggested that the Town approach blight from a broader aspect at some point to address these issues and stated that there will be further discussion on the issue over the next six months.

Councilor Boni stated that the gas station property on Fenn Road has been deserted for many years and asked whether there is a time limit as to when a deserted property becomes a blighted property. Town Manager Salomone replied that the property is current on taxes but its condition has deteriorated greatly over the past couple of years. He also noted that the issue has become more imperative due to residential growth in the area. He stated that the Town does not want to move in on vacant buildings that have been properly maintained and a property should not be placed on the list as long as it has been maintained. Councilor Nasinnyk asked whether the taxes are current on the 9 Adam Drive property. Town Manager Salomone replied that they are not. Mayor Wright stated that he has received a number of calls from residents about the gas station on Fenn Road. He stated agreement with Town Manager Salomone's suggestion about broadening the blighted property ordinance.

Councilor Boni moved the following:

RESOLVED:

In accordance with Article V. Sec. 4-50 et seq., of the Newington Code of Ordinances, the Town Council hereby approves the list of blighted properties to be remedied under this ordinance as submitted by the Town Manager, John L. Salomone, and directs the Town Manager to take the necessary actions to bring these properties into conformance with the ordinance.

Motion seconded by Councilor Cohen. Motion passed 9-0.

C Small Cities Grant Application

Town Manager Salomone stated that he is withdrawing the resolution to approve the Small Cities grant application at the current meeting. He explained that in a meeting with Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD), the Housing Authority, the Town Planner and the consultant he was informed that the DECD will not consider this grant until the Department of Housing and Urban Development approves the 202 funding for the New Samaritan project. Town Manager Salomone stated that New Samaritan should know the status of the 202 funding by this fall and stated that there will be another round of DECD funds projected to be available in February or March 2009 which would still give the Town time to meet the criteria since construction of the 202 portion of the project is not scheduled until 2010. Town Manager Salomone stated that one problem with this situation is that if the Town decides to move the building site to the north then it would have to make that commitment to New Samaritan by this summer. He stated that the Town would also have to pay for the demolition cost of the 90 Welles Drive North Building at a cost estimated to be \$20,000 to \$40,000.

He stated that if the Council decides to move in that direction it would make the commitment to New Samaritan which would then amend its 202 grant application, as the current 202 application calls for the building to be placed on the original site. Town Manager Salomone stated that the demolition is a small portion of the funding and most of the funding will go to extend Mill Street, the parking lot construction, and improvements to the existing senior housing, all of which can still be funded under the new grant next year. Mayor Wright asked whether a future Small Cities grant application can be used to cover the demolition of the NCTV/Art League building and the relocation costs of those organizations. Town Manager Salomone replied in the negative and stated that while the cost of the new sites for the relocated groups was never eligible, the physical moving of equipment to the new sites may still be eligible. Town Manager Salomone stated that the NCTV building could be demolished next year and the Town will still meet the building goals of New Samaritan.

Town Manager Salomone stated that in conversation with the consultant, L. Wagner and Associates, he has learned that some of the ongoing revolving rehab funds for property owners can be reprogrammed to cover a portion of the demolition costs resulting in minimal out of pocket expenses for the Town. He suggested placing the item on a future meeting agenda to consider whether it is the will of the Council to commit to moving the building site to the north part of the property. He stated that this must be done in order to give New Samaritan time to make an amendment to their 202 request. Town Manager Salomone also noted that the plan to extend the current road and create a cul-de-sac is another factor, but suggested doing that work anyway due to the current housing on the site. He commented that the 202 funding is not in jeopardy. He stated that if the Council decides not to move the building to the north and go with the 202 funding as-is then the parking lot will be lost since the building site will be towards the middle of the property. He commented that moving the site north is a better option.

Councilor Cohen remarked that she hopes at some point there will be more specific information about the NCTV relocation. Town Manager Salomone replied that it is possible that NCTV may move to the Town Hall, perhaps downstairs in the cleaned-out area, depending on long-term decisions about the Town Hall's future. He stated that there is some time before that decision needs to be made.

Councilor Bowen stated that he has been concerned about the possibility of this kind of situation for some time. He stated that he will support using Town funds to raze the NCTV building. He stated that he has always been concerned that the timing of the Small Cities grant would impact the application by New Samaritan. Councilor Bowen stated that razing the building would not only make it a better site but would also allow for the road to Welles Drive to be closed off, which would make the project more palatable to area residents. He stated disappointment with the Town's route regarding the project, but stated support for the northerly location of the building site. Town Manager Salomone stated that while he does not disagree with Councilor Bowen he remarked that the Town gave its best shot to try to get funding from the State and that the Town pushed the envelope in order to try to enhance the present senior housing with funds from the State. He stated that the Town pulled the application once it realized that this was not going to happen. He noted that this will not affect the timing of the 202 funds, which is the paramount concern.

Councilor Nagel commented that the Art League should be given equal consideration in future discussion about moving the groups from the NCTV building. Town Manager Salomone stated that the Town should find good spaces for any occupants of that building. Councilor Nasinnyk commented that the Town now knows the required sequence of the funding and stated that the northern site is a better solution. Mayor Wright stated that there is a downside in that the building demolition could cost the Town up to \$40,000. He noted that the Housing Authority had not completed the preparations for the application and would not have made the application deadline for the improvements to the existing senior housing. Mayor Wright stated that this will give the Housing Authority time to complete the application. Town Manager Salomone agreed, stating that the Housing Authority has to complete an environmental study and it is unlikely that it would make the May 31 deadline anyway. Mayor Wright stated that the Housing Authority's request would be \$100,000 - \$200,000. Town Manager Salomone stated that the request could be more than that due to the cost of handicapped access cabinets, etc. Mayor Wright commented that the grant application can now include funds for the improvements to the existing senior housing. Town Manager Salomone stated that the State must be convinced that the Housing Authority does not have enough funds in its reserve to do the work before it will approve of the grant funds. Mayor Wright asked about the State's reception to the grant application, assuming the 202 funding is received. Town Manager Salomone replied that the reception has been very positive and as a package it will be a strong application especially upon approval of the 202 funding. Councilor Boni inquired whether the Council's next step is to approve moving the building to the northerly site. Town Manager Salomone stated that it does not have to be done at the current meeting but it should be done soon. Councilor Boni stated that the approval must be done in order for the request to proceed. Town Manager Salomone replied that New Samaritan can

apply with the original site and then make an amendment at some point to move the site to the north. Mayor Wright asked whether a decision needs to be made by the end of June. Town Manager Salomone replied that decision should be made in June or July. Mayor Wright requested the attendance of Town Planner Meehan at an upcoming meeting for discussion.

D Appoint Architect for Town Hall Heating System Replacement Project

Councilor Bottalico stated that the Town Hall Heating System Replacement Committee had met and it is recommending Kaestle Boos Associates of New Britain to be the architect for the project. He also noted discussion about the removal of some pine trees in front of Town Hall to accommodate equipment for the project.

Councilor Bottalico moved the following:

RESOLVED:

Pursuant to the recommendation of the Town Hall Heating System Replacement Building Committee, the firm of Kaestle Boos Associates of New Britain, CT is hereby selected to provide architectural services for the Newington Town Hall Heating System Replacement Project, said services to be provided based on their fee proposal of \$125,000.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Town Manager, John L. Salomone, on behalf of the Town of Newington, is hereby authorized to negotiate an Agreement to employ the firm of Kaestle Boos Associates to provide architectural services for this project.

Motion seconded by Deputy Mayor Lenares.

Councilor Cohen noted a memo from Kaestle Boos that stated that the bid documents will take fourteen weeks. She asked how long the construction will take and whether it will push into the heating season. Town Manager Salomone replied that they will start to order the boiler and equipment now and although it will be tight the construction should not extend into the heating season.

Councilor Bowen stated that it has been two months since the closing of the budget. He stated that there was a request for the funds to put the proper heating system in place and that change in the budget did not occur, but within two months funds are being used towards a heating system that while a good system is not the heating system most desirable for the building. He noted a plan to convert this system into a more desirable system in the future will cost additional funds and stated that he wished that there had been some foresight during the last budget process to address the issue on a more appropriate basis. Councilor Bowen stated that he is on the project's committee and noted that Mr. Korpak has laid out an excellent plan. He stated that the Town is taking the correct course of action with the available funds but again commented that he wished that the issue had been addressed in the last budget process. Councilor Cohen agreed with Councilor Bowen. Councilor Bottalico stated that something must be done and that this is the way to go. He stated that the system will be designed to eventually accommodate a hot water system upgrade. He stated that it would have cost about one million dollars more to go to the hot water system at this time. Mayor Wright explained that the project calls for a new boiler for about \$400,000 and an additional \$950,000 to retrofit the heating distribution system. Town Manager Salomone explained that the existing ductwork will be used to distribute the heat. He stated that the steam system can be converted at any time to hot water and while there is an incremental cost to doing so it would have cost more to go to the hot water system anyway. He stated that if the Town decides to remain in the current building in the future the next step would be to go to the hot water system at some point in the future. Councilor Bottalico stated that there is partial grant money available for the Board of Education's portion of the building. Town Manager Salomone stated that the square footage of the Board of Education's portion of the building would have to be determined and that the 25% of that space would be eligible for grant funds.

Motion passed 9-0.

E Proposed Ordinance Granting Certain Non-Profit Organizations a Tax Abatement - Discussion

Town Manager Salomone stated that there are many steps to passing a proposed ordinance and that the purpose of the current agenda item is to discuss the ordinance. Councilor Banach requested that the proposed ordinance be read into the record. Councilor Cohen read the following proposed ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE NEWINGTON CODE ON TAXATION

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF NEWINGTON THAT:

Chapter 17, "Taxation" of the Newington Code of Ordinances is hereby amended as follows:

Section 17-7: Exemptions for Certain Institutions:

Property tax exemptions as provided by Section 12-81b of the Connecticut General Statutes for property acquired by recognized tax exempt organizations shall be granted as authorized and directed to be granted by the Town Assessor.

Town Manager Salomone stated that the proposed ordinance will be formally introduced at the next meeting, and that a Public Hearing date will also be set at the next meeting. Mayor Wright stated that this ordinance will allow the Tax Assessor to exempt properties before they officially come off the tax roll. He stated that the driving force behind the ordinance is the recently acquired Library Board property. Town Manager Salomone agreed and stated that the ordinance will allow an adjustment to be made if the property is exempt under State law. Councilor Bowen stated that due to the timing of the purchase the Library Board has to pay ongoing taxes on the property until their tax exempt status allows them to stop paying taxes on the property. Town Manager Salomone agreed. Councilor Bowen asked whether the property is being taken off of the tax roll early or whether the payment is being waived. Town Manager Salomone stated that the Town would waive the payment. Councilor Bottalico asked whether the Library Board is up to date in taxes through January 1. Town Manager Salomone replied in the affirmative. Councilor Boni stated that the Library Board purchased the property without the involvement of the Town. He asked whether the property meets the criteria of a tax exempt property. Town Manager Salomone replied in the affirmative since the entity that owns the property meets the criteria. Councilor Boni stated that theoretically the Board can buy additional properties that will be tax exempt. Mayor Wright noted that the issue is a timing issue only and noted that even without this ordinance the property would have been off the tax rolls for the next tax bill with the tax exempt status without question. Town Manager Salomone stated that the property's use will determine its tax exempt status. He noted that because there is currently nothing on the property it is considered tax exempt, and if the property is made into a commercial enterprise its tax exempt status would be called into question. Councilor Bowen stated agreement with Councilor Boni on a macro basis; however he noted that the property will come off of the tax roll anyway. He noted that the Tax Assessor Steve Juda has made it clear that there are tax exempt organization-owned properties in Town that are not taken off of the tax rolls and that this ordinance will allow the Tax Assessor to make the decision whether the property's use qualifies for tax exemption. Councilor Nasinnyk asked if, for example, the house on the property was renovated (rather than razed) and sold at a profit for investment purposes if it would be tax exempt. Mayor Wright noted that the Congregational Church owns the Dunkin Donuts building on Main Street and the property is taxed because it is used for profit.

V CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS

A Codification Project

Town Clerk Tanya Lane came forward to discuss the codification project. Town Manager Salomone stated that the project started with the previous Council and has been ongoing for a number of months. He noted that there are no substantive changes being proposed to the Town Charter and any substantive changes to the Charter would be the purview of the Charter Revision Commission. He stated that the changes with this project involve only changes to language style or changes to resolve contradictions to State laws.

Ms. Lane gave an overview of the project. She stated that the Code of Ordinances became effective in 1974 and since then there have been 45 supplements to the Code. She stated that supplement 46 would have covered legislation passed from 2001-2004 but that 46th supplement was never enacted. She stated that in 2006 the Town signed the contract with a vendor for the project, and in June 2007 the vendor sent back an editorial analysis. She stated that the vendor performed a line-by-line analysis of the Code to look for grammatical errors and to assure alignment with State and Federal legislation. She stated that the purpose is not to make substantive recommendations. Ms. Lane stated that the document returned by the vendor was

broken apart and sent to the various department heads for review and recommendations and when the department heads completed the review a small committee consisting of the Town Manager, the Town Attorney, the Town Clerk and the Town Manager's Executive Assistant took a look at the information and used that information to answer questions posed by the vendor in the editorial analysis. She stated that the Town sent the document back to the vendor and the vendor then submitted a draft manuscript to the Town. She stated that many of the Councilors received a notebook highlighting the recommended changes and containing footnotes explaining the reasons for the recommended changes. She stated that the Council passed a resolution in September 2007 that allowed the manuscript to be returned to the vendor and authorized the vendor to proofread and edit the code for the final time. She stated that the project is in the final step and noted that the Council has before it the adoption ordinance and attached to the adoption ordinance is Schedule A which contains sections being repealed and outlines the changes being incorporated into the new code. Town Manager Salomone added that the draft will also be available online.

Councilor Cohen suggested that the public be given special notice regarding Chapter 383-5 which deals with tag, yard and garage sales to inform the public that the lead time prior to issuance of a tag sale permit has been increased to 48 hours from 24 hours prior to the event. Ms. Lane stated that the procedure is to make a copy of the changes and a copy of the adoption ordinance available to the public for review. Councilor Cohen stated that this particular item should be pointed out for the public's benefit. Town Manager Salomone stated that the 24 hours was such a short period of time that it was not realistic. He stated that the adoption ordinance can include more of the wording of that section for clarification. Councilor Bowen stated the Town would also accomplish getting the word out by being somewhat lax on the implementation of the ordinance for a period of time.

Councilor Banach inquired about Chapter 147 – Amusements, which states, in part: "at every public gathering the Police Department shall supply a police officer or a retired police officer unless the Chief of Police shall deem the attendance of such member or members unnecessary for the welfare or safety of the public in any particular case." He inquired as to what would constitute an amusement and asked whether the Town is obligated to provide the police officer or is it obligated to hire the police officer at any of these functions. Town Manager Salomone replied that the edit to that section does not change the section's intent or policy; it simply streamlines the language. He stated that it is the discretion of the Chief to make a determination whether police presence is required at a public gathering and most of the time it is the organization holding the event's obligation to pay for the police presence.

Councilor Nasinnyk noted the Charter Revision Commission's charge of presenting a document for approval by April 2009 and asked whether the Charter changes will have to be incorporated into this project. Ms. Lane replied that the grammatical changes apply to the Code or Ordinances, which is a separate document from the Charter and stated that she does not believe that the Charter revision will impact this project.

Councilor Bottalico stated agreement with Councilor Banach about the definition of a public gathering and stated that he believes there was a number tied to the number of people at an event in order for it to require police presence. Mayor Wright stated that the purpose of the discussion is to look at the language of the ordinances, not to question the meaning of the ordinances. Town Manager Salomone stated that the change does not affect the substance of the ordinance. Councilor Cohen stated that any ordinances that may need substantive changes should be brought up in the future, but it is a separate task than the one at hand. Councilor Nagel stated that the questions about enforcement of the ordinance should be addressed to the Police Department and that overall the language has been streamlined to make it more understandable in this day and age. Councilor Bowen requested to receive a new ordinance book and requested that the new book is distributed to all of the Councilors. He also thanked Ms. Lane for her efforts both on this project and on her new task supporting the Charter Revision Commission. Mayor Wright also thanked Ms. Lane for her efforts on behalf of the Council.

B Bid Waiver – Emergency Asphalt Procedure

Town Manager Salomone stated that the Town normally utilizes the State contract for asphalt paving and materials and unfortunately the State has decided to reject the bids and re-bid the contracts. He stated that the rebidding opened yesterday (May 12, 2008) and that the process may be expedited to be done within a week or two. Town Manager Salomone stated that the Town has already begun the process of resurfacing Louis Street and at least half of the street has been torn up. He stated that a binder coat would need to be applied to the street within the next week and therefore the Town would like to utilize the State emergency bid which allows the Town to use the State's contractor, Tilcon. He stated that if the final bid amount is less than the price of the

emergency work then Tilcon will credit the difference to the Town. He stated that there is no risk to the Town to do this at this point and it gives the Town the leeway to apply the binder coat next week. He stated that if by chance the State has the new bid in place at that point the Town can utilize the State bid. He stated that the Council will need to authorize a bid waiver since the project will be over \$10,000. Mayor Wright noted that the Town will receive a credit for the difference if the new bid from the State is lower than the emergency bid and inquired if the Town will be required to pay the difference if the State bid comes in higher than the emergency bid. Town Manager Salomone replied in the negative. Mayor Wright commented that in a lot of ways the Town is in a better position by taking the emergency bid rather than waiting for the State bid. Town Manager Salomone stated that while it is possible that the State bid may be in place by next week he didn't want to wait any longer because the binder coat should be applied as soon as possible.

Councilor Bowen stated that the emergency bid makes sense for Louis Street but stated that he would prefer that the resolution applies only to Louis Street because he does not believe that the RFP process should be waived except for in the event of a true emergency. He also commented that he is uncomfortable about the way the resolution reads "due to the Town's ambitious paving schedule" because the Town's ambitious paving schedule does not constitute a true emergency. He requested that the resolution be amended to include only Louis Street and to remove the phrase about the ambitious paving schedule. He stated that he does not want the resolution to be a blanket statement that the Town is going to forgo the RFP process for any cases other than emergency cases. Town Manager Salomone stated that while he is hopeful that the State bids will be rectified within a week or two it is possible that it could take longer in which case the Town could fall behind. He noted that although he does not anticipate the Town having to use the emergency bids for anything other than Louis Street at this point it would be preferable to have this flexibility available for other projects if needed. Mayor Wright asked whether the emergency bid is a qualified bid. Town Manager Salomone replied in the affirmative. Mayor Wright stated that the arrangement with Tilcon is an emergency bid for the material and the placement and if the State's low bidder is less expensive Tilcon would honor the lower bid price. Town Manager Salomone concurred. Town Manager Salomone stated that he is comfortable with the arrangement.

Deputy Mayor Lenares noted that the milling is behind schedule and asked why milling can't start in order to get the Town's ambitious schedule underway. Town Manager Salomone stated that milling should not be done too far in advance because there are liability issues with having a road milled for a long period of time. Councilor Cohen stated that the number of roads that the Town can complete will be limited by when the State gets its new contract. Town Manager Salomone stated that as soon as the State has the contract in place the Town will shift to that contract. Councilor Bottalico asked whether Costello is doing the complete job or will the Highway Department be involved with the adjustments, etc. Town Manager Salomone replied that Costello does the milling but the Town is involved with the adjustments. Councilor Bottalico asked why Costello doesn't do the whole job. Mayor Wright replied that Costello handles the milling only. He stated that this emergency bid process will allow the Louis Street project to move forward and will allow everything to move forward for the paving plan for the entire year. Councilor Banach inquired whether Tilcon will reimburse the Town for work done to Louis Street and possibly other streets under this emergency bid in the event that the State bid comes in lower. Town Manager Salomone replied in the affirmative.

Councilor Bowen inquired about the purpose of the RFP process for the roads if every year the Town can go with a pre established price for the pavement and go with cost of labor and equipment as quoted and then be reimbursed if the cost is over the State bid. Town Manager Salomone replied that the emergency bid is different and it only includes the material. He stated that the Town does not usually use the RFP process because it piggybacks on State bids. Councilor Bowen noted that the Town Manager is asking for a waiver on the RFP process and asked why the Town shouldn't specifically exempt roads from the RFP process going forward. Town Manager Salomone stated that the Town has traditionally not used an RFP process because the State bid has traditionally been the lowest. He stated that last year the Town waited for the State bid to be in place and as a result the repaving process got backed up, a situation which he does not think is acceptable for this year. He stated that this loophole will be used to move forward in a legal manner and to prevent the work from getting backed up. Councilor Bowen commented that going around the RFP process is not a good idea in general because it opens up the Council to questions should something go wrong in the future. He inquired whether an RFP process is really needed for roads, especially considering what happened last year. Town Manager Salomone stated that the other option would be to not use the State bid, something that should be considered in the future. He suggested in the future to do an RFP as a standby and to compare it with the State bid.

Deputy Mayor Lenares moved to waive the rules to vote on the resolution. Motion seconded by Councilor Cohen. Motion passed 9-0.

Deputy Mayor Lenares moved the following:

RESOLVED:

Pursuant to Section 815 of the Newington Town Charter, the Town Council hereby grants a waiver, as requested by the Town Manager, for the requirement of sealed bids for the emergency purchase of asphalt from Tilcon Connecticut Inc. of New Britain, CT until such time as the State of Connecticut awards a contract for paving under Bid No. 08PSX0106, or its successor. Due to the Town's ambitious paving schedule and public safety concerns, sealed bids are not in the best interest of the Town.

Motion seconded by Councilor Bottalico.

Councilor Bowen stated that he will support the resolution but commented that the wording "ambitious paving schedule" is not a reason to waive a bid. Councilor Nasinnyk agreed with Councilor Bowen and noted that when the Council waives the rules to vote on an item it is because the item is imminent and it is not in the Town's best interest to wait, and noted that this issue is imminent. She asked whether the Town Manager will inform the Council if any other roads will come under this resolution. Town Manager Salomone replied in the affirmative and stated that he is hopeful that the State bid will be awarded in the next couple of weeks. Councilor Nasinnyk stated that this resolution does address a public safety concern.

Mayor Wright commented that because there is an ambitious plan to work on twenty-two roads this year the Town does not want to get held up and it is a win-win situation and a fantastic way to keep progress moving in Town.

Motion passed 9-0.

VI WRITTEN/ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER, OTHER TOWN AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS, OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS AND THE PUBLIC

A Town Manager Reports - none

VII COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Cohen reported on the following committees:

- Youth/Adult Council
 - The Youth/Adult Council will be awarding scholarships to two high school graduates based on money raised at their Hoopla event.
 - The Council is planning an anti-bullying program for the Extravaganza
- Cemetery Building Committee
 - The Committee will be meeting with the architect for an update on the design on Monday, June 2 at 4:45. The meeting is open to the public and there will be public participation.
- Commission on Aging
 - The Commission is going forward with the self-assessment portion of the reaccreditation process.
 - The Commission's Volunteer Recognition Dinner will be held on Thursday, May 15
- Joint Committee on Community Safety
 - Committee Chair Mitch Page will receive a public safety award at the Chamber of Commerce's dinner on May 15.

Councilor Nagel reported on the Library Board:

- The book sale was the most successful to date.
- The 12th annual Newington Library 5k race is scheduled for Sunday, May 18 at 9:00am.
- The Foley property was discussed as well as concerns about cleaning up the property until it is determined how the property is going to be used.
- The Board is planning upcoming events including its annual meeting on September 8 and a jazz performance on October 17.

Councilor Bottalico reported on the Fire Commission:

- The purchase of the new pumper for Company 3 was discussed. A bid from Pierce Fire Equipment in the amount of \$400,000 was received. Mayor Wright noted that legislation passed at the State level which will allow full time professional firefighters to volunteer at the local level. He stated that this is a huge plus for the Town of Newington and he thanked Representative Nafis for her hard work on this bill.

VIII PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL

Eric Rothausen: 28 Partridge Drive, Library Board member: Mr. Rothausen thanked the Mayor and the Council on behalf of the Board for moving forward with the proposed tax exempt ordinance. He also thanked the Town Attorney for his work on the item. He stated that the Board does not have the desire nor does it have the ability to become land barons. Mr. Rothausen noted the upcoming Library 5k race on Sunday, May 18 and encouraged the Councilors to attend. He clarified that the book sale was run by the Friends of the Library, a separate organization from the Board, and they did a superb job with the book sale. He stated that the turnout was phenomenal.

Mayor Wright noted that it is not on the agenda but there is a resignation from a board. Councilor Bowen stated that it would need to be added to the agenda. Mayor Wright stated that there is no appointment for a replacement at this time. Town Manager Salomone stated that the item would be added to the next agenda.

IX REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

Councilor Banach commented on a picture he had distributed to the Council of the Sheck family monument at the Center cemetery on Cedar Street that had been desecrated repeatedly by graffiti. He recommended that the Council pursue an ordinance that would increase the fines for graffiti. He stated that the graffiti is unacceptable and that the Town needs to take a more aggressive stance to let vandals know that there will be a prohibitive cost to their actions when they are caught.

Councilor Boni stated agreement with Councilor Banach. He also announced that Brad Davis is scheduled to broadcast his radio show from Town Hall. Mayor Wright stated that the show will be broadcast on Thursday, May 15 and Representative Nafis and Deputy Mayor Lenares will be guests on the show.

Mayor Wright noted that as the volunteers were preparing for the annual Library book sale they found an 1849 first edition of The Scarlet Letter, valued upwards of \$1,500 and were luckily able to pull it aside prior to the sale.

X EXECUTIVE SESSION RE PERSONNEL, LITIGATION

Councilor Nagel moved to go into Executive Session re Personnel and Litigation at 8:40pm. Motion seconded by Councilor Banach. Motion passed 9-0. Mayor Wright, all Councilors, Town Attorney Ben Ancona, Labor Attorney Ken Plumb, and Town Manager Salomone were present at the Executive Session.

Councilor Nagel moved to go out of Executive Session at 9:52pm. Motion seconded by Councilor Cohen. Motion passed 9-0.

XIV ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Bowen moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:53pm. Motion seconded by Councilor Nagel. Motion passed 9-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. Jaime Trevethan
Clerk of the Council