



John L. Salomone
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

MAYOR STEPHEN WOODS

MINUTES

**NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
HELEN NELSON ROOM – TOWN HALL
7:00 P.M.**

March 6, 2012

NOTE: PLEASE REFER TO AUDIO TAPES FOR A COMPLETE TRANSCRIPT OF THIS MEETING. AUDIO TAPES ARE ON FILE IN THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE.

Mayor Woods called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Helen Nelson Room of the Newington Town Hall.

I & II PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & ROLL CALL

Councilors Present

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

Staff Present

John Salomone, Town Manager
Ann Harter – Director of Finance
Lisa Rydecki – Deputy Director of Finance

III PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – ON AGENDA

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: Ms. Lyons spoke about some technical needs for boards and commissions such as a scanner to scan maps and other items to be posted on the Town website.

IV CONSIDERATION NEW BUSINESS

A. Public Works (Engineering, Highway, Sanitation)

Town Manager Salomone reviewed the following sections of his proposed FY 2012-12 budget:

Section 310 – Engineering

- Full time salaries are reduced due to the retirement of the previous Town Engineer and the lower salary of the new Engineer. There is also a vacancy created by the proportion of the Assistant Town Engineer to the Town Engineer.

Town Manager Salomone, Highway Superintendent Tom Molloy and Assistant Superintendent Rob Hillman reviewed the following sections of his proposed FY 2012-12 budget

Section 321- Highway Department Administration

- Slight increase due to contractual longevity payments.
- Councilor Bottalico inquired whether the same contractor is responsible for various departmental uniforms, including Highway and police. Town Manager Salomone replied in the negative.
- Mayor Woods inquired about mandated OSHA safety training. Mr. Molloy replied that staff completes all mandated training, most of which is done online.

Section 322 – Highway Operations

- Salaries are increased to account for previously vacant positions being fully staffed for the entire year.
- Overtime and contractual costs are decreased to account for FEMA-reimbursed storm work.
- Capital outlay is to purchase a used bulldozer, which should be cost effective and a good investment.
- Councilor Bottalico inquired about whether all of the roads slated for reconstruction were finished. Mr. Molloy stated that most have been finished; only one has been delayed due to sewer issues.

Section 324 – Snow and Ice Control

- Overtime and contractual services are decreased to account for FEMA-reimbursed storm work.
- Materials are decreased due to a stockpile of salt on hand due to the mild 2011-12 winter.

Section 325 – Highway Department Traffic

- Overtime and contractual services are decreased to account for FEMA-reimbursed storm work.
- A decrease in technical equipment reflects a one-time purchase of a paint machine in 2011.
- Councilor Bottalico inquired about how many traffic lights the Town owns. Mr. Molloy replied that the Town owns 13 of the 52 light located in the Town.

Section 327 – Vehicles and Equipment

- Overtime and contractual services are decreased to account for FEMA-reimbursed storm work.
- Equipment maintenance has been increased to trend, for specialty repairs. Mr. Molloy stated that the majority of the work is done in-house. Repair work is only sent out if it is more cost-effective to do so.

Section 328 – Leaf Collection

- No change from FY 2011-12 budget

Section 351 – Refuse Collection

- Decrease reflects savings in new refuse collection contracts.

Section 352 – Refuse Disposal

- Decrease reflects a tipping fee decrease due to a new contract that will go into effect in 2012. TM Salomone explained that Newington is one of the first towns in the area to move away from CRRA and to other disposal vendors.

Section 353 - Solid Waste Services

- An increase in the contract price for recyclable collection will be partially offset by a recycling revenue item starting in November 2012. The Town will be paid \$22.00 per ton beginning with the new contract. Overall, this program will be a substantial savings.

B. Community Planning and Development

Town Manager Salomone reviewed the following sections of the budget with the Council.

Section 420 – Town Planner, Planning and Development

- Decrease due to Town Planner position turnover. Town Manager Salomone stated that some of the savings will be utilized to hire a part-time Economic Development professional. Mayor Woods remarked that this position should be beneficial to the Town's growth and development.

Section 430 – Town Plan and Zoning Commission

- No substantial changes from the FY 2011-12 budget.

Section 440 – Zoning Board of Appeals

- No substantial changes from the FY 2011-12 budget.

Section 450 – Building Department

- No substantial changes from the FY 2011-12 budget.
- TM Salomone noted that with the state of the economy there is still not a need for additional Building Inspectors.

Section 460 – Conservation Commission

- No substantial changes from the FY 2011-12 budget.

Section 471 – Economic Development Director

- This is a new position created using the savings from the Planning Department for a part-time Economic Development position. The account is for a salary and for operational expenses such as training or conferences.
- Mayor Woods noted that these duties were once held by the Town Planner, but will be divided out by this position in order to concentrate on development.

Section 472 – Development Commission

- No substantial changes from the FY 2011-12 budget

V PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - ON AGENDA - none

VI REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

Councilor Bottalico inquired whether storm reimbursement funds are included in the budget or will it require a transfer. Town Manager Salomone stated that he anticipates receiving the reimbursement in the next fiscal year. He stated that the funds came out of the current year's fund balance. He stated that this will be discussed further in an upcoming meeting.

Councilor Cohen requested information regarding the split between commercial and residential properties before and after reval on the Grand List. Councilor Cohen also inquired about elderly tax relief from the State, especially at the lowest income levels.

Councilor Borjeson inquired whether the fund balance used for storm related costs will be replaced once FEMA funds are received. Town Manager Salomone referred to his budget message in the Town Manager's proposed budget. He stated that this will be further discussed at a future meeting.

VII ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Bottalico moved to adjourn from the regular meeting at 8:20p.m. The motion seconded by Councilor Cohen. Motion passed 8-0. (Councilor Klett-absent)

Respectfully Submitted,

Jaime Trevethan
Executive Assistant to the Town Manager

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