



Tanya D. Lane  
Acting Town Manager

# TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET  
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

**MAYOR ROY ZARTARIAN**

## NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

### MEETING MINUTES

March 22, 2016

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Mayor Zartarian called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ROLL CALL

Councilor Anest  
Councilor Budrejko  
Councilor DelBuono  
Councilor Klett  
Councilor Manke  
Councilor Marocchini  
Councilor Nagel  
Councilor Serra  
Mayor Zartarian

Staff Attendees:

Tanya Lane, Acting Town Manager  
Ann Harter, Director of Finance  
Jaime Trevethan, Asst. to the Town Manager - Administration  
Susan Gibbon, Council Clerk (Substitute)

III. AWARDS PROCLAMATIONS

A. National Public Health Week

Mayor Zartarian moved the following:

**WHEREAS, the American Public Health Association has proclaimed April 4 through April 10, 2016 as National Public Health Week;**

**WHEREAS, this year's theme is "Healthiest Nation 2030" and focuses on rallying around the goal of making the United States the Healthiest Nation in One Generation by 2030;**

**WHEREAS, for over 20 years the annual celebration of National Public Health Week reminds us of the fundamental role that our own state and local health departments play every day in the health of our communities; and**

**AND WHEREAS, the Town of Newington together with its neighboring towns of Wethersfield, Berlin, and Rocky Hill, receives quality public health service through its regional health department, the Central Connecticut Health District, now in its 20<sup>th</sup> year of service.**

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Roy Zartarian, do hereby proclaim April 4 to April 10, 2016 as National Public Health Week in Newington, Connecticut. I encourage all our citizens to join me in this celebration and in acknowledging the critical role of public health in prevention and in helping individuals and communities to achieve and maintain good health.**

Motion by Councilor DelBuono, seconded by Councilor Manke and passed 9-0.

**IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - IN GENERAL (In Person/Via Telephone: 860-665-8736)  
(3 MINUTE TIME LIMIT PER SPEAKER ON ANY ITEM)**

Mayor Zartarian read the following letters:

Letter from Linda Johnson  
Letter from May Mills  
Letter from Jeanette Francini  
Letter from Yuba  
Letter from Amanda Shifferotti

Councilor DelBouno read the following letter:

Havital Miltz

Councilor Marocchini read a letter from Don Woods.

Hal Whitney, 31 Old Hatchery Lane. Mr. Whitney encouraged the town council to keep 0% increase. Budget not being cut, just not increased. Have Superintendent listen to board members. Not anti-education, happy to pay taxes, but not overpay.

Diane Stamm, 104 Steeplechase Drive. Ms. Stamm indicated that she spoke last week about library budget, would love to have money put in to bring the budget back zero percent she stated that she would like the cuts as recommended by the Library Director, to remove Sunday hours.

Iris Larsson, 41 Buckingham Street. Ms. Larsson remarked that libraries changes lives and asked for a zero percent budget, restore \$60,000. Address Lisa Masten as the Library Director and have the director make decisions where cuts should be. Libraries change lives. Increase human services budget, very much in demand.

Wayne Alexander, 28 Burdon Lane. Mr. Alexander remarked that the lack of transparency by BOE is vindictive. Government transparency should show how they spend your money at all levels of government. BOE seen as asking for too much, shuffling funds, no clear breakdown, confusing information, not trusted. That is how seen, lack of transparency, Justice Lewis Brandice said sun is the be the best of , electric Easy to use, understandable system allowing

taxpayers to see clearly how one spent, including BOE. Have they done a great job? Hold them accountable.

Gary Bolles, 28 Burdon Land. Mr. Bolles indicated that he is a lifelong resident. And ye shall now the truth and the truth shall set you free. Republican meeting insightful, applaud and support 0% increase. Just say no. Make BOE accountable and transparent to all tax payers. No line item accountability. What is wrong with that? Why so many administrators? Don't believe word about teacher layoffs. Cut budget to 0% increase. They will not suffer, got to stop tax increases.

Eileen Francolino, 116 Lydall Road. Ms. Francolino stated that she is a lifetime resident who made the choice to live in Newington, where raised. She spoke about quality of life and asked the Council to focus on town parks, Churchill Park renovation. Urged the Council to talk with Bill DeMaio.

Dana Havens, 113 Stoddard Avenue. Ms. Havens stated that the utmost importance is to keep education budget. Waiting to see cost saving measures and Mr. Silvia's plan. Accountability, which program is funded and which is not. Policy needs to be changed, not only for the sake of tax dollars but children, not laying off teachers. Microphones need to be fixed in the BOE meeting room.

Lee Ann Manke, 112 Northwood Road. Ms. Manke stated that she is a lifelong resident. Would love to have library funded, have cuts done as recommended by the Director.

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive. Ms. Lyons indicated that she will going to be impacted if taxes go up much more. She thanked the Central CT Health District and Councilor DelBouno, re clock.

Patty Foley, 51 Crown Ridge, Ms. Foley asked the Council to focus on library, open windows to the world. Libraries change lives for the better. Place to gather, a community, become educated and enlightened. She asked the Council find a way to better balance the budget, no increase except for mandatory items. Cannot serve patrons properly with these cuts.

Hannah Segal, 57 Meadowview Court. Ms. Segal indicated that she wasn't planning on speaking tonight - doing this on my own. A lot of issues with Newington schools i.e., Spanish is only 90 days. Students from Bio-medical academy need to continue studies. Allow for some increase.

Michael J. Fox, 1901 Main Street. Mr. Fox stated that he read something on Facebook about a person not there at meeting because the Council doesn't listen to us. He has been very involved in town. Remembers the 80s and zero increase budget; in the meantime, this building went downhill, would love to see zero increase in budget and no increase in taxes and zero increase budget. A zero increase is not a decrease.

John Bachand 56 Maple Hill Avenue. Ms. Bachand stated in regards to the zero increase - it is shrewd business to start high. It is unsustainable for taxes to go up considerably. Proponent of library, commendable of how they run the library. BOE spending is a runaway train, good definition, good visual. Most valuable education is fiscal responsibility.

Mary Udice, 26 Gayle Road. Ms. Udice stated that she had no intention of speaking and indicated that she is a BOE employee - special education assistant. Do not want to see anyone laid off, do not deserve to be laid off. Willing to support budget increase.

V. CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS (Action May Be Taken)

Mayor Zartarian asked for the agenda to be changed. Move Item A to Item C.

Motion by: Councilor DelBuono. Seconded by Councilor Anest. Motion passed 9-0

A. MDC Project Update

Acting Town Manager Lane indicated that there is no updated at this time. MDC Counsel Chris Stone indicated that the Town Manager worked to coordinate an easement at Willard and Cedar, immediately schedule meeting and talked about alternatives in securing easements. He stated that he is pessimistic about working with property owner for the easement, assume still pending, no resolution. This will push the project to 2017.

Councilor Budrejko inquired as to whether this will push the entire project to next year? Mr. Stone replied that the MDC needed answer by March 8<sup>th</sup>. The idea was to work on high school and get done with them school. He indicated that the MDC would likely only get a noise ordinance waiver only for one week.

Councilor Marocchini indicated that he had thought the idea was not put off a year. He wants to get the project moving; never heard of one week noise ordinance. Acting Town Manager Tanya Lane stated that the whole idea behind the meeting was to minimize noise, workaround work with homeowner in order to make the project more appeasing to homeowners. She stated that in a perfect world this would have been done by March 8<sup>th</sup> but it is not coming together. Noise very big concern. Spoke with homeowner but received no commitment. Concern that project would be put off longer 2017 - not a bad compromise.

Mr. Stone indicated that the plans will go forward on assumption of one week noise ordinance waiver, see to secure rights of property necessary through other process. In fairness to the Acting Town Manager, this is a very ambitious schedule, noise ordinance waiver not happening.

B. CRCOG Regional Performance Incentive Grant Program

Councilor Nagel moved the following

**WHEREAS, Section 4-124s as amended by Section 251 and 253 of Public Act 13-247 passed by the Connecticut General Assembly provides statewide incentive grants to regional planning organizations for projects that involve shared services; and**

**WHEREAS, the Capitol Region Council of Governments is acting as a convener and facilitator of service sharing projects around the CRCOG region; and**

**WHEREAS, on November 25, 2015 and January 27, 2016 the Policy Board of CRCOG passed a resolution authorizing development and submittal of an application package to the State Office of Policy and Management for funding under the Regional Performance Incentive Grant Program, on behalf of the Council's member municipalities, and municipalities of other regions, which are participating in Council initiatives; and**

**WHEREAS, the Chief Elected Officials and municipal staff of the Capitol Region have developed a list of service sharing project proposals that will be included in this**

application package, to the benefit of individual municipalities and the region as a whole; and

**WHEREAS, the Town of Newington has expressed an interest in taking part in the project proposals entitled:**

- **Item 1: Stop Loss Captive Insurance**
- **Item 2: Anchor Institution and Neighborhood Engagement in TOD**
- **Item 7: Call Handling and Response Triage for Emergency Operations Center**

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Newington Town Council does hereby endorse the above referenced Regional Performance Incentive Program project proposal and authorizes the Town Manager to sign all necessary agreements and take all necessary actions to allow for the Town's participation in this program.**

Motion by Councilor Nagel, seconded by Councilor Manke and passed 9-0.

C. Set Tentative Budget - FY 2016-17

Please see the attached table of motions made to set the Council's tentative FY 2016-17 budget.

All Republican motions made by Councilor DelBuono and seconded by Councilor Nagel.

Items 1-7 passed 9-0.

Councilor Klett indicated that based on her past experience she could not support item 8 (decrease BOE Budget to 0% increase). Councilors Anest, Serra and Marocchini also indicated that they are not in favor of the line item. Councilor DelBuono spoke in support of the motion and indicated that it was a difficult decision based on much thought and careful consideration. Councilors Nagel, Manke, Budrejko and Mayor Zartatian agreed with Councilor DelBuono.

Item 8 passed 5-4, with Councilors Anest, Klett, Marocchini and Serra opposed.

Councilor Klett indicated that she is not in support of item 9 (decrease CIP for Churchill Park study) and indicated that she had offered a compromise to cut half of the item for this year - \$125,000 rather than \$250,000. Councilors Anest, Serra and Marocchini also indicated that they are not in favor of the line item.

Item 9 passed 5-4 with Councilors Anest, Klett, Marocchini and Serra opposed.

Item 10 passed 6-3 with Councilors Klett, Marocchini and Serra opposed.

All Democratic motions made by Councilor Anest and seconded by Councilor Marocchini.

Items 1-3 not moved.

The Council discussed items 4-9h. Councilor Anest indicated that the changes will restore some of the Library part-time hours in exchange for eliminating Sunday hours. This will restore about \$5,000 to the Library budget.

Item 6 failed 3-6, with Councilors Anest, Marocchini and Serra in favor. Items 4, 5 and 7-9h passed 9-0.

Councilor Marocchini explained that the purpose of item 10 is to purchase a new treadmill for the Senior and Disabled center. Motion failed 4-5 with Councilors Anest, Klett, Marocchini and Serra in favor.

Item 11 was to restore \$1,955,545 to the BOE budget, bringing the BOE budget to a 2.8%. Motion failed 4-5 with Councilors Anest, Klett, Marocchini and Serra in favor.

**VI. CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS (Action May Be Taken by Waiving the Rules) – ALL TABLED**

- A. Discussion: Deming Young Farm Barn
- B. Open Space Committee: Revise Resolution
- C. Fair Housing Month
- D. Discussion: Town Council Rules of Procedure

**VII. RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS (Action May Be Taken)**

Councilor DelBuono moved the following:

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Newington Town Council hereby makes the following appointment(s):**

**Human Rights Commission**

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
Barbara Wiley	461 Robbins Ave.	R	Immed. – 11/30/18	Vacant

Motion by Councilor DelBuono, seconded by Councilor Klett and passed 8-0 (Councilor Marocchini out of room).

Councilor DelBuono moved the following:

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the resignation of Richard Klett as a member of the Vehicle Appeals Board, in accordance with a communication dated March 21, 2016.**

Motion by Councilor DelBuono, seconded by Councilor Klett and passed 8-0 (Councilor Marocchini out of room).

- A. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

**VIII. TAX REFUNDS (Action Requested)**

Councilor DelBuono moved the following:

**RESOLVED:**

**That property tax refunds in the amount of \$ 1,606.78 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 by Councilor DelBuono, seconded by Councilor Klett and passed 8-0 (Councilor Marocchini out of room).

- IX. WRITTEN ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER, OTHER TOWN AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS, OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS AND THE PUBLIC - None
- X. COUNCIL LIAISON COMMITTEE REPORTS 0 None
- XI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - IN GENERAL (**In Person/Via Telephone: 860-665-8736**) (3 MINUTE TIME LIMIT PER SPEAKER ON ANY ITEM)

Jay Bottalico, 37 Valley View Drive. Thanks. What is new mill rate?

Hal Whitney, 31 Old Hatchery Lane (via telephone). Mr. Whitney indicated that Councilor Klett has a right to disagree on the school budget, however, she was elected by constituency. Therefore, she should step down as deputy mayor.

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive. Ms. Lyons spoke about the elimination of CIP for Churchill Park; wish the \$200,000 was going to something else.

Pat Foley, 51 Crown Ridge. Ms. Foley thanked the Council for listening.

John Bachand, 56 Maple Hill Avenue. Mr. Bachand spoke regarding the MDC situation, don't understand why you can't provide month long noise ordinance He supports a 0% increase to the BIE; no better education than fiscal management; Councilor Klett's division saddens me.

**XII. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS**

Director of Finance Ann Harter indicated that the adjusted Mill Rate = 35.60; a decrease of .20 mills or 0.6%; total \$115,271,488.

**XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION RE: PERSONNEL /REAL ESTATE**

Motion by Councilor Klett to go into Executive Session at 10:11 p.m. to include the Acting Town Manager. Second by Councilor Marocchini. Passed 9-0.

Acting Town Manager Lane exited the Executive Session at 10:32 p.m.

Councilor Marocchini moved to adjourn the Executive Session at 10:45 p.m. Motion seconded by Councilor Nagel. Motion passed 9-0.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Marocchini moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:45 p.m. Motion seconded by Councilor DelBuono. Motion passed 9-0.

Respectfully submitted,

*Susan Gibbon*

Susan Gibbon  
Council Clerk (Substitute)

Attach.

**ADJUSTMENTS TO 2016-17 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET**

REP Adjustments

**NOTE: Figures in parenthesis decrease "Amount to be raised by Taxes";  
figures without parenthesis increase "Amount to be raised by Taxes".**

Proposed Mill Rate FY 2016-17:	36.91
Amt. to be raised by taxes:	85,359,179
Net Adjusted Collectible Grand List:	2,312,434,653
Value of mill:	2,312,435
Grand List with BAA adjustments	
Net Adjusted Collectible Grand List:	2,325,152,744
Value of mill:	2,325,153

Item #	Account #	Description	Change In Tax Burden	COUNCIL VOTE		For Reference Only			
				Yes	No	Amount to Be Raised By Taxes	Revised Rate	Mill Change	Percent Change
						85,359,179	36.91	1.11	3.1%
1		Adjust Net Grand List based on Board of Assessment Appeals. Change reflects adjustment to Legal Corrections. Does not change Tax Burden but equates to \$465,030 reduction.	n/a						
2	10212	8101 Change to reflect vacancy in Patrol. Variance between Recruit and Police Officer	(\$44,894)	9	0	85,314,285	36.69	0.89	2.5%
3	10218	8101 Reinstate School Resource Officer in Support Services	\$43,237	9	9	85,357,522	36.71	0.91	2.5%
4	10213	8101 Add Civilian Evidence/Property Room Position & Detective	\$50,700	9	0	85,408,222	36.73	0.93	2.6%
5	10943	8220 Add Retirement for new position	\$4,050	9	0	85,412,272	36.73	0.93	2.6%
6	10944	8220 Add Social Security for new position	\$2,662	9	0	85,414,934	36.74	0.94	2.6%
7	10943	8220 Add Medicare for new position	\$653	9	0	85,415,587	36.74	0.94	2.6%
8	14000	8601 Decrease Board of Education budget to 0% increase	(\$2,444,432)	5	4	82,971,155	35.68	-0.12	-0.3%
9	11100	8501 Decrease CIP for Churchill Park Renovations - Environmental Review	(\$250,000)	5	4	82,721,155	35.58	-0.22	-0.6%
10	11100	8501 Increase CIP Park Pool & Playfield Improvements	\$50,000	6	3	82,771,155	35.60	-0.20	-0.6%
TOTAL			(\$2,588,024)						

**ADJUSTMENTS TO 2016-17 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET**

DEM Adjustments

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							85,359,179	36.91	1.11	3.1%
1		Adjust Net Grand List based on Board of Assessment Appeals. Change reflects adjustment to Legal Corrections. Does not change Tax Burden but equates to \$465,030 reduction.	n/a				85,359,179	36.71	0.91	2.5%
2	10212 8101	Change to reflect vacancy in Patrol. Variance between Recruit and Police Officer	(\$44,894)		n/a		85,314,285	36.69	0.89	2.5%
3	10218 8101	Reinstate School Resource Officer in Support Services	\$43,237		n/a		85,357,522	36.71	0.91	2.5%
4	10714 8103	Reinstate Library Monitor hours	\$11,164		9	0	85,368,686	36.72	0.92	2.6%
5	10716 8103	Reinstate Library Tech Sub hours	\$5,525		9	0	85,374,211	36.72	0.92	2.6%
6	10713 8103	Reinstate Library Tech Sub hours	\$4,420		3	6	85,378,631	36.72	0.92	2.6%
7	10713 8202	Partially restore Library Dues & Subscriptions	\$5,000		9	0	85,383,631	36.72	0.92	2.6%
8	10713 8401	Partially restore Library Public Circulation Materials	\$5,000		9	0	85,388,631	36.72	0.92	2.6%
9	1071x 810x	Eliminate Library Sunday hours per list below:	(\$25,688)				85,362,943	36.71	0.91	2.5%
9a	10712 8102	Eliminate Library Overtime for Sunday hours	(2,038)							
9b	10712 8103	Reduce Library Part Time for Sunday hours	(3,883)		9	0				
9c	10713 8102	Eliminate Library Overtime for Sunday hours	(6,868)		9	0				
9d	10713 8103	Reduce Library Part Time for Sunday hours	(2,348)		9	0				
9e	10714 8103	Reduce Library Part Time for Sunday hours	(1,245)		9	0				
9f	10715 8102	Eliminate Library Overtime for Sunday hours	(833)		9	0				
9g	10716 8102	Reduce Library Part Time for Sunday hours	(3,136)		9	0				
9h	10716 8103	Reduce Library Part Time for Sunday hours	(5,337)		9	0				
10	10644 8402	Restore Senior & Disabled Technical Equipment	\$4,900		4	5	85,367,843	36.71	0.91	2.5%
11	14000 8601	Decrease Board of Education budget to 2.8% increase	(\$488,887)		4	5	84,878,956	36.50	0.70	2.0%
TOTAL			(\$480,223)							