



John L. Salomone  
Town Manager

# TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET  
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

**MAYOR STEPHEN WOODS**

## MINUTES

### NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING 7:00 P.M.

November 27, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Woods at 7 p.m. in the Helen Nelson Room.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ROLL CALL

Councilor Borjeson  
Councilor Bottalico  
Councilor Castelle  
Councilor Cohen  
Councilor DelBuono (Absent)  
Councilor Klett (Absent)  
Councilor McBride  
Councilor Nagel  
Mayor Woods

Staff Attendees:

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

IV CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS

A. Elderly Tax Exempt

Councilor Borjeson moved the following:

**WHEREAS, many elderly tax paying residents are on a limited income budget; and**

**WHEREAS, property taxes are absorbing more of the fixed incomes of said elderly taxpayers; and**

**WHEREAS, the Newington Town Council wishes the Town Manager to include a additional tax relief amount to qualified elderly tax paying residents,**

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council directs the Town Manager to include a \$25,000 aggregate amount to be distributed to eligible elderly taxpaying residents for the fiscal year 2013-2014.**

Councilor Bottalico asked if money was not available at budget time for this item could the Council drop it and was told that could happen. Councilor Cohen explained the resolution authorized the Town Manager to include this money in the budget to be reviewed at that time. Councilor Nagel asked if the threshold for the elderly

exemption would be raised or not and/or discussed at budget time. It was explained nothing had been discussed about the exemption and would be discussed in the spring.

The motion was seconded and passed 7 – 0 (Councilors Klett & DelBuono, absent)

B. Town Council Rules of Procedure

Councilor Castelle moved the following:

**WHEREAS: the Newington Town Council amends its Rules of Procedure from time to time; and  
WHEREAS: the Rules of Procedure were last amended on March 9, 2010;  
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Newington Town Council hereby amends Rules of Procedure as indicated on the attached document.**

Councilor Castelle stated this item was brought to the Council by Councilor Bottalico and thought it was a good idea to allow the Council to respond to residents after public participation so that the residents did not have to wait until the end of the meeting for answers or responses from Council and Councilor McBride agreed.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Cohen and was passed 7 – 0 (Councilors Klett & DelBuono, absent)

C. Emergency Management Performance Grant

Councilor Borjeson moved the following:

**RESOLVED:**

**That Town Manager John L. Salomone is hereby authorized to act on behalf of the**

**Newington Town Council and the Town of Newington in executing a Memorandum of Understanding with the State of Connecticut, Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, for participation in the Emergency Management Performance Grant program.**

The motion was seconded by Councilor Cohen and passed 7 – 0 (Councilors Klett & DelBuono, absent)

**V. CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS**

A. Administrative Group Salaries

John Salomone explained the budget for the year included a 2% salary increase for the administrative group of employees and usually the release of the funds was done after negotiations had been completed with the unions. The money would have to be moved from the contingency fund to the individual accounts. Although negotiations had not been completed the salary amounts were not in dispute and were very close to an agreement. The administrative group included department heads, IT, Parks and Rec, and Social Services individuals. He asked the Council to consider his proposal for the next meeting and vote on the resolution at that time.

Councilor Bottalico was uncomfortable with an across the board 2% increase for all individuals. He would prefer to have department heads evaluated and given a raise on their performance. He felt if an individual was doing an excellent job and one was doing a mediocre job one should get a higher percentage than the other. Mayor Woods understood the Councilor's feelings on the matter and indicated the private sector usually granted raises on merit. However, he felt it was not fair for the administrative group to wait for salary increases because the union negotiations were still ongoing. Mr. Salomone did not disagree with the concept but felt it would have to wait until the following year in order to develop a fair process for each evaluation and to give people formal notice of the change.

Mr. Salomone suggested the topic be added to the goal setting meeting in January. Mayor Woods asked if the money could be placed directly in the various accounts instead of the contingency fund in the future and would doing that allow the Town Manager the discretion to move forward. John Salomone indicated that he could and would discuss his ideas on how to do that with the Council at a later date. The Mayor indicated that the Town did not have a formal Human Resources Department and thought it might be possible for further collaboration with the Board of Education in the area and possibly add a person under Dr. Carver to handle these sorts of items.

**VI. APPOINTMENTS**

- A. Town Hall Renovations Project Building Committee
  - 1. Accept Resignation of Jay Bottalico

Councilor Borjeson moved the following:

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the resignation of John “Jay” Bottalico from the Town Hall Renovation Project Building Committee per a communication dated November 13, 2012.**

The motion was seconded by Councilor Nagel and passed 7 – 0 (Councilors Klett & DelBuono, absent)

- 2. Appoint a Replacement (none)
- 3. Accept Resignation of Jeff Perillo

Councilor Nagel moved the following:

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the resignation of Jeff Perillo from the Town Hall Renovation Project Building Committee per a communication dated November 20, 2012.**

The motion was seconded by Councilor Bottalico and passed 7 – 0 (Councilors Klett & DelBuono, absent)

- 4. Appoint a Replacement (none)
- B. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

Commission on Aging and Disabled

Councilor Borjeson moved the following:

Name	Address	Party	Appt. Party	Term	Replaces
Stein Ramstad	555 Main Street	D	D	Immed. – 11/30/12	Diana Robino (deceased)
Margaret Antinerella	57 Sunnyside Road	D	D	12/1/12 – 11/30/15	M. Antinerella (term exp. 11-2012)
Maureen Lynch	165 Foxboro Drive	D	D	12/1/12 – 11/30/15	M. Lynch (term exp. 11-2012)

Development Commission

Councilor Borjeson moved the following:

James Marocchini	75 Michael Lane	D	D	12/1/12 – 11/30/15	J. Marocchini (term exp. 11/30/12)
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EMS Committee

Gloria Oleson	1433 Willard Avenue	D	D	1/1/13 – 12/31/14	G. Oleson (term exp. 12/31/12)
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Board of Ethics

Barbara DeMaio	37 Sunnybrook Drive	D	D	12/1/12 – 11/30/16	B. Johnston (term exp 11/30/12)
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<b>Alternate: Rosemarie Sarubbi-Lyons</b>	<b>46 Elton Drive</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>12/1/12 – 11/30/16</b>	<b>L. Connery (term exp 11/30/12)</b>
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Councilor Bottalico questioned Mrs. DeMaio qualifications for the board and called for a roll call vote on Barbara DeMaio's appointment.

- Councilor Borjeson - yes
- Councilor Bottalico - no
- Councilor Castelle - yes
- Councilor Cohen - yes
- Councilor DelBuono (Absent)
- Councilor Klett (Absent)
- Councilor McBride - yes
- Councilor Nagel - no
- Mayor Woods - yes

Fair Rent Commission

<b>Neutral Elector: Lyn Connery</b>	<b>225 Robbins Avenue</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>12/1/12 – 11/30/14</b>	<b>J. Kelly (term exp. 11/30/12)</b>
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Housing Authority

<b>Stephen Karp</b>	<b>79 Eddy Lane</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>12/1/12 – 11/30/17</b>	<b>S. Karp (term exp. 11/30/12)</b>
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Standing Insurance Committee

<b>Underwriter: Cheryl Constantine</b>	<b>198 Beacon Street</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>12/1/12 – 11/30/14</b>	<b>C. Constantine (term exp. 11/30/12)</b>
<b>Underwriter: James Zolad</b>	<b>269 Candlewyck Drive</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>12/1/12 – 11/30/14</b>	<b>J. Zolad (term exp. 11/30/12)</b>

The motions were seconded by Councilor Cohen and passed 7 – 0 (Councilor Klett & DelBuono, absent). The roll call on Barbara Demaio's appointment to the Board of Ethics passed 5 - 2:

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

Councilor Castelle moved the following:

**RESOLVED:**

**That property tax refunds in the amount of \$3,213.20 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 passed 7 – 0 (Councilors Klett & DelBuono, absent)

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

Councilor Cohen questioned the Town Manager regarding his monthly report on page 11 under the heading of Town Planner and the wording of Deming Farms vs. Deming Road. The Town Manager explained it was a typo in his report.

Councilor Bottalico asked about the storm related pay to the Police Department and if the pay came from the Police Department budget or contingency and Mr. Salomone state it came from the Police Department budget.

**IX. COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilor Castelle gave a report on the Employee Insurance and Pension Benefits Committee:

1. Health plan side: claims were approximately \$800k which was a saving of \$17k less than anticipated for the Town and claims for the Board of Education was \$2.5 million, which was a savings of \$482k.
2. Pension plan side: Committee was pleased with the performance and made a change of one fund manager with two new managers.

**X. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL (none)**

**XI. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS**

Councilor Bottalico commented that according to the Town's Ethics Rules and Regulations Barb DeMaio was not eligible for the Ethics Board since she was the Chair of the Democrat Nomination Committee. Mayor Woods indicated she was chair of a sub-committee and did not believe it met the criteria Councilor Bottalico referred to.

Councilor Borjeson commended the volunteers delivering meals recently as well as the Human Services Department personnel.

Councilor Bottalico asked about why the recent meetings for the Market Square Committee had been cancelled and if the contractor had walked off the job. Mr. Salomone explained the Town was in the process of securing the bond due to unfinished work. Most of the work had been done and the Town felt the contractor was not going to complete the job but the process of being paid from the insurance company would take time. Since there was nothing new to discuss or report, he had recommended the meetings be cancelled. Councilor Bottalico asked about the fine leveled against a contractor for overruns, and Mr. Salomone indicated the contractor had received the letter with regards to that. Councilor McBride stated the work had been excellent to date and the project was substantially complete. The process needed to play out before a final meeting of the committee could be held.

Mayor Woods commented he felt Mrs. DeMaio was qualified for the Ethics Committee.

**XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION RE: COLLECTIVE BARGAINING & PERSONNEL**

Councilor Cohen motioned for the Council to go into executive session at 8:05 p.m. and the motion was seconded by Councilor Castelle. The motion passed 7 – 0 (Councilors Klett & DelBuono, absent). All Councilors present at the regular meeting, Town Manager Salomone and Atty. Ken Plumb were present at the Executive Session.

Councilor Nagel moved to adjourn from Executive Session at 8:50 p.m. Motion seconded by Councilor Bottalico. Motion passed 7-0 (Councilors Klett & DelBuono, absent).

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Councilor Cohen moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:51 p.m. Motion seconded by Councilor Borjeson. Motion passed 7-0 (Councilors Klett & DelBuono, absent)

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Irish-Simpson  
Clerk of the Council