



John L. Salomone
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

MAYOR JEFF WRIGHT

MINUTES

NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

September 9, 2008

Mayor Wright called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM in the Helen Nelson Room of the Newington Town Hall.

I PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II ROLL CALL

Councilors Present

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

Councilors Absent

Councilor Banach

Staff Present:

John L. Salomone, Town Manager
Lori Verreault, Executive Assistant

Councilor Bowen indicated that Councilor Banach would be absent due to parent/teacher conferences.

III PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL

Shane O'Kelly - 367 Alumni Road (CEO: A.H. Harris), Mr. O'Kelly inquired on behalf of A.H. Harris, a long-standing company on Alumni Road, the status of the blocked portion of Alumni Road. He indicated that there is a gate, put in place by the Department of Transportation, which does not allow access across the entire road. He requested an update on the gate closure and requested that the Town review the placement of the gate. Mr. O'Kelly stated that it limits the operation of A.H. Harris's vehicles and stated that removing it would be better for the community, as a large number of heavy-equipment vehicles are now forced to use Willard Avenue to exit Alumni, which puts extra traffic in front of the VA Hospital and NHS, often during times when students are going to or from school. Mr. O'Kelly remarked that there are amenable solutions, and noted that there are constraints associated with how traffic should flow from Alumni to Cedar. He stated that any change in the current status would be beneficial to both parties. He stated that he will be available to provide further information and resources as needed and stated that he is also speaking for at least one other tenant in the facility on the matter.

IV CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS

A Discharge Joint Committee on Community Safety

Town Manager Salomone stated that the recently passed ordinance creating the permanent Committee on Community Safety did not include language to disband the old Joint Committee on Community Safety. He suggested that the Council discharge the old Committee in order to clean everything up and move forward. Councilor Bowen remarked that the specific duty of the first Committee was not just to make one short term resolution; it was an ongoing duty. Town Manager Salomone agreed. Mayor Wright stated that the item will be on the agenda for a vote at the next meeting.

B Memorandum of Agreement – State Use of Funding Granted by Department of Homeland Security

Town Manager Salomone explained that the State has asked the Town to enter into the Memorandum of Agreement with the State in order for the Department of Homeland Security (DEHMS) to administer the funds to the Town. He stated that the request must be approved by September 15, 2008, and requested that the Council vote to approve the funding at the current meeting. Fire Chief Chris Schroeder, the Town's Local Emergency Management Coordinator, gave an overview of the regional grant. He stated that DEHMS recently broke the region into regional planning teams, and stated that Newington is a very active participant in the Capitol Region emergency planning team. He stated that the funds will be spread over the number of towns in the Capitol Region and the Town will get the greatest benefit by pooling the funds with other towns in the region. Chief Schroeder explained that the funds would help to cover all aspects of emergency management, including law enforcement, emergency medical services, fire, HAZMAT, public works, public health, medical reserve funds, etc. He explained that this will improve the Town's ability to communicate regionally with other emergency agencies and to operate together more efficiently at large-scale incidents. He recommended the Town's continued support of the program. Town Manager Salomone indicated that this is not a new source of funding, and requested examples of how the Town has benefited in the past from the funding. Chief Schroeder replied that the Town has used the funds towards computers for fire apparatus which will work with the Capitol Region system, has helped pay for mandated training, including the overtime reimbursement for paid personnel and reimbursement for volunteer personnel who had to take time from their jobs to attend the training. He stated that the funds are used for the regional HAZMAT team and saves the Town from duplicating equipment that is available on a regional basis. He stated that the funds are a tremendous asset. He indicated that the funds have also been used towards public safety agencies, public health agencies, public works, animal rescue, developing new plans of response to large scale emergencies, evacuations and sheltering.

Councilor Bottalico inquired as to what towns are involved in the region. Chief Schroeder replied that the region was recently expanded, and several communities from Middlesex County and Tolland County have joined the region. He stated that there are about forty towns in the region at this point. Councilor Nagel, CRCOG Committee member, stated that there are 43 towns in the region. He stated that 11 towns have approved the funding at this point and stated that CRCOG has heard nothing but positive response to the program.

Councilor Bowen inquired whether the Town's legal counsel has reviewed the information. Town Manager Salomone replied in the negative. Councilor Bowen stated that he would like the legal counsel's opinion. He also commented while this sounds like a very good idea he has concerns over who would determine, for example, where a HAZMAT vehicle that was purchased and shared by several towns would go in the event of a large-scale HAZMAT emergency. He also requested a list of the towns involved in the region. Chief Schroeder replied that it is a regional resource, and in the event of a major incident the regional HAZMAT team would respond, as well as the DEP and the area fire departments. Councilor Bowen stated that the Town spends a lot of money on fire apparatus, and requested to know the recourse of the Town's equipment and manpower in case if the regional disaster. He inquired whether equipment could be moved away from the Town, despite the Town's objection, during a regional disaster. Chief Schroeder replied that mutual aid is done on a volunteer basis and explained that the Town has signed a number of mutual aid agreements on a regional and State level and stated that the Town will not lose control of its assets at any time, nor can it be forced to provide mutual aid in the event of a major incident in Town. He stated that this also saves the Town from having to purchase costly apparatus that is only used on rare occasions. Councilor Bowen again requested legal opinion, and remarked that the Town does buy equipment that is only used on rare occasions. Chief Schroeder stated that there are certain ISO requirements regarding apparatus that require certain equipment to be within a certain distance from neighborhoods in the Town, etc. Councilor Bowen stated that while he feels much better that the Town will be

able to control its own equipment during regional emergencies he requested that the Town Attorney review such agreements in the future. Chief Schroeder stated that the document was prepared by DEHMS and noted that the Town has already been involved in this program for several years.

Councilor Bottalico moved to waive the rules to vote on the item. Motion seconded by Councilor Boni. Motion to waive the rules passed 8-0 (Councilor Banach absent)

Councilor Bottalico moved the following:

**WHEREAS, the Newington Town Council is the governing body of the Town of Newington; and
WHEREAS, the Town of Newington wishes to enter into a “Memorandum of Agreement Between the State of Connecticut, Department of Emergency Management & Homeland Security and the Town of Newington, Located in DEMHS Region 3, Regarding State Use of Funding Granted by the Department of Homeland Security”;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Newington Town Council that the Town of Newington may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that John L. Salomone, as Town Manager of the Town of Newington, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Town of Newington and to do and perform all acts and things which he deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents, including, but not limited to, executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by such documents.**

Motion seconded by Councilor Cohen. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Banach absent)

V RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS

A Appointments to Committee on Community Safety

Councilor Bowen moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby makes the following appointments:

Committee on Community Safety

**7 members, 4 year term (exc. initially)
Maximum from one party: 5**

Name	Address	Party	Term
David Tompkins	317 Hillcrest Avenue	D	IMMED.-11/30/09
Mitch Page	46 Olive Street	D	IMMED.-11/30/11

Motion seconded by Councilor Nasinnyk. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Banach absent)

Mayor Wright asked any members of the public who are interested in serving on the Committee on Community Safety to contact Ken Freidenberg, Director of Human Services.

VI TAX REFUNDS

Councilor Bowen moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That property tax refunds in the amount of \$3,786.52 are hereby approved in the individual amounts and for those named on the “Requests for Refund of an Overpayment of Taxes,” certified by the

Revenue Collector, a list of which is attached to this resolution.

Motion seconded by Councilor Nasinnyk. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Banach absent)

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

A Town Manager Reports

Town Manager Salomone reported that due to inclement weather the paving of the Garfield Street bridge did not take place earlier that day as planned (September 9, 2008). He stated that the bridge will be paved on Wednesday, September 10, and the street should be reopened on Thursday, September 11, 2008.

VIII COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Deputy Mayor Lenares reported on the Naming Committee:

- The Committee met to discuss requests to name Town property after two individuals: Ed Seremet and Russ Correll.
- The Committee proposed to name the Town Clerk's office after Ed Seremet.
- The Committee discussed naming the ambulance building after Russ Correll. Some were in favor of this and some were against this. Members of the Ambulance Board also gave their opinion. While they all agreed that the Town should name something after Mr. Correll they did not feel that the whole building should be named after Mr. Correll. They suggested that a portion of the building, such as the Chief's quarters, conference room or another room in the building be named after Mr. Correll. When asked why, the Ambulance Board members explained that there may be other people in the future who the Town may want to honor by naming a room or wing after that person, and naming the entire building after Mr. Correll would prevent that from happening in the future.

Mayor Wright instructed the Committee to study the item further and to discuss the item further with people of influence at the Volunteer Ambulance Department as well as with the family members of the requested honorees.

Councilor Nagel reported on the following committees:

- NCTV: There was an update on the status of equipment and ongoing repairs, including the installation of an automater.
- There were updates on the AT&T interconnection issues. Letters have been sent to the DPUC, and NCTV is awaiting a response.
- Library Board: There was a general meeting prior to the Board meeting in which the Library reviewed its great programs that were held over the summer, and programs still to come.
- There were discussions about cleaning up the adjacent lot. They thanked the Town for mowing the lot, which was done without the Board's request.
- The Board then held its annual meeting in which it presented a plaque those commemorate those who have contributed to the Library.

Councilor Cohen reported on the Youth/Adult Council:

- The Council has several openings available and asked anyone interested in joining the Council to contact Ken Freidenberg.
- The Council has mini-grants available for youth projects throughout the Town. Contact Ken Freidenberg for more information.

IX PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - none

X REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

Councilor Bottalico noted a recent incident of graffiti at Volunteer Field in which an American flag was desecrated. He remarked that he is greatly bothered by this case, and remarked that volunteers who have served this country should be offended as well. He stated that the NPD has some leads on the case and will hopefully get the case solved soon. Councilor Bowen noted that the public takes great offense to such acts of

graffiti. Mayor Wright stated that the SRO has conducted numerous interviews and is treating this case as a top priority. He stated that the graffiti is unacceptable.

XI EXECUTIVE SESSION RE: PERSONNEL AND LAND ACQUISITION

Councilor Bowen moved to go into Executive Session Re: Personnel and Land Acquisition at 7:36pm. Motion seconded by Councilor Cohen. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Banach absent). All Councilors present at the regular meeting, Mayor Wright and Town Manager Salomone present. Town Manager Salomone exited the Executive Session 8:25.

Councilor Boni moved to go out of Executive Session at 8:50 pm. Motion seconded by Councilor Nasinnyk. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Banach absent).

XII ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Boni moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:51pm. Motion seconded by Councilor Nagel. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Banach absent)

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. Jaime Trevethan
Clerk of the Council