



John L. Salomone  
Town Manager

# TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET  
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

**MAYOR STEPHEN WOODS**

## MINUTES

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

**April 4, 2013**

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The meeting was called to order by Mayor Woods at 7:00 p.m. for residents to express their views regarding the Town Council's Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2013-14

### **I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Woods presented a PowerPoint display explaining the Town Council's budget. A copy is attached.

### **II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Madeline Kenny, 53 Crestview Drive: Thanked the Council for their efforts and was encouraged the Library's automated collection management system was included but disappointed to see it might be eliminated. She commented on the closing of Churchill Pool and was wondering where that came from since Mrs. Kenny felt it would adversely affect the Parks and Rec Department summer programs and the number of people who use it.

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: She agreed with Mrs. Kenny on the comparing of numbers in the budget that were not formatted in the same way, which made it confusing for the public. She commented on the budget changes and the transfers from capital projects. She understood the money that was taken away but would have liked to see a breakdown and would want to see the net reduction for various personnel changes including what was cut.

John Slusarski, 40 Grandview Drive: He indicated he had studied peer Towns budgets to review taxes, pension obligations, etc. He thought Newington's taxes were reasonably low compared to other towns, pensions were underfunded compared to others, the Board of Education spending was above average, and that Glastonbury and West Hartford taxes were high. When he reviewed the other towns, he found the public school expenditures per pupil were the highest in the group he looked at. Mr. Slusarski found the Newington mill rate compared to other towns was 11% higher than the average, 27% higher than Avon, Berlin and Rocky Hill and 40% higher than Farmington. He stated Glastonbury and West Hartford were only 5-7% higher than Newington. The pension obligation was substantially underfunded compared to the other towns. He felt it might be time for a Taxpayer Advocate for the Town and if anyone was interested in this, to contact him at: [newingtontaxes@aol.com](mailto:newingtontaxes@aol.com). Mr. Slusarski commented on the \$8 million price tag for a separate Park and Rec building and kept hearing it would not cost the Town more and taxes would not go up. He felt the Town had a \$6.3 million pay-as-you-go and CIP slush fund. The Town had given the Council the ability to spend \$6.3 million a year and when given that amount of money, it would be spent. If the Park and Rec building cost \$8 million, it would cost \$8 million more in taxes, which would be 3 points in the mill rate or 9% more in taxes over the long run.

Phone: (860) 665-8510 Fax: (860) 665-8507  
[townmanager@newingtonct.gov](mailto:townmanager@newingtonct.gov)  
[www.newingtonct.gov](http://www.newingtonct.gov)

Peter Arburr, 133 Tremont Street: He had comments on the following:

1. The budget was being balanced on one shot deals and transfers of money. The money would not be there next year and would have to be found elsewhere.
2. Every year there is a \$2.5 million in reserve which seemed like a built in tax and felt the money should be put on the table.
3. He questioned if Churchill Pool was being shutdown. He stated there was a study of Mill Pond and wondered what would happen if Churchill was closed.
4. He stated several months ago there was a joint committee formed between the Board of Education and the Council on CIP, which had been put forth several times before at budget meetings and fell on deaf ears. He felt it could have been in effect several years earlier if the public suggestions had been acted on.

### III. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Woods moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. and the motion was seconded by Councilor Bottalico. The motion passed 9 – 0.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Linda Irish-Simpson* (JT)  
Linda Irish-Simpson  
Clerk of the Council



## Town of Newington

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April 4, 2013

Public Hearing

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Town Council's

Tentative Budget

Fiscal Year 2013-2014

## 2013-14 Budget Schedule

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April 4 <sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m.	Public Hearing: Town Council Proposed Budget
April 4 <sup>th</sup> 8:00 p.m.	Special Meeting: Changes to Proposed Budget
April 11 <sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m.	Special Meeting: Adopt Budget & Set the Mill Rate

**Changes to Town Manager's Recommended Budget**

Description	\$
Reduce Funding To Board Of Education	-1,047,216
Decrease Funding to Health Benefits Fund	-603,728
Increase Revenue Estimates for Prior Taxes, Interest, Pro-rated Motor Vehicle, Telecommunications Tax & Emergency Management Grants	-371,047
Include Transfer From Capital Project funds:	-322,500
>Fenn Road Access	
>Radio Replacement	
>Traffic Signalization	
>Road Reconstruction	
>Drainage Improvements	
Decrease Enhanced Salt	-76,800

**Changes to Town Manager's Recommended Budget**

Description	\$
Net Reduction for Various Personnel Changes	-55,274
Decrease Motor Fuel based on new rate	-20,635
Increase for additional maintenance for NVFD Bluelink	8,000
Increase Elderly Tax Relief	31,000

## Budgetary Highlights

- ❖ Meets the needs of the community
- ❖ No decrease in services
- ❖ Education budget increased by \$2.75 million or 4.34%
- ❖ Mill rate increase of .99 or 3.03%

### Changes to Town Manager's CIP Recommended Budget

Project Title	Manager Proposed	Council Tentative
Senior & Disabled Center HVAC	45,000	85,000
Town Buildings Mechanical Reserve	0	35,000
Information Technology Reserve	300,000	345,000
Police Records Management System	0	50,000
Sidewalk & Stonewall Repair	25,000	50,000
Public Building Resurfacing Program	50,000	75,000
Library Automated Collection Mgmt System	43,113	65,561
Mill Pond Park Renovation Study	25,000	32,552
Park and Playfield Improvements	50,000	100,000
STEM Academy JW/MK & NHS Career/Technical	1,300,000	1,000,000

**Overview of Changes to  
Town Manager's Recommended Budget**  
(in thousands)

	Proposed	Tentative	Change
General Government	31,502	30,791	-711
Board of Education	67,144	66,097	-1,047
Debt Service & CIP	5,976	5,976	0
MDC	3,102	3,102	0
Employee Leave Liability Fund	93	93	0
<b>Total Appropriations</b>	<b>107,817</b>	<b>106,059</b>	<b>-1,758</b>
Non-Tax Revenue	-19,628	-20,328	700
Applied Fund Balance	-2,250	-2,250	0
<b>Amount to be Raised by Taxes (A)</b>	<b>85,939</b>	<b>83,481</b>	<b>-2,458</b>
<b>Net Adjusted Grand List (B)</b>	<b>2,479,685</b>	<b>2,482,202</b>	<b>2,517</b>
<b>Mill Rate (A/B)</b>	<b>34.66</b>	<b>33.63</b>	<b>-1.03</b>

**Town Council's Tentative Budget – FY 2013-14**

	Tentative	\$ Change from PY	% Change from PY
<b>Total Appropriations</b>	<b>106,058,696</b>	<b>2,616,755</b>	<b>2.53</b>
General Government	30,790,517	314,261	1.03
Board of Education	66,096,870	2,749,285	4.34
Debt Service & CIP	5,976,159	-598,841	-9.11
MDC	3,102,250	150,250	5.09
Non-Tax Revenue	20,327,878	89,275	0.44
Applied Fund Balance	2,250,000	0	0.00
<b>Amount to be Raised by Taxes</b>	<b>83,480,818</b>	<b>2,527,480</b>	<b>3.12</b>

**Town Council's Tentative Budget – FY 2011-12**

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**Mill Rate – Residential Taxpayer Impact\***

Taxpayer	Mill Rate	Tax Amount	Increase	%
2013-14	33.63	\$5,326	\$157	3.03%

\*Based upon assessment of \$158,368



**Town of Newington**

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April 4, 2013

Public Hearing

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Town Council's

Tentative Budget

Fiscal Year 2013-2014