



John L. Salomone
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

MAYOR STEPHEN WOODS

MINUTES

NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL
Conference Room L-101 Lower Level – Town Hall
7:00 P.M.

February 25, 2014

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Woods at 7:00 p.m.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ROLL CALL

Councilor Baume
Councilor Borjeson
Councilor Castelle
Councilor Cohen
Councilor Dinunzio
Councilor Klett
Councilor Marocchini
Councilor Nagel
Mayor Woods

Staff Attendees:

John Salomone, Town Manager
Jaime Trevethan, Executive Assistant
Linda Irish-Simpson, Clerk of the Council

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

John Slusarski, 40 Grandview Drive: He commented on 1) the restrictions in the DECD agreement before the Council and that a lot depended on what the Commissioner did or did not do. The agreement restricted the Town to do anything with the property without the Commissioner's approval. 2) His comments from the last meeting that might have been misunderstood regarding the Town Hall renovation and the Park and Rec Department. He wanted to state that it should be up to the taxpayers to decide whether or not the renovations were done and to what extent even if he was personally against the idea. 3) Mr. Slusarski stated he was concerned the Town was \$55 million underfunded in pensions with very optimistic future assumptions and felt that the price would be paid by future taxpayers.

Marguerite Benson, 88 Elton Drive: She was concerned about Elton Drive being a dead end with no safe turnaround for vehicles or trucks and thought the Council should do a study on the feasibility of putting in a hammerhead turnaround or a cul-de-sac as soon as possible.

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: She agreed with Mrs. Benson on the safety issue on Elton Drive. Mrs. Lyons stated the snow could no longer be pushed aside and the Council should add this as a CIP item to be done in the near future.

Sharon Braverman, 39 Churchill Way: She asked the Council work with interested CCSU students for planning along the busway and if agreeable, she would pass Councilor Borjeson's contact information to CCSU.

Scott McBride, 211 Beacon Street: He wanted to remind the Council of the upcoming St. Patrick's Day Parade to be held on March 15 starting at 11 a.m. He urged all Council members to march in the parade and would send further information to them as it was available. Mr. McBride mentioned there would be a fundraiser on March 1 from 7 – 11 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus.

IV. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

Councilor Borjeson stated that last year the DOT did a marketing piece with CCSU and looked forward to having them work on the project again this year.

V. CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS

A. Mid-Year Transfers

Councilor Borjeson 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>
250	Street Lighting	\$12,000
710	Library Operations	\$10,116
962	Town Council Contingency	<u>\$388,166</u>
	Total	\$410,282

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 accounts in the General Fund:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>
110	Town Council	\$134
120	Town Manager	\$11,368
140	Elections	\$2,565
150	Finance	\$31,837
160	Town Attorney	\$32,000
170	Town Clerk	\$3,459
210	Police Department	\$86,185
230	Fire Department	\$6,168
280	Hydrants	\$4,850
310	Engineering	\$9,589
320	Highway Department	\$145,102
350	Sanitation	\$1,057
420	Town Planning	\$10,460
450	Building Department	\$4,370
460	Conservation Commission	\$601
470	Economic Development	\$67

610	Human Services	\$8,945
640	Senior & Disabled	\$6,226
810	Parks & Recreation Administration	\$8,874
830	Parks & Grounds	<u>\$36,425</u>
	Total	\$410,282

The motion was seconded by Councilor Cohen and passed 9 – 0.

Councilor Borjeson 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 Capital and Non-Recurring Expenditure Fund, the amounts listed below:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>
88113	Fenn Road Access Road	\$50,000

Ann J. Harter, Director of Finance

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby transfers the above-certified funds in Capital and Non-Recurring Expenditure Fund to the following accounts in Capital and Non-Recurring Expenditure Fund:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>
88329	National Welding Engineering Services	\$50,000

The motion was seconded by Councilor Cohen and the motion passed 9 – 0.

Councilor Borjeson 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 Public Building Fund, the amount listed below:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>
88007	Parks Garage Roof Replacement	\$10,654

Ann J. Harter, Director of Finance

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby transfers the above-certified funds in Public Building Fund to the following account in Capital and Non-Recurring Expenditure Fund:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>
88111	General Property Improvements	\$10,654

The motion was seconded by Councilor Cohen and the motion passed 9 – 0.

B. NVA Contract

Councilor Castelle moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby authorizes John L. Salomone, Town Manager, to execute a revised “Agreement between Town of Newington and Newington Volunteer Ambulance Corps., Inc.,” effective immediately and terminating December 31, 2016.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Cohen and the motion passed 9 – 0.

C. DECD National Welding Financial Assistance Proposal

Councilor Borjeson moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby authorizes the acceptance for grant funding in the amount of \$2,000,000 from the State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development for demolition and remediation of the former National Welding building located at 690 Cedar Street; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby identifies John L. Salomone, Town Manager, as an individual authorized to sign the grant agreement and administer the grant. Such agreement is attached to and made a part of this record.

Councilor Dinunzio commented there had been prior meetings between CRDA and other committees other than the Council and thought the Council should have been informed earlier. He was concerned that the Town remain in control of what was developed on the site and not other agencies. Councilor Nagel agreed with Councilor Dinunzio’s comments and was dubious about the intent of CRDA but agreed National Welding had to be torn down.

Councilor Klett indicated a meeting had been held in July 2013 between CRDA and the Town and did not feel the Council had been notified in a timely manner of what was going on. No information had been given prior to the presentation or that the Town appealed to the CRDA about the interest in demolishing National Welding. Councilor Cohen stated that the final decision would be made by the Town Council and it was not important what others might say but what the members of the Council wanted to do.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Cohen and passed 6 – 3 on a roll call vote:
Yes: Councilors Baume, Borjeson, Castelle, Cohen, Marocchini, Mayor Woods
No: Councilors Dinunzio, Klett, Nagel

VI. CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion: State Surplus Property at 326 Main Street

Councilor Borjeson said it had originally sounded like a good idea but after reviewing the piece of land (5 acres for \$30k) and the Town liability for anything that went wrong like flooding, etc. he was not in favor of the acquisition. Councilor Nagel agreed with Councilor Borjeson since it would have potential liability to the Town and there was very little of the land that could be used productively. Mr. Salomone commented the land was surrounded by wetlands and the buffer was wetlands with only a small portion of the five acres available for development. The consensus of the Council was not to proceed with the purchase of the property.

B Discussion: 2014 Small Cities Grant Application

Mr. Salomone said the Town could apply for a grant on behalf of Cedar Village. The complex had not had many improvements over the years, and the grant would enable the Town to oversee the installation of a new heating system, windows, doors and other infrastructure needs. He thought it would be a good use of the money and would improve the quality of life of the citizens if the bid is successful. Several towns would be bidding for the grant but he felt Newington was in a good position to win the bid. Mr. Salomone recommended going forward with the application. If successful, the Town would use Wagner Associates to administer the grant and the Housing Authority would not control the money in the project.

Councilor Borjeson said it was a timely issue and it was important to improve the quality of life for the residents. Councilor Klett thought the grant was wonderful but did not address all of the residents' concerns heard by the Council.

C Discussion: Newington Housing Authority, Status of Research

Councilor Klett voiced concerns about addressing the intimidation and bullying issues brought up by the residents at recent Council meetings. She felt it was important for the Council to report the residents' concerns to the Housing Authority immediately. The Mayor agreed with her and said it was important the residents had an outlet for their concerns. Mr. Salomone said the Town Attorney was still reviewing the issue and that it was complicated since there were overlapping State statutes in overseeing the Authority.

Councilor Borjeson said it was a complicated issue and it was important to have this on the Council agenda so they would know where the Town stood in regard to legality and statutes once the Town Attorney reviewed the situation. Councilor Nagel said the topic had been brought up at a recent RTC meeting and thought it was important to have the representative who had been attending the Newington Housing Authority meetings be reinstated, which would be done later in the meeting. Councilor Klett was not comfortable waiting to inform the Board about the residents' concerns expressed to the Council. The information should be passed on to them since she felt it was the Town's obligation to inform them.

Councilor Cohen stated there was nothing in the Code of Ordinances or the Charter regarding the establishment of the Housing Authority. She agreed it was their responsibility to the citizens to protect them against bullying or intimidation. The Mayor agreed and said there had been previous dialogue between the Housing Authority and Jamie Trevethan to inform them of any issues. Jamie Trevethan indicated she had not passed on the recent comments to the Housing Authority yet but would do so.

VII. RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS (Action May Be Taken)

Councilor Nagel moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby makes the following appointments:

2. Commission on Aging and Disabled

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
Patricia Hanbury	133 Southwood Road	R	12/1/13 – 11/30/16	P. Hanbury (term expires 11/30/13)

6. CCHD Board of Health

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
Jerilyn Nagel	1175 Willard Avenue	I	Immed. – 11/30/2015	Vacant

12. EMS Committee

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
Fire Dept Rep: Kevin Ziegler	105 Cedarwood Lane	R	1/1/2014 – 12/30/16	D. Interlandi (term exp. 12/31/13)
NVA Rep: Scott Woods	77 Northwood Road	R	1/1/2014 – 12/30/16	S. Woods (term exp. 12/31/13)

17. Newington Housing Authority Board of Directors

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
			12/1/13 – 11/30/18	R. Golden (term exp. 11/30/13)
Gary Guyette	15 Golf Road	R	Immed. – 11/30/17	Vacant

Councilor Dinunzio seconded the motion and the motion passed 9 – 0.

VIII. TAX REFUNDS

Councilor Marocchini moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That property tax refunds in the amount of \$984.36 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.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Cohen and passed 9 – 0.

IX. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A. Regular Meeting, February 11, 2014

Councilor Cohen made a motion to accept the February 11, 2014, meeting minutes as read and was seconded by Councilor Castelle. The motion passed 9 – 0.

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

None

XI. COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Borjeson said the CIP committee had gotten all the required information and would have a final meeting soon. The committee had less money disagreement than last year and hoped in two weeks would have the CIP budget presented to the Council. He commented on a busway meeting held on February 24 with representatives from CCROG, CRDA and economic development individuals from several towns. He stated Newington was the farthest along in economic development of the busway area and would be an example of brown field remediation and economic development for other towns.

Councilor Castelle indicated the Town Hall Renovation Committee had met and the architect and construction manager would be amending their plan to bring expenses to the amount budgeted. The next meeting would be held on March 17.

XII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL

Madeline Kenny, 53 Crestview Drive: She commented on 1) if there were plans on how to get to the CTfastrak station via sidewalks 2) Wanted to know if there would be follow up on Mrs. Benson's comments regarding Elton Drive since it was an important issue that had been brought up before and 3) wanted to know if the Council would be sharing the results of their Goal Setting session with the public via minutes or a presentation.

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: She was interested in the process when the State offered land to the Town and if the Council had to vote on the issue or just reach a consensus to go forward or not. Mrs. Lyons had watched a CTfastrak forum on TV and was interested to hear the questions the legislators asked, which were similar to ones residents asked. Some of the questions pertained to call lights, ride tickets that no one would be checking and accessibility to the stations, which had not been addressed yet.

Scott Woods, 77 Northwood Road: He thanked the Council for his re-appointment to the EMS Committee. He indicated that Mr. Ziegler had been appointed to the committee as an NVA Representative and was no longer a member of the NVA. Mr. Woods wanted to thank everyone for extending the contract with the NVA.

(inaudible), 314 Cedar Street: She wanted to make the Council aware of some of the many issues she faced with the Housing Authority at Cedar Village regarding bullying, intimidation and the lack of attention to the issues.

XIII. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

Councilor Cohen asked to the Human Services and the Senior Center to get involved with the issues expressed by the Cedar Village residents.

Councilor Klett indicated the Chief of Police had attended the Goal Setting Session and was asked about safety plans for CTfastrak, which he was unable to do because of lack of communication. She indicated there were minutes of meetings in May 2013 that indicated the 2009 Public Safety and Security Plan was

being updated. Councilor Klett felt the local Police Chief should have the information as well. She asked for the Town Manager to give the Council a report on what the police believed the safety needs would be for the CTfastrak.

Councilor Borjeson indicated safety had been addressed and the DOT continued to meet with local police, fire and emergency response forces. He had local contact information for the individuals handling the issue who would present an updated report at the next CTfastrak meeting in two months.

Councilor Castelle mentioned from Mr. Salomone's report that the Human Services clothing closet had serviced 37 households and provided 42 bags of clothes. The usage nearly doubled in January. The Social Casework Program had an active caseload of 114 with new referrals totally 70. The increase was attributed to the end of unemployment benefits, high volume of heating requests and there were 15 foreclosure registrations. He wanted to implore Department Heads to keep the above in mind when budget requests were made.

Councilor Klett was concerned about getting information from departments and any equipment they might need for the coming year so it could be planned for in the upcoming budget.

Councilor Marocchini said the Children's Theater would be performing Aladdin on March 7 – 16. Shows would be Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. The children were 5 – 18 years old.

Mayor Woods said he had attended the recent Blue and Gold Dinner with over 65 boy scouts. The boys were very enthusiastic and had great skits. He asked Mr. Salomone to have the Town Engineer prepare an estimate on the cost of a hammer head cul-de-sac on Elton Drive. In answer to Mrs. Lyons question, he stated that when the State offered the Town property the Council did not have to take a formal vote but a general consensus was appropriate.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION RE: PERSONNEL/ CONTRACTUAL LEASE AGREEMENT

Councilor Borjeson made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:35 p.m. and the motion was seconded by Councilor Castelle. The motion passed 9 – 0. All Councilors, Assessor Steve Juda, Deputy Finance Director Lisa Rydecki and Town Attorney Peter Boorman were present for the Executive Session.

Councilor Nagel made a motion to go out of Executive Session at 9:37 p.m. Motion seconded by Councilor Dinunzio. Motion passed 9-0.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Nagel made a motion to go out of Executive Session at 9:38 p.m. Motion seconded by Councilor Dinunzio. Motion passed 9-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Irish-Simpson
Clerk of the Council