



John L. Salomone  
Town Manager

# TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET  
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

**MAYOR JEFF WRIGHT**

## MINUTES

### NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

**June 24, 2008**

Mayor Wright called the meeting to order at 7:07 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  
Lou Jachimowicz, Business Administrator, Board of Education  
Bob Korpak, Director of Facilities Management

#### **III AWARDS AND PROCLAMATIONS**

A NARL – Ham Radio Week

Mayor Wright invited Ron Cady, Past President of the NARL, to the table and read the following proclamation:

**WHEREAS, the Town of Newington is the headquarters of ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio, and is also the world headquarters of the International Amateur Radio Union, and**

**WHEREAS, the Town wishes to recognize the contributions of NARL, the Amateur Radio Club of Connecticut's Capital Region, whose members come from more than 25 surrounding towns; and**

**WHEREAS, NARL, a Special Service Club under the aegis of the ARRL, also serves charitable groups, and many of its members hold emergency communication exercises; and**

**WHEREAS, NARL's volunteers have served Newington faithfully and well on many occasions, most recently at the Memorial Day Parade and on Halloween as auxiliary eyes and ears for the Newington Police Department, and**

**WHEREAS, Newington recognizes NARL for presenting an annual educational ham radio exhibition at the CPTV Science Fair in Hartford to show young people how Ham Radio serves as a "Gateway to Learning" in electronics, astronomy, space communication and related disciplines; and**

**WHEREAS, the Connecticut Department of Emergency Management recognizes the ham radio organizations of Connecticut as an active communications resource; and**

**WHEREAS, the Newington-based service club takes part in and invites visitors to its Ham Radio National Field Day site from 2:00 p.m., Saturday, June 28, to 2:00 p.m., Sunday, June 29, said Field Day being an annual 24 hour round-the-clock outdoor encampment on Cedar Mountain using emergency power, in which the Radio Hams test their skills and the readiness of themselves and their equipment as a dress rehearsal for an actual emergency;**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

**That the Newington Town Council hereby declares June 23 through June 29 as HAM RADIO WEEK IN NEWINGTON in recognition of these public-spirited citizens, and calls upon all citizens to pay appropriate tribute to all Ham Radio Operators.**

Mayor Wright commented that he appreciates the organization being a part of our community in the Town of Newington.

Mr. Cady thanked the Mayor and Council for the recognition. He explained the organization and its accomplishments and stated that the club consists of about 100 members age seven to over 90 years old. He explained that members of the club are called amateurs because they're not paid communicators; however amateurs are very highly trained in many aspects of communication and radio technology. He stated that the NARL started about 60 years ago and while there are members from over 20 cities over half of the membership resides in Newington. He remarked that one of the volunteers has been licensed for over 75 years.

Councilor Nasinnyk stated that she grew up in the area of the NARL building and has always been interested in the league and recalled that people she spoke to as a college student in Pennsylvania recognized Newington as the home of the AARL. She stated that she has always been proud to have the League in her neighborhood and congratulated the League on its accomplishments. Councilor Bowen stated that the League is critical to emergency networks around the country and he thanked the members for their service. Councilor Cohen remarked that it is appropriate that most members are Newington residents since the national headquarters is located in Newington. She invited the public to come visit the members on Field Day.

Mr. Cady remarked that the NARL is a nonprofit organization association with approximately 170,000 members across the United States and over 100 employees here in Town and stated that it started over 90 years ago. He again thanked the Council and the Mayor for the honor. Mayor Wright reminded the public that the Field Day will take place on Saturday, June 28 at 2 p.m. to Sunday, June 29 at 2 p.m. at Cedar Mountain on the Cedarcrest Hospital grounds.

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

Councilor Cohen thanked the Council for her birthday gift.

#### **IV PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL**

Jennifer Walker, 100 Fisk Drive: Mrs. Walker stated that she is present at the meeting as a life long resident of town and real estate agent and stated that she is representing the Fisk Drive/Dowd Street neighborhood residents in their concerns about speeding in the neighborhood. She stated that speeding has been a serious problem in the neighborhood as the streets are walking routes to school and children are in danger every day when they try to get to school or play in their own yards. She stated that she has a petition signed by over 200 people that contains three requests for the Council's immediate action:

- Traffic calming solutions to be used in the area including but not limited to traffic humps or removable speed bumps, which have been used in area towns and have not posed problems with plowing.

- Apply for grants for the Safe Route to Schools program. The State has money available for this program and funding will be available next June. We've received several grants in this town to grow and improve businesses and sports complexes and we need grants to help us provide children with a safe way to get to school. Address the pathways to the High School and Martin Kellogg where there is daily drug activity taking place.
- Provide in the budget for police officers for the Town of Newington to protect our streets. In 1972 there were 38 full time officers on the force, in 2008 there are currently 48 officers (pending 51) on the force. Since 1978 the traffic on some of the streets has grown by 30,000 cars daily and since 2002 the crime of this Town has doubled and with the influx of businesses on the Berlin Turnpike it will only continue to grow. At 7:00am there are only four officers on duty in the entire Town and most calls require two officers which is why there is no unit available to do radar on the streets between 7:00 and 8:00am when the Fisk and Dowd areas turn into the Berlin Turnpike and our children are expected to walk and ride their bikes to school in these conditions.

Ms. Walker noted that at the last Safety Committee meeting, Town Planner Ed Meehan spoke against putting crosswalks on the Berlin Turnpike to discourage pedestrians on the Turnpike yet children are allowed to walk to school on streets in which the speeds are as fast as they are on the Turnpike. She stated that she is glad to see growth in Town but if Newington is going to be "open for business" we need to have safe roads for our residents, safe routes to school for our children and enough police officers to adequately protect these residents and business. She stated that million-dollar parking lots and turf fields are great to have if the safety of the Town's residents has been addressed first. She remarked that it is appalling that the Town has a million dollars to redo a parking lot, yet the children do not have a safe way to get to school or play in their neighborhoods.

Fara Alleyne, 81 Fisk Drive: Mrs. Alleyne stated that she is very frustrated and has made numerous complaints about the speeding on Fisk Drive. She noted that she has seen Officer Webster hand out the post cards outlining the speeding fines and she has seen the NPD drop off the machine that posts drivers' speeds, but stated that the machine was set on a curve. She distributed photographs of the machine's placement on the road and remarked that it should have been placed on the straight part of the road, not the curve where people are slowing down anyway. She stated that the problem is the lack of officers available at the time that area residents need help, but stated that the community needs their help and remarked that the Berlin Turnpike and area businesses seem to consume most of the Police Department's staff and inquired where residential communities fall into the Town plan. She asked when the residents are going to get the help they need. Mrs. Alleyne remarked that she is starting to feel like the Town only cares about the businesses and not the people who choose to live here. She noted language in the minutes of the previous Council meeting that stated that Lt. Darby reported that: *"There have been many complaints of speeding through the area, particularly before and after school. Officers have been in the area performing speed enforcement and the Community Service Officer has handed out cards to drivers advising them that there will be increased enforcement in the area and advising the drivers of the speeding fine amounts..."* and stated that she has not seen any increase in enforcement and requested a report as to when the officers did radar and the speeds recorded on the radar. She asked who in the Town will give residents the results they need to see and requested a plan to be made and followed through with for the next school year.

Sandy Lallier, 27 Elton Drive: Ms. Lallier stated that she is frustrated that the residents are not seeing any kind of reaction and stated that there are major issues to be looked at. She stated that she is glad that there is business growth throughout Town, but noted that the Town needs to listen to what people are saying. She stated that she appreciates the Councilors' time but implored them to listen to the people. She stated that the Town needs to look at its priorities and asked the Mayor and the Council not to forget about the people. She stated that there needs to be some give and take and suggested that the Town address some of the traffic calming concerns and paint some crosswalks. She commented that the level of frustration is coming to a boiling point in Town as people have the impression that they are not being heard. Ms. Lallier suggested that the Councilors have a booth at the upcoming Extravaganza in order to talk to the people and hear their concerns as well as a booth for the Safety Committee to distribute information to the residents. She requested that the Mayor walk around the Extravaganza to talk to people and let them know that he is listening.

## **V CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS**

- A Approve Acceptance of OPM Grant – Building Bridges Between Youth and Police

Councilor Bottalico moved the following:

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Newington Town Council hereby approves the acceptance of a grant of \$10,000 from the Office of Policy and Management for purposes of funding a Building Bridges Between Youth and Police program and authorizes John L. Salomone, Town Manager, to make, execute and approve on behalf of the Town of Newington any and all contracts and amendments with regard to said grant.**

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

B Approve Funding Transfers – Fire Pumper

Councilor Bottalico moved the following:

**CERTIFICATION:**

**In accordance with Section 808 of the Town Charter, I hereby certify that there exists, free from encumbrances, in the following appropriations in the General Fund, the amounts listed below:**

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>
320	Highway	\$45,000
962	Special Contingency	\$195,000
	Total	\$240,000

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*Ann J. Harter, Director of Finance*

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Newington Town Council hereby transfers the above-certified funds in the General Fund to the following account in the Capital and Non-Recurring Expenditures Fund:**

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>
88142	Equipment Reserve – Public Safety	\$240,000

Motion seconded by Councilor Boni.

Town Manager Salomone stated that the Town has the ability to reduce the funding for the project by eliminating the interest payment that would occur over the three year lease purchase plan. He stated that he concurs with the Finance Director’s recommendation to finance the pumper in the manner stated in the resolution. He stated that this also frees up funds for additional long-term capital projects in subsequent years.

Councilor Bowen stated that the Town typically leases fire trucks, but in this case the Town is using extra funds left over for the year, and using the cash will free up funds for future capital improvement programs.

Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Banach absent).

C Authorize Entering into Agreement re Solar Panel Project – Martin Kellogg Middle School

Deputy Mayor Lenares moved the following:

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the installation of solar panels at the Martin Kellogg Middle School as a capital improvements project for the Town of Newington; and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

**That the Town Manager, John L. Salomone, is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Solar Design Associates from Harvard, MA to design, construct and maintain a solar panel field on the roof of the Martin Kellogg Middle School at their expense.**

Motion seconded by Councilor Nasinnyk.

Lou Jachimowicz, Business Administrator of the Board of Education, was present at the meeting to answer questions regarding the project. Mr. Jachimowicz provided answers to questions asked during a discussion of the project at the previous Council meeting:

- Reference checks: He checked the vendor's references regarding their work with New Britain High School and WGBH, a Boston public television station. All references came back as reporting that the vendor is impeccable in its knowledge, communication and ability to be a forward-looking organization. The installations were trouble-free for both locations and both locations highly recommended the vendor.
- Language of the Town Attorney's opinion has been distributed.
- Solar panel health question: The Board of Education's industrial hygienist researched the project and concluded that there is no risk or concern about the day-to-day use of the panels. There are chemicals that may be a health concern in the event of a major fire on the school's roof; however Fire Chief Schroeder has assured the Board that the Fire Department has planned for and is well-equipped for that type of fire response and that the solar panel project is of no concern to the Fire Department.

Councilor Cohen inquired about the following items in the proposed agreement between the vendor and the Town:

- Who is the host – the Town or the Board of Education? Mr. Jachimowicz replied that the Town is the host.
- Section 204 of the agreement, ninth line - electrical drawings. Mr. Jachimowicz explained that the drawings are available, and all plans will be reviewed to ensure they are in compliance with all Town requirements. The structural load and wind shear will be examined and utility department approval will be obtained for all electrical connections.
- Section 204, last line outlines that any necessary repairs or changes to the existing electrical structure of the premises will be the responsibility of the host in order to be eligible for the grant. Mr. Jachimowicz replied that the arrangement will not be part of the plan and will be deleted from the agreement.
- Section 206 – there is a typo where it states: "host will cooperate responsibly with host..." Mr. Jachimowicz replied that it should read: "client will cooperate responsibly with host".
- Section 303 – liquidated damages. Mr. Jachimowicz explained that in recognizing that this is a no cost project to the Town, if the Town takes the project out of service the vendor loses its revenue stream; therefore, there is a charge associated with doing so. However, the system is transferable if the Martin Kellogg building is taken out of service.
- Section 306, seventh line – penetration holes. Mr. Jachimowicz explained that there is one penetration hole needed for the entire project: the main power cable that leads to the transformer. All of the other panels interconnect with each other. The hole will be protected against rain.
- Section 504 – title to the system – language in the section notes that the vendor shall be the legal and beneficial owner of the system at all times, and the system shall remain the personal property of the solar providers and shall not attach to or be deemed a part or a fixture to the premises. Councilor Cohen noted the one penetration hole and inquired whether it is contradictory to this section. Mr. Jachimowicz replied in the negative and explained that the way the arrangement is structured the solar provider company is the organization that will receive the federal tax incentives of 30%. Town Manager Salomone inquired whether there will be personal property tax on the structure. Mayor Wright inquired about the value of the structure. Mr. Jachimowicz replied that the value of the property is about \$1,000,000 before tax credits and generally the equipment's owner would be responsible for the taxes.
- Section 606 – payments and electronic transfer. Mr. Jachimowicz explained that payments will be made by the Board and that the language regarding electronic transfer will likely be removed in order to allow the Board the ability to pay by check.
- Section 1503 – third party involvement - Mr. Jachimowicz explained that the third party is a California organization called NP2 Associates, and they are the finance underwriter for the project. Solar Design Associates is the operating company that will design, install, build and maintain the power plant.

- Section 1603 – publicity – Councilor Cohen inquired whether all publicity for the project is required to go through Solar Design Associates. Mr. Jachimowicz replied in the negative, explaining that the vendor is looking to preserve its own rights for publicity.
- Exhibit G – Insurance – Mr. Jachimowicz stated that the Board's insurance agent is aware of the provision and is ready to respond.

Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Banach absent).

D Approve General Liability Insurance Placement

Councilor Bottalico moved the following:

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Town Manager, John L. Salomone, in conjunction with the Town's Agent of Record, and following review of insurance proposals by the Standing Insurance Committee, is authorized to accept the proposal from the Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency (CIRMA) for Workers' Compensation insurance coverage, and to secure the best possible coverage for the Town for all other liability coverage. The Town Manager is further authorized, in conjunction with the Agent of Record, to see that all insurance coverage for the Town of Newington is in place by July 1, 2008;**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

**That the Town Manager is also authorized to accept the CIRMA rate proposal for the Town's primary casualty and liability insurance coverage for the period of July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.**

Motion seconded by Councilor Nasinnyk.

Councilor Bottalico stated that the Standing Insurance Committee has met with USI (the Town's Agent of Record) and stated that the savings for the current year is about \$209,416, of which \$125,000 is for the Town and the remainder is for the Board of Education. He stated that the second part of the resolution is to authorize another year at that same rate with a possible 10% decrease. Councilor Nasinnyk noted that the Town is entering into its third and final year of the contract with USI (formerly Webster Insurance). She noted that in 2007-2008 the cost of the umbrella policy was \$256,000 and in 2008-2009 it will be offered to the Town at a cost of \$119,000, a significant savings. She stated that it is the Committee's recommendation to move forward with that plan.

Councilor Bowen inquired as to whether the Council is authorizing two years of pricing. Councilor Bottalico replied in the affirmative. Councilor Bowen asked if this is normal procedure. Town Manager Salomone replied that the process is usually done on a yearly basis. Councilor Bowen inquired whether this is a change in policy. Councilor Nasinnyk stated that the Agent would not have recommended this approach had the price not been lowered. Councilor Bottalico noted that the same rate will be guaranteed for next year with the possibility of an additional 10% rate decrease. Councilor Bowen inquired whether this will put a ceiling, but not a floor, on the rates. Councilor Bottalico replied in the affirmative. Mayor Wright inquired whether this proposal will lock in the roughly \$256,000 savings. Councilor Bottalico replied in the affirmative. Councilor Boni inquired about the 2008-2009 rate. Councilor Bottalico replied that it will be \$1,083,329 with a possible decrease of 10% for the second year. Mayor Wright reiterated that this is the recommendation of the Standing Insurance Committee. Councilor Nasinnyk agreed.

Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Banach absent).

E Approve Bid Waiver – Town Hall Heating System Project

Town Manager Salomone gave an overview of the project. He stated that the proposal is to waive the bid on the purchase of the actual boiler. He stated that two companies meet the required specifications of the project. He noted that the installation of the boiler will still be put to bid. He stated that this will be done to assure that the project will be complete prior to the start of the heating system. Mayor Wright noted that waiving the bidding process is highly unusual, but commented that it is a necessity to ensure the project is complete in time. Town Manager Salomone stated that it will give a comfort level in that it will save a few weeks' time in installation, given the eight to ten week lead time for the boiler. Mr. Korpak stated that the package lead time is ten weeks, but components such as the boiler (two to three weeks) and the condensate pumps (five weeks) will fit in well

with the installation time frame. He commented that if the Town relies on a contractor to purchase the equipment they will also rely on the contractor's negotiating skills and ability to get the components for the project and the Town will likely pay a 15% markup on the items. He stated that the installation package will be bid out per usual. Councilor Bottalico stated that he talked to the Engineer and learned that these two boiler companies have the efficiency required by the Town. Mr. Korpak agreed that efficiency is a reason for going in this direction and added that other reasons are that these companies offer boilers with cast iron construction and the ability to convert from steam to hot water in the future. He stated that several other manufacturers offering different style boilers were consulted and did not recommend their equipment for the Town Hall. Councilor Bottalico stated that he feels very comfortable with the plan. Town Manager Salomone commented that there are very narrow specifications for the boiler and if it were to go to bid there would not likely be many bids for the boiler due to the narrow specifications. Mr. Korpak stated that the manufacturers were challenged on both delivery time and price using the original twelve-week schedule.

Councilor Bowen noted comments by the Mayor shortly after his election in which he wanted to make sure that all bid processes are open to everyone. He stated that the Town could have handled this project in a different way and it could have been put to bid several weeks ago and it would have cost only a week or two on the overall timeframe of the project. Councilor Bowen commented that there is a reason that things go to bid in municipal government: to make sure everything is above-board and clean. He stated that the Town does not know whether these are the only manufacturers who can provide the necessary types of boilers and although the price is lower than anticipated the Town will not know whether it is the lowest price possible. He stated that his concern is more with the process than with the results, and stated that there is a reason for the normal process of putting projects out to bid. He noted that this Council, on more than one occasion, has tried to compress the process because it thinks it knows better than the system it has set up. Councilor Bowen stated that he has great confidence in Mr. Korpak's abilities to specify the type of equipment needed and noted that the price is lower than anticipated. He stated that it is important that municipal government follows its processes and stated that he will be voting against the resolution due to the process, not the results.

Councilor Boni noted that the minutes of the Town Hall Heating System Replacement Building Committee's meeting states that a quote of \$97,909 was received from Commercial Heating. Mr. Korpak replied that the quote was actually from Plimpton Hills. Councilor Boni expressed confidence in Mr. Korpak and remarked that the proposed plan is in the best interest of the Town.

Mayor Wright inquired where HB Smith and Weil McLain are located. Mr. Korpak replied that HB Smith is based out of Westfield MA and Weil McLain is based out of Ohio.

Councilor Bottalico moved the following:

**RESOLVED:**

**Pursuant to Section 815 of the Newington Town Charter, the Town Council grants a waiver, as requested by the Town Hall Heating System Replacement Building Committee and the Town Manager, for the requirement of sealed bids for two HB Smith boilers for the Town Hall heating system. Due to time constraints to have the boilers in place for the upcoming heating season, sealed bids are not in the best interest of the Town. The bid waiver to Commercial Heating Supply is hereby granted at a cost of \$89,240.00.**

Motion seconded by Councilor Boni.

Mayor Wright commented that Councilor Bowen's insinuation that the Council is doing something wrong is unfair. He stated that the Council is trying to get the heating project in process and the bottom line is that the Council is putting progress ahead of politics and saving money for the Town.

Motion passed 7-1 (Councilor Bowen opposed, Councilor Banach absent)

F Proposed Ordinance "Committee on Community Safety" – Discussion

Mayor Wright stated that the discussion will be a starting process for making the current Joint Committee on Community Safety a permanent Committee. He noted a proposed ordinance put together by the Town Attorney with input from some of the Councilors and himself. He stated that all will agree that the Committee on Community Safety is an important Committee that should be made permanent.

Councilor Cohen read a communication from Mitch Page, Chairman of the Joint Committee on Community Safety:

Dear Mr. Salomone,

Please present this brief note to the Town Council this Tuesday night the 24th at the beginning of their meeting. I am unable to attend due to my work schedule:

Dear Honorable Mr. Mayor and all distinguished members of the Newington Town Council,

I want to thank you for your ongoing support of the Joint Committee on Community Safety. Because of your support we have been able to continue to do the important work of identifying town-wide safety concerns as presented to us by involved and active constituents. We have made several recommendations to the Town Council for action based upon our assessment of the problems as presented to us over the past year. We continue to meet monthly to gather data and identify possible solutions based upon models of collaboration and prevention.

I am writing you to express my concern that the proposed ordinance to establish a permanent "Committee on Community Safety" is, in effect, threatening to eviscerate the Committee as it currently very effectively operates. By having members from both the Town Council and the Board of Education sitting as full members of The Joint Committee on Community Safety we have been a true collaboration of the two main policy-making bodies in town. Your proposed ordinance changes that.

By meeting monthly (or more frequently as needed) and by having the police, human services, the schools, the town council, and other stakeholders involved with us in this process we have been proactive in identifying solutions. Your proposed ordinance changes that.

I am writing to urge you to rewrite your proposed ordinance so that Town Council and Board of Education members will continue to serve as active members of the committee and not as liaisons. Liaisons have less authority to take a position on any given issue presented before the committee and this effectively dilutes the authority of the Safety Committee.

I would also urge you to require the Safety Committee to meet monthly at a minimum. By doing this you will insure a continuity of attention to the ongoing issues we face as a town. This is essential to ensure a constant presence in everyone's mind that safety issues, whether it be drugs in our schools, speeding cars down our side streets, or youth at risk, are a constant threat to the health of our families, our property values, our peace of mind and our day-to-day quality of life here in Newington. These problems require constant vigilance by all stakeholders.

Thank you for your consideration of my remarks this evening. And thank you for doing the hard work of representing all of the people of Newington.

Respectfully and Sincerely,

Mitch Page  
Chair - Joint Committee on Community Safety  
46 Olive Street

Councilor Cohen, Safety Committee member, noted that the memo before the Council states that the Safety Committee will be made into a permanent Committee, but stated disagreement with the intent and noted that what the proposed ordinance is doing is replacing the existing Committee with something different. She inquired as to why the Town is trying to reinvent the wheel when what is has now is working wonderfully. She noted that the representatives from the Council, Board of Education and the Youth/Adult Council are full members and stated that she does not know why any of that should be changed. She also noted that Sgt. Allin of the Police Department has been a wonderful addition to the Committee and between Sgt. Allin and Ken Freidenberg things have been accomplished with the Police Department and more use has been made of the Juvenile Review Board. Councilor Cohen stated that the Committee wants to go to a permanent basis to not only remain in existence but also so that it knows how to handle items that have to go through the Town Council, such as grant applications. She stated that the proposed ordinance does not say anything about the

continuity of the current members and noted that the Committee's members have been absolutely dedicated and have the talent, expertise and dedication to serve. She stated that the Committee has been meeting once a month and can meet more often as decided and remarked that although the proposed ordinance does give the option of meeting more often than once a year, to even suggest that a Committee this active, popular and effective meet only once a year is an insult to the community.

Councilor Nasinnyk, Safety Committee member, thanked Councilor Cohen for her comments and thanked the Council for recommending that the Committee go forward as a permanent Committee. She noted that the specifics of the Committee have been changed in the proposed ordinance and commented that she is unsure whether any members of the Committee were consulted during the Attorney's write up of the ordinance. She stated agreement with Mr. Page and Councilor Cohen's comments that the proposed Committee is not the same Committee. She noted positive feedback from the public regarding the Committee and advised against having members of the Council and Board act as non-voting liaisons to the Committee.

Councilor Nagel, Safety Committee member, stated that it is excellent that the Committee will be made into a permanent part of the Town's establishment. He stated that some of the items listed in the proposed ordinance are generalities and are probably being looked at in a negative way rather than a positive way. He noted that the proposed ordinance is just a starting point and is open for discussion and possible changes. He stated that the requirement that the Committee meets once per year does not mean that the Committee will meet once per year, it will meet much more often than that.

Mayor Wright noted that the current Committee has five members from the public and the proposed Committee will have seven members from the public. He explained that the thought process behind the proposed Committee is that the elected officials that serve on the Committee have policy making purview on the Council and the Board of Education and noted that recommendations that come from the Committee will go to the policy makers and the liaisons on the Committee will have their voices heard from a policy-maker's perspective.

## **VI CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS**

### **A Request for Naming of Town Owned Property and Features**

Mayor Wright stated that Sandra Correll Colpitts has submitted a request that the Newington Volunteer Ambulance building be named after her late father Russ Correll who was a very active member of the community. He stated that the request will be referred to the Naming Committee.

Mayor Wright noted that the July 8 Council Meeting Agenda will contain an item regarding the National Welding site in which consultants will be present to address the Council.

## **VIII RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS**

- A Commission on Aging and Disabled**
1. Acknowledge Resignation of Amanda Powell
  2. Appoint a Replacement (none)

Councilor Nasinnyk moved the following:

### **RESOLVED:**

**That the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the resignation of Amanda Powell from the Commission on Aging and Disabled effective June 20, 2008, in accordance with a letter dated June 3, 2008**

Motion seconded by Deputy Mayor Lenares. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Banach absent).

### **B Appointments to Other Boards and Commissions**

Councilor Bottalico moved the following:

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Newington Town Council hereby makes the following appointments:**

**16. Development Commission**

**9 members, 3 alternates, 3 year term  
Party Max.: 6  
Remaining members: 3 Dem., 5 Rep.  
Alternates: 2 Rep., 1 Dem.**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Replaces</b>
<b>Mike Longo</b>	<b>65 Cedar Ridge Newington</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>IMMED.-11/30/10</b>	<b>Vacant (M. Casasanta res. 5/8/08</b>

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

**VIII TAX REFUNDS**

Councilor Bowen moved the following:

**RESOLVED:**

**That property tax refunds in the amount of \$4,648.01 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 Cohen.

Councilor Boni noted a correction in the list of refunds in which the first item on the list should be \$1,139.24.

Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Banach absent).

**IX MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

A Regular Meeting, May 27, 2008

Councilor Nagel moved to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting, May 27, 2008. Motion seconded by Councilor Boni. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Banach absent).

B Public Hearing: Amendments to Code of Ordinances, June 10, 2008

Councilor Nagel moved to accept the minutes of the Public Hearing: Amendments to Code of Ordinances, June 10, 2008. Motion seconded by Councilor Boni. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Banach absent).

C Public Hearing: Amendment to Code on Taxation, June 10, 2008

Councilor Nagel moved to accept the minutes of the Public Hearing: Amendment to Code on Taxation, June 10, 2008. Motion seconded by Councilor Boni. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Banach absent).

D Regular Meeting, June 10, 2008

Councilor Nagel moved to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting, June 10, 2008. Motion seconded by Councilor Boni. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Banach absent).

**X 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 informed the Council that UBS Trust will now be called Wilmington Trust and stated that he will obtain more details of the change, whether it is merely a name change or a structure change as well as whether the change will affect the Town in any way.

Town Manager Salomone noted that the Garfield Street Bridge is officially closed and construction has started. He commented that he is hopeful that the project will remain on schedule and remarked that it seems to be going well. He noted that Town employee parking is in the lower lot and public parking is in the upper lot. He stated that the Cedar Street expansion project is progressing on schedule. Deputy Mayor Lenares inquired about the progress of the Louis Street project. Town Manager Salomone stated that the project is on schedule.

Councilor Bowen inquired whether Wilmington Trust is still a wholly-owned subsidiary of UBS. Town Manager Salomone replied that he believes that UBS has sold the business and he will pass along further information as it becomes available.

Councilor Bowen noted the failed air conditioning equipment in the Police Department Building as mentioned in the Town Manager's report and inquired whether any of the failed equipment is under warranty. Town Manager Salomone replied that there are some warranties for the items and that he is checking into it. He noted that the scope of the failed equipment is not major. Councilor Bowen inquired about the IT Department's firewalls and expressed concerns that computer viruses could get into the system. Councilor Bowen also again requested that the Council be informed of neighborhood meetings with the Police Department.

Councilor Boni commented that if the Police overtime continues at its current rate the cost for the year will come in under budget. He inquired about the permit issued to Hoffman Guns for a shooting range. Town Manager Salomone explained that Hoffman Guns is planning to relocate to the former OFI building on the Turnpike. He stated that the building will be extensively renovated and will include an indoor shooting range.

Councilor Nagel inquired about the timing of the installation of the carpet at the Senior Center. Town Manager Salomone stated that the product has been ordered and the bid for installation has been accepted. He stated that there are parameters for the installation time frame and while the project should be complete by the end of July it may go over that time frame. He stated that he will get the specific end-date. Councilor Nagel inquired as to why proof of residency, not a landfill permit, is required to dispose of metal items at the landfill. Town Manager Salomone replied that the metal is recyclable and the Town makes money on the metal items. Councilor Nagel inquired about the modifications to the intersection of Cottonwood Road and Back Lane to discourage speeding. Town Manager Salomone explained that it is an inter-town issue and the consensus is that a traffic island will need to be constructed to narrow the turning radius for drivers and slow down speeds. He stated that Wethersfield is responsible for speed enforcement in the area, and although the island will be constructed on Newington property the cost will be shared by the two towns. Councilor Nagel inquired whether the owner of 21 Boulevard, a blighted former foundry, was notified of the soil contamination reported on the Phase II assessment report as recommended by the Town Planner. Town Manager Salomone replied in the affirmative.

**XI COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilor Nagel reported on the following committees:

- CRCOG Community Development meeting:
  - Discussed economical and cost-efficient "green" energy programs
  - Discussed plans for a regionalism round table meeting coming up in September, more information to follow.

Councilor Cohen reported on the following committees:

- Senior Center:
  - The information and referral center has opened at the Senior Center. The center will be staffed by volunteers.

- Marion Amodeo and Dianne Stone will be honored at the upcoming Kiwanis meeting at Paradise Pizza at 7:00pm on Monday, June 30. This is open to the public. Come early to order off the menu if desired, but no purchase is required to attend.

## **XII PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Fara Alleyne, 81 Fisk Drive: Mrs. Alleyne commented that she may be misinterpreting the meeting, but commented that she heard some members of the Council laugh while discussing the Police overtime budget. She asked if she was wasting her time by coming to the Council and asking for help and inquired whether the Council will give the residents a solution. She stated that residents need help.

Sandy Lallier, 27 Elton Drive: Ms. Lallier complimented Councilor Cohen and stated agreement with Councilor Bowen's opinions about standing up for the process. She remarked that the meeting room was very cold and asked how much it costs to cool the room. She stated that while big projects are great the Council needs to pay attention to the little things. Ms. Lallier commented that it is about the process and commented that the Mayor needs to look like he cares about what is being said. She noted that the meeting is being taped and estimated that the Mayor has spent 60-70% of the meeting looking at his watch or whispering to the Deputy Mayor while only occasionally jotting down notes. She stated that he has the right concept, but it is not happening the right way. She stated that it is bothersome that the people feel that they are not being heard. She stated that she knows that there have been some significant notes taken by some Councilors, but stated that body language is very important.

Jennifer Walker, 100 Fisk Drive: Ms. Walker submitted the Fisk Drive area residents' petition to the Council. She stated that she has attended many Safety Committee meetings and commented that the Committee is single-handedly accomplishing things for the Town that no other committee or department has accomplished. She stated that this is partially due to the fact that the members of the public who are on the Committee do not have an agenda except to make sure that the safety issues of the Town are being taken care of. She commended the Council for taking steps to make the Safety Committee into a permanent Committee.

Howard Lane, 75 Fisk Drive: Mr. Lane inquired about the cost of placing three to four speed bumps on one street, and recommended that the removable speed bumps be installed to reduce speeding on the street. He noted an incident in which five police cars responded to a traffic stop involving a motorcycle and inquired as to how five police cars can respond to a call if only four cars are on duty at one time. He noted that there are many streets getting paved in Town and inquired when his street will be paved, as it is very bad in the Willard, Dowd and Lloyd Street areas. Mr. Lane commented that he is sure that other streets are bad too, but they pay taxes and they need help too.

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: Ms. Lyons noted that it keeps being emphasized that the Extravaganza will be held at no cost to the Town due to all of the volunteer work, but inquired about the police overtime budget for the expanded Extravaganza schedule. She asked whether it is all worth the cost. She noted that she has been to Elton Drive neighborhood meetings as well as Safety Committee meetings and stated that she did not see Councilor Bowen or anyone else at the neighborhood meetings, probably because the Councilors were not informed that the meetings will take place. She stated that people present at the Safety Committee meetings were informed about other neighborhood meetings and remarked that the Councilors should be informed. Ms. Lyons remarked that she feels like a hamster in a wheel going around and around and she feels like a pinball being bounced around. She noted that she has been to Conservation Commission meetings, Parks and Recreation meetings, neighborhood committee meetings, Safety Committee meetings, Council meetings, Board of Education meetings and in addition she called into the Mayor's show and asked who is responsible for obtaining grants for Safe Routes for Schools or for any other grants for the Town. She noted a recent meeting in which the Councilors seemed surprised to learn that the Town has received a million dollar grant for the downtown area and remarked that it is appalling that the Council does not even know what is going on. She remarked that at least she is not the only one in the dark.

Sharon Braverman, 39 Churchill Way, Board of Education Liaison: Ms. Braverman thanked the Council for their support of the solar panel project at Martin Kellogg. She stated that it is a great initiative for the Town to be environmentally aware and to be a model for our children and grandchildren. She stated hope that the Town will do more innovative projects such as this in the future.

### **XIII REMARKS BY COUNCILORS**

Councilor Nasinnyk requested information about installing speed bumps or speed humps or installing grooves in the road similar to those on highways that will impede speed without impeding snow removal. She noted that there are other neighborhoods in Town that have speeding problems as well. She stated that a paradigm shift is needed in Town for people to slow down and not endanger others. She also noted that walkways are needed as well and inquired as to who would look into such programs. Town Manager Salomone replied that the Police Chief would look into these programs. He noted that the Town is looking into various options for speed bumps for various roads including Fisk Drive and that the best option at this point appears to be with removable speed bumps. He stated that speed bumps alone are not the answer, and a combination of enforcement, good traffic design, information to the public and other methods are needed as a comprehensive approach to a solution.

Deputy Mayor Lenares noted the photographs of the speed enforcement trailer submitted to the Council and inquired whether any tickets have been issued in the Fisk Drive/Dowd Street area or whether there are any officers performing speed enforcement in the area. Town Manager Salomone replied that he will ask the Chief.

Councilor Bottalico remarked that the removable speed bumps don't work and noted that the ones used previously near the Little League fields did not stay in place. Town Manager Salomone stated that there are some newer versions available that may work better but remarked that the Town will not want to spend the money on speed bumps that don't work. He again cautioned that speed bumps are not the only solution. Councilor Bottalico stated that there are speeding problems throughout Town and stated that he does not know the solution. He stated that it has been a tough battle to get the Police Department up to full staff. Town Manager Salomone stated that he would be happy to hold a meeting with the residents of the Fisk Drive area and the Police Chief to discuss the issue. Councilor Bottalico stated that the Police Department is doing the best they can with what they have to work with.

Councilor Cohen inquired about who is responsible for applying for available grants that may come to the attention of the Safety Committee. Town Manager Salomone replied that it could be the Police Department, the Town Manager's office, the Town Planner's office, or the Town Engineer's office depending on the situation. Councilor Cohen remarked that having police presence at the Safety Committee meetings has been wonderful and has resulted in solutions.

Councilor Bowen stated he has had a conversation with Mitch Page and a member of CROG regarding the Safe Routes to Schools program and has heard from Fisk Drive area residents on the issue. He stated that he is a believer in the program. He noted the Town Manager's concerns about resources and noted over \$300,000 in savings in the upcoming budget as identified earlier in the present meeting and recommended that a portion of those unencumbered resources be used towards the Safe Routes to Schools program and also to address the speeding issues in Town. Councilor Bowen remarked that in his comments earlier in the meeting he was not accusing anyone of any improprieties at all, and explained that what he was saying was that the Mayor had accused the previous Council of some improprieties and he noted that in a private conversation he had assured the Mayor that the RFP process is the main way to stop these improprieties from occurring throughout the Town. He stated that these processes are put together to ensure checks and balances. Councilor Bowen stated that he is very comfortable with the people on the Town Hall Heating Committee and with their intents. He stated that he is not concerned with the outcome of the project but again remarked that the process is key to make sure that everything is clean and that the best is done for the public.

Mayor Wright thanked the Fisk Drive area residents who attended the meeting. He explained the process of the Council's meeting agenda and noted that this is the place in the agenda for the public's comments to be addressed. He commented that the Town Manager and the Police Chief are working on a number of different solutions and that these things do not happen overnight. Mayor Wright stated that there are concerns throughout the Town and the solutions will take some time. He also stated that there are many roads throughout the Town that have not been maintained as well as some would like, but the Town has taken a step in the right direction by scheduling 22 roads for resurfacing this year. He stated that this is only the beginning. Mayor Wright noted that two new Police Officers were hired in 2007-2008 with an additional three officers to be hired in the 2008-2009 budget effective July 1, 2008. He stated that this will give the Police Department added flexibility with traffic enforcement issues. He stated that the Council and Town are looking at ways to improve safety and will examine how the hiring of the additional officers will impact the Town going forward and will discuss hiring additional officers in the future if necessary. He stated that with the recent and upcoming hiring the Police Department will grow by 10%.

Mayor Wright noted that the Downtown Revitalization Committee has met twice and will hold a meeting on July 16 at 7:00pm either at the Town Hall or at the Senior Center (TBD) in which the public is invited to provide input and feedback regarding the project.

Mayor Wright wished Town Manager Salomone a happy birthday. Mayor Wright also wished his wife a happy anniversary.

**XIV EXECUTIVE SESSION RE: PERSONNEL**

Councilor Bowen moved to go into Executive Session re: Personnel at 9:12pm. Motion seconded by Councilor Cohen. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Banach absent). All Councilors present at regular meeting, Town Manager Salomone, Mayor Wright and Labor Attorney Ken Plumb were present at the Executive Session.

Councilor Bottalico moved to go out of Executive Session at 10:00 pm. Motion seconded by Councilor Nagel. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Banach absent).

**XV ADJOURNMENT**

Councilor Bottalico moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:00pm. Motion seconded by Councilor Nagel. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Banach absent).

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. Jaime Trevethan  
Clerk of the Council