



John L. Salomone
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

MAYOR STEPHEN WOODS

MINUTES

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

March 28, 2013

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Woods at 7:05 p.m.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ROLL CALL

Councilor Borjeson
Councilor Bottalico
Councilor Castelle
Councilor Cohen
Councilor DelBuono
Councilor Klett
Councilor McBride
Councilor Nagel
Mayor Woods

Staff Attendees:

John Salomone, Town Manager
Ann Harter, Director of Finance
Lisa Rydecki, Deputy Finance Director
Dr. Wm. Collins, Superintendent of Schools
Lou Jachimowicz, Chief Finance & Operations Officer
Jamie Trevethan, Executive Assistant
Linda Irish-Simpson, Clerk of the Council

III. AWARDS/PROCLAMATIONS

A. National Public Health Week

Mayor Woods moved the following:

WHEREAS, healthy people and healthy communities are the centerpiece of any strong and vibrant society; and

WHEREAS, the American Public Health Association has proclaimed April 1 through April 7, 2013 as National Public Health Week; and

WHEREAS, National Public Health Week provides an opportunity for the public to learn about public health concerns and its success stories that are vital to healthy communities, such as immunizations against infectious disease; communicable disease control; tobacco

prevention; food protection; ensuring healthy living and working environments; and protection against new and emerging public health threats; and
WHEREAS, National Public Health Week also raises awareness about the fundamental role that state and local health departments play in promoting public health; and
WHEREAS, the town of Newington, together with its neighboring towns of Wethersfield, Berlin and Rocky Hill, receives quality local and public health services through its regional health department, the Central Connecticut Health District; and
WHEREAS, this year's theme is "Public Health is ROI: Save Lives, Save Money" and focuses on the return of our investment in public health and prevention; and
WHEREAS, it is important that we recognize the value of public health and the need to maintain and improve our current public health efforts;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Newington Town Council hereby proclaims April 1, 2013 to April 7, 2013 as **NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK** in Newington, Connecticut. I encourage all citizens to join me in this celebration by acknowledging the importance of public health activities in improving our local quality of life and taking action to improve and support the health of the entire community, including our own health and well-being.

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

Paul Hutchins, Director of Health in the Central Connecticut Health District, accepted the proclamation and thanked the Council. During National Health Week the district would be conducting child safety seat checks, press releases to inform the public about what National Health Week was and putting displays in libraries to inform the public about the event.

Councilor Cohen stated she felt a lot of people might not know the department existed but felt they were very efficient and thanked them for their services. Councilor Castelle wanted to thank the district for the demographic brochure put out called Community Health Report Card. He felt it gave a lot of very good information and encouraged people to review the information in it. The information included socio/economic indicators, mortality rates by age groups and poverty rates over a ten year period.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL

(No name/address given): He commented on the Board of Education's request for 15 new teachers and that six of them were for class size. He did not think it was a good way of comparing sizes by using statewide averages. Hiring four teachers for professional development he felt was something that should already be occurring, which businesses did all the time. He felt that Scientific Research Based Intervention was cool but was not convinced it would take three people to do it. His concern was the cost of 15 teachers and \$1.2 million in salary.

Dr. Finkelstein: He wanted to congratulate everyone involved in the budget process and the ability to work out compromises between parties and branches of government to enable the Board of Education to fulfill all State mandates.

V. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

Councilor DelBuono commented the public should be aware that the Town Council could only vote on a total dollar amount given to the Board of Education and did not have any say in the manner in which the money would be used and spent.

VI. CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS (Action May be Taken)

A. Set Tentative Budget – 2013-14

The Town Council read and voted on each revised item individually after brief explanations for each. All changes were adopted unanimously by a voice vote of 9 – 0.

The list of adjustments is attached.

The tentative mill rate would be \$33.63 which was a .99% increase or 3.03%.

Councilor Cohen indicated there was a reduction in bonding and stated not everyone was happy or comfortable with some of the adjustments made; however, felt the needs of the public were served by both sides coming together.

Councilor Borjeson stated he had been reading the town section of the paper to see what was happening in other surrounding towns and what other towns were doing in terms of increases to their budgets. He felt Newington came in with a low increase but it would meet the Town's needs. He thanked Steve for his leadership and Jay Bottalico for his work in the process and stepping across party lines to make it a bipartisan budget. Councilor McBride agreed with the comments of Councilor Cohen and congratulated the Mayor for his hard work and doing what was best for the Town.

Councilor DelBuono stated the budget process was not always easy or pretty to watch but was a process that had to be gone through to get to the end product. She felt that everyone at the table had done their best for the Town and were able to find common ground and thanked Mayor Woods for his leadership and Councilor Bottalico for going above and beyond in the process by finding items many did not know were in the budget. She indicated the budget was not set and hoped for input from the public since changes could still be made.

Councilor Klett commented it was easy to be on the Town Council when times are good but very difficult when times were tough and people were hurting.

Mayor Woods stated it was now the Town Council's budget but was only round one. The Council had listened to concerns and realized a 6% increase was not sustainable for the Town.

Councilor DelBuono moved to waive the rules to allow public participation on the proposed budget. The motion was seconded by Councilor Bottalico and the motion passed 9 – 0.

Dr. Finkelstein: Commented he was proud of the Town Council for the spirit of compromise and the bipartisan effort.

John Slusarski, 40 Grandview Drive: Indicated he was glad the budget was reduced from the 6% increase to 3%. He was concerned the Town had robbed the piggy bank to lower the increase by taking \$900k from the reserves and felt there would be issues going forward.

B. Board of Education CIP Ordinance Revision Proposal

Mayor Woods indicated they would correct the amount in the ordinance from \$25k to \$15k. Dr. Collins and Mr. Jachimowicz stated they were thankful to the Council and it would enable them to better manage their money. They were thankful for the compromise that would allow the schools to move forward with planned projects.

Councilor Borjeson moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby adopts amendments to the Newington Code of Ordinances Chapter 48 entitled "Funds", a copy of said amendments is attached to the resolution.

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

Article IV Public School Capital Improvement Projects Reserve Fund

[Adopted 6-16-1989 (§ 2-10 of the 1974 Code)]

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS
3-12-2013**

§ 48-14. Definitions.

As used in this article, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

PUBLIC SCHOOL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT -

A repair, renovation and/or minor addition which has a life expectancy of at least seven years and costs in excess of \$15,000 to a building and/or facility maintained by the Board of Education

§ 48-15. Creation of fund; revenues.

There is hereby created for the Town a Public School Capital Improvement Projects Reserve Fund. Said fund shall serve as a means to set aside moneys for the financing of public school capital improvement projects. There shall be paid into said fund the proceeds from the rental or sale of former school properties, including mortgage amortization payments, the earnings derived from investment of fund balances, the income from current school rental fees, tuition, and an annual appropriation of at least \$125,000, subject to § 48-16, when formulating the annual budget of the Town, and such transfers and appropriations as the Town Council may, from time to time, authorize.

§ 48-16. Fund balance.

The balance of the Public School Capital Improvement Projects Reserve Fund existing at the close of any fiscal period shall remain credited to such fund and shall not lapse to the general fund. The balance of said fund or any portion thereof may be invested separately or in conjunction with other idle Town funds, provided that any applicable interest earnings shall be credited to said fund. The fund balance shall not exceed the sum of \$450,000 \$1,200,000 at any time. All funds in excess of \$450,000 \$1,200,000 shall be immediately returned or deposited to the general fund balance.

§ 48-17. Expenditures.

- A. Expenditures from the Public School Capital Improvement Projects Reserve Fund shall only be used to finance public school capital improvement projects. Such expenditures from said fund shall conform to appropriations made by the Town Council, as requested by the Board of Education, in accordance with Article VIII of the Town Charter.
- B. No other expenditures shall be made from said fund nor shall any transfer be made from said fund for any purpose not authorized herein.

C. Town Hall Renovations: Appoint Construction Manager

Councilor McBride indicated Downes Construction Company had been picked by the committee for several reasons i.e. local, a good size and had done work on the Police Department when it was remodeled.

Councilor McBride moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council, upon the recommendation of the Town Hall Renovations Project Building Committee; hereby authorizes the Town Manager to enter into an agreement with Downes Construction Company of New Britain, CT, to provide construction management services for the Town Hall Renovations Project.

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

Mayor Woods stated the project had not been given the go ahead since the residents would have the final say in that but the resolution would move the project forward. The project would encompass the Town Hall Renovation project and the Community Center. The amount needed at this point was under \$40k and would take the Town up to and through the referendum.

VII. CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS (Action May Be Taken Only by Waiving the Rules.)

A. Discussion: Long Range CIP

Mayor Woods indicated when the budget was finalized part of it included a five year spending plan on CIP. The Town Manager reviewed the plan with the Council and gave an overview of each year's plan.

He reviewed the bonding issues for the Town Hall and Community Center as well as school projects. Further plans were for building grants, other revenue and extended out to the fifth year. He stated that even though the Town had a bond issue of \$21 million the pay as you go and debt service would not exceed the \$6.3 million per year. The debt service would go up to accomplish paying the long term debt on the bonds issued that year. He indicated the CIP was a projection of projects and within the next five years certain items would be attempted.

Mr. Salomone indicated on Table 2 there was a breakdown on the General Government side of Town Hall improvements and Community Center construction. He stated there was approximately \$6 million for the Board of Education in 2014-15 for the start of the early childhood center. Councilor Bottalico asked for a ten year plan from the Board of Education for specifics on projects and money.

B. School Code Compliance: Appoint Contractor (Action Requested)

Councilor Nagel indicated there had been nine bids submitted and the lowest bid was from Millennium Builders from Rocky Hill in the amount of \$404,400. The contractor would take care of abatements of asbestos, PCB's, etc. to the auditorium in the music wing of the High School. The Town had used this contractor in the past and was pleased with their work and their cooperation with all parties. He was asking the Council to act immediately so the projects could be completed over the summer and ready for the new school year.

Councilor Bottalico moved to waive the rules to enable a vote on the resolution to appoint the contractor for the project. The motion was seconded by Councilor DelBuono and the motion was passed 9 – 0.

Councilor Nagel moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council, pursuant to Chapter 8, Article X, Project Building Committees, of the Newington Code of Ordinances; and upon the recommendation of the School Code Compliance Project Building Committee; hereby accepts the base bid of Millennium Builders of Rocky Hill, CT in the amount of \$404,400, for abatement and demolition work related to the code compliance project at Newington High School.

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

C. Senior Center Roof Project Building Committee

John Salomone stated the Senior Center Project was estimated to be over \$700k for the replacement of the roof and anything over \$250k required a building committee to be established. He requested the Council create a committee. Councilor Bottalico asked if the existing Wallace Roof Committee could be given the project, and Mr. Salomone stated it could be assigned to any committee the Council thought was appropriate. Mayor Woods commented a new committee should be created and ensure there was representation from the Senior Center. He said it should consist of three Council members, two from the Senior Center, Jeff Baron, Dianne Stone and Robert Korpak.

D. 2014 Historic Documents Preservation Grant

John Salomone stated the Town was eligible for the grant and would continue the indexing of the digital imaging system. The grant amounted to \$6,500. A resolution would be voted on at the next Council meeting.

VIII. RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS (Action May Be Taken)

A. Capitol Region Council of Governments

- 1. Accept Resignation of Michael Carragher from the Regional Planning Commission**

Councilor Borjeson moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the resignation of Michael Carragher as a Town Plan and Zoning representative member of the Capitol Region Council of Governments, in accordance with correspondence received on March 14, 2013.

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

B. Conservation Commission – Appoint Alternate

Councilor McBride moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby appoints the following to the Conservation Commission:

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
Alternate: Deborah Krawiec	267 Cottonwood Road	D	IMMED – 11-30-15	Vacant

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

IX. TAX REFUNDS

Councilor DelBuono moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That property tax refunds in the amount of \$4,878.51 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 Nagel and the motion passed 9 – 0.

X. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- A. Special Meeting, Budget, March 4, 2013**

- B. Special Meeting, Budget, March 5, 2013
- C. Public Hearing, Budget, March 12, 2013
- D. Regular Meeting, March 12, 2013

Councilor DelBuono moved to accept all of the meeting minutes as read and was seconded by Councilor Nagel. The motion passed 9 – 0.

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

None

XII. COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Nagel attended a meeting of the School Code Compliance Committee and indicated there was a continuing on-going problem with a sub-contractor who did not finish to the Town's satisfaction and were waiting for the Town Attorney to give the Committee guidance on what action should be taken.

XIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL

None

XIV. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

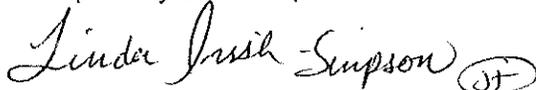
Councilor Klett stated she had received an email from a resident indicating there would be a 5k race for ALS research in former Mayor Mazzoccoli's honor to be held on September 21 and hoped everyone in Town would support this very important cause.

Councilor Cohen urged residents to give their feedback regarding the tentative budget and wanted to hear whether they were happy or not. Mayor Woods indicated there would be a public hearing on the budget on April 4 and also urged residents to attend and give their comments on the budget.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Bottalico moved to adjourn at 8:55 p.m. and was seconded by Councilor Borjeson. The motion passed 9 – 0.

Respectfully Submitted,



Linda Irish-Simpson
Clerk of the Council

ADJUSTMENTS TO 2013-14 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET

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 2013-14:
 Amt. to be raised by taxes: 85,939,018
 Net Adjusted Collectible Grand List: 2,479,685.049
 Value of mill: 2,479,685

3466
 85,939,018
 2,479,685.049
 2,479,685

For Reference Only

Item #	Account #	Description	Change In		COUNCIL VOTE		Amount to Be Raised By Taxes	Revised Mill Rate	Mill Change	Percent Change
			Tax Burden		Yes	No				
1	10154	8224	Increase Elderly Tax Relief	\$31,000		9	85,939,018	34.66	2.02	6.19%
2	10197	8101	Postpone hiring of IT position for 2 months	(\$9,875)		9	85,970,018	34.67	2.03	6.22%
3	10197	8220	Increase for additional maintenance for NVFD BlueLink	\$8,000		9	85,960,143	34.67	2.03	6.22%
4	10324	8306	Decrease Enhanced Salt	(\$76,800)		9	85,968,143	34.67	2.03	6.22%
5	10327	8309	Decrease Motor Fuel based on new rate	(\$20,635)		9	85,891,343	34.64	2.00	6.13%
6	10810	8103	Transfer P&R Admin Part time to Recreation Fund	(\$33,523)		9	85,870,708	34.63	1.99	6.10%
7	10831	8101	Decrease Parks & Grounds Full time due to change in personnel	(\$6,543)		9	85,837,185	34.62	1.98	6.07%
8	10831	8102	Decrease Parks & Grounds OT due to change in personnel	(\$1,125)		9	85,830,642	34.61	1.97	6.04%
9	10832	8101	Increase Cemetery Full-time for upgrade to position	\$4,782		9	85,829,517	34.61	1.97	6.04%
10	10832	8102	Increase Cemetery OT for upgrade to position	\$1,336		9	85,834,299	34.62	1.98	6.07%
10	10941	8220	Decrease Medical Insurance - Lower reserve fund	(\$603,728)		9	85,835,635	34.62	1.98	6.07%
11	10943	8220	Reduce Retirement for Information Tech position	(\$888)		9	85,231,907	34.37	1.73	5.30%
12	10944	8220	Transfer Social Security for P&R position	(\$2,565)		9	85,231,019	34.37	1.73	5.30%
13	10944	8220	Reduce Social Security for Information Tech position	(\$755)		9	85,228,454	34.37	1.73	5.30%
14	14000	8601	Reduce Board of Education to a 4.34% increase	(\$1,047,216)		9	85,227,699	34.37	1.73	5.30%
15	10154	5002	Increase Priorated Motor Vehicles	(\$80,000)		9	84,180,483	33.95	1.31	4.01%
16	10154	5004	Increase Prior Year Taxes	(\$50,000)		9	84,100,483	33.92	1.28	3.92%
17	10154	5005	Increase Interest & Liens	(\$55,000)		9	84,050,483	33.90	1.26	3.86%
18	10154	5602	Increase Parking Ticket	(\$5,000)		9	83,995,483	33.87	1.23	3.77%
19	10154	6013	Increase Telecommunications Tax	(\$55,937)		9	83,990,483	33.87	1.23	3.77%
20	10260	6045	Increase in Emergency Management Grant	(\$10,110)		9	83,934,546	33.85	1.21	3.71%
21	10151	6114	Include FEMA Storm Assistance for February Blizzard	(\$115,000)		9	83,924,436	33.84	1.20	3.68%
22	10151	7001	Increase Transfer from Capital Non-Recurring Fund for partial balance of Fenn Road Access Road	(\$130,000)		9	83,809,436	33.80	1.16	3.55%
23	10151	7001	Increase Transfer from Capital Non-Recurring Fund for partial balance of Radio Replacement Reserve	(\$50,000)		9	83,679,436	33.75	1.11	3.40%
24	10151	7001	Increase Transfer from Capital Non-Recurring Fund for partial balance of Traffic Signalization Reserve	(\$37,500)		9	83,629,436	33.73	1.09	3.34%
25	10151	7001	Increase Transfer from Capital Non-Recurring Fund for partial balance of Road Reconstruction Reserve	(\$30,000)		9	83,591,936	33.71	1.07	3.28%
26	10151	7001	Increase Transfer from Capital Non-Recurring Fund for partial balance of Drainage Improvements	(\$75,000)		9	83,561,936	33.70	1.06	3.25%
27	10151	7012	Increase Transfer from Cemetery Fund	(\$6,118)		9	83,486,936	33.67	1.03	3.16%
28			Increase Tax Collection Rate to 98.6%	(\$95,000)		9	83,480,818	33.67	1.03	3.16%
			TOTAL	(\$2,553,200)		9	83,385,818	33.63	0.99	3.03%

**ADJUSTMENTS TO 2013-14 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET
FOR LOCIP FUND**

Item #	Account	Description	Change	COUNCIL VOTE	
				Yes	No
1	20323	87109 Increase Expenditures for Road Reconstruction of Oregon Avenue	\$35,000	9	
Total			35,000		