



John L. Salomone
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

MAYOR JEFF WRIGHT

MINUTES

NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

January 12, 2010

Mayor Wright called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the Helen Nelson Room of the Newington Town Hall.

I PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II ROLL CALL

Councilors Present:

Councilor Banach
Councilor Casasanta
Councilor Cohen
Councilor Klett
Councilor Lenares
Councilor McBride
Councilor Nagel
Councilor Nasinnyk
Mayor Wright

Staff Present:

John L. Salomone, Town Manager
Ed Meehan, Town Planner
Tony Ferraro, Town Engineer
Tom Molloy, Highway Superintendent
Rob Hillman, Asst. Highway Superintendent
Jaime Trevethan Executive Asst. to the Town Manager

III PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL (none)

IV CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS

A. Recycling Collection Contract

Mayor Wright invited Highway Superintendent Tom Molloy and Asst. Highway Superintendent Rob Hillman to the table to discuss the recycling collection contracts. Mayor Wright explained that the Town is looking to extend its contract with its current recycling collection hauler, CWPM, for two years at an increase of three-percent per year. He noted that the program would involve changing to automatic pickup and larger recycling bins.

Mr. Molloy stated that with the Council's approval the Town will proceed to extend the contract with CWPM. He stated that the contract should be executed by January 22, 2010, the contract for the bins will be awarded by mid February and the new bins will be distributed by the beginning of April. He indicated that based on this

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timeline the new collection program should start in early May 2010. Mayor Wright stated that single-family homes will receive 95-gallon bins, condominium units will receive 65-gallon bins, but the option will exist for homeowners to receive smaller 35-gallon bins if needed. Councilor Cohen inquired whether the smaller bins are simply shorter in height or if they have a smaller opening. Mr. Molloy replied that the 65-gallon bin takes up about the same floor space as the current blue bins and the 35-gallon bin is very small. He stated that the opening is smaller on the two smaller sizes than on the 95-gallon.

Mayor Wright inquired whether there will be sample bins for residents to view. Mr. Molloy stated that they are waiting on one more delivery, at which time there will be samples. Deputy Mayor Lenares inquired whether chosen vendor will deliver the new bins. Mr. Molloy replied in the affirmative. Deputy Mayor Lenares inquired whether the delivery will be part of the bid. Mr. Molloy replied in the affirmative. Mayor Wright inquired about the color of the bins. Mr. Molloy replied that they will be blue.

Councilor Nasinnyk inquired whether the sample bins will be displayed publicly. Mr. Molloy replied that there will be a five to ten minute informational clip regarding the containers and collection that will be broadcast on NCTV. Councilor Nasinnyk inquired whether the bins can be displayed somewhere publicly such as the Town Hall so that people can see the size differences up close. Mr. Molloy replied in the affirmative. Town Manager Salomone also noted that there will be photographs and information on the Town website. He noted that the residents already have experience with these types of bins. Councilor McBride stated that while residents should be comfortable with how the bins work he expressed concern about educating residents about which items will be recyclable with this new program and inquired whether there are any plans in place to do so. Mr. Molloy explained that there will be a weather-proof sticker on the front of the bins with a list of what can be recycled. He noted that there will also be fliers distributed, as well as the NCTV spots, information on the Town's website and information printed in the newspapers.

Deputy Mayor Lenares moved the following:

WHEREAS, the Town has entered into a contract with CWPM, LLC, of Plainville for recycling collection for residential homes, condominiums and elderly housing complexes; and
WHEREAS, that contract expires on June 30, 2010; and
WHEREAS, CWPM has proposed to increase the cost per dwelling unit by three-percent per year for the next two years;
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Newington Town Council hereby authorizes the Town Manager to waive the bid process for recycling collection; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town exercises its option to extend the contract with CWPM through June 30, 2012, at an increase of three-percent per year.

Motion seconded by Councilor Nagel. Motion passed 9-0.

Mayor Wright inquired about recycling at Town Hall. Mr. Molloy explained that there are currently two paper dumpsters at Town Hall, which will be replaced with single stream dumpsters, and the new dumpsters will be utilized by the Library as well. He also noted that the schools and a few of the parks will have recycling dumpsters as well. Councilor Nasinnyk remarked that if Town is going to increase its recycling then the Town Hall should set an example and do so too. She inquired about recycling within the offices of the Town Hall. Mr. Molloy stated that there will be a blue bin in every office to collect recyclables. Councilor Nasinnyk requested to have the blue bins in the conference rooms as well. Mayor Wright stated that passing this resolution is the start of something great for the Town and commented that will also save the taxpayers quite a bit of money. He stated that it will be important for everyone in the Town to help pitch in, in order to make the program successful.

B. Hiring and Spending Freeze

Councilor Banach moved to table the item. Motion seconded by Councilor Nasinnyk.

Councilor Nasinnyk stated that she would be in favor of discussing this item, along with other related items, in more detail at the upcoming Council goal setting session. Councilor Cohen stated that while it is not an issue of being opposed to the resolution she thinks that the language in the resolution does not adequately convey the Council's message. Mayor Wright agreed that it would make sense to discuss the item during the goal setting session.

Motion to table the item passed 9-0.

V CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS

A. Sale of State Land – Cedar Street

Mayor Wright indicated that the State is in the process of selling several parcels of land throughout the State, and this particular parcel measures about 0.1 acres and is located on Cedar Street, near Constance Leigh Drive. He stated that the land is currently maintained by the State and remarked that it is not particularly developable. Councilor Nasinnyk inquired about the asking price for the property. Town Manager Salomone explained that if the Town expresses interest in the land then the process would proceed with appraisals to determine the purchase price. Councilor Klett inquired whether area homeowners are informed about the property being offered for sale. Town Manager Salomone explained that the Town has the first right of refusal on the purchase, so unless the Town refuses, area residents would not know about the offer. The Council agreed, by consensus, not to move forward with the purchase.

B. National Welding Property/Fenn Road Redevelopment Opportunity Site

Mayor Wright invited Town Planner Ed Meehan, Town Engineer Tony Ferraro and Economic Development Commission (EDC) Chair Tom Shields to the table for discussion. The Mayor noted that the focus of the discussion will be about a piece of property on Cedar Street and Fenn Road, owned by a private developer and located next to the former National Welding property, which is now Town-owned. He commented that the former National Welding property is the Town's number one blighted property and stated that the Town Planner would discuss an opportunity to make the area a much more marketable site.

Mr. Meehan stated that this area has been discussed many years by both the TPZ and the Town Council. He stated that this location carries quite a bit of potential for reuse and redevelopment. He presented a PowerPoint presentation to the Council regarding the site, including traffic and development issues and opportunities. (See attached presentation).

Discussion followed. Commissioner Shields indicated that the EDC had discussed this item at length and has made it the number one priority for development in the Town. He stated the Commission members voted unanimously to move forward with this as the priority project and to begin looking for funds for clean up and development of the site. Mr. Ferraro stated that it will be a challenging site from an engineering perspective.

Mayor Wright remarked that as a gateway site this is a very important area to the community. He stated that approximately 30,000 – 40,000 cars pass through the area daily and stated that this is a great opportunity for redevelopment and could generate substantial tax revenue with very little cost to the Town. He recognized that the busway is a component of the project as well and noted that the busway portion has been somewhat controversial. He inquired whether the State needs to work with the Town to move forward with the busway or whether the State can move ahead without the Town's input. Mr. Meehan replied that the State doesn't need the Town of Newington to move forward on the busway but it does recognize that the exchange of property between the State Department of Transportation (DOT) and Mr. Hayes makes the busway access more feasible; and this aligns with direct access to the National Welding site which is a benefit to the Town. Mayor Wright stated that the exchange of property and the construction of the public road is a benefit to the Town in terms of access to the National Welding site. He inquired whether there would be any feasible access to the National Welding site for any redevelopment without the exchange of property. Mr. Meehan replied that he doesn't believe so, noting the current access to the site from Cedar Street. He stated that the current access is narrow and intended only for right turns into the site and would not be suitable for introducing more traffic to the property. He stated that the DOT has been looking into a long-range project involving raised medians being installed on sections of Cedar Street and Fenn Road to discourage illegal left turns out of the gas stations on Fenn and the corner of Fenn and Cedar. He stated that access to the property on Fenn to the National Welding site would further improve the marketability of the site. Town Manager Salomone stated that whether or not the busway is developed, it is still important for the Town to have control over the access to National Welding in order to move forward with development of the site.

Councilor Cohen inquired about the current zoning for the National Welding site. Mr. Meehan replied that National Welding is currently in the industrial zone and the parcels to the west and north are in the planned development zone. He explained that the planned development zone permits retail, office and financial service uses, residential uses by special exception, and hotels up to four stories whereas the industrial zone is very

limited and used primarily for manufacturing, warehousing and distribution uses and retail use by special exception.

Councilor Nasinnyk inquired whether the current access into the National Welding site on Cedar will be closed off once the access road is completed. Mr. Meehan replied that the site design will dictate the actual layout but indicated that the conceptual plan calls for a westbound right-hand turn to be permitted into the site, but not out of the site, because the inside lane is right turn-only lane on Cedar. Councilor Nasinnyk inquired about reconstruction of the bridge near the site on Cedar. Mr. Meehan stated that the bridge will not be reconstructed due to traffic capacity but because it qualifies as a bridge with structural issues and the design concept will lower the vertical profile and will allow for future widening if needed. Town Manager Salomone added that it will improve the sightlines to the intersection. Mr. Meehan stated that depending on the reuse of the site a gated emergency access road may be constructed to the site off of Cedar Street.

Councilor Klett inquired about the estimated \$35 million that would be added to the grand list as a result of redevelopment of the site when there are no exact plans for the site. Mr. Meehan replied that the estimate is from CRCOG, which hired consultants to look at areas along the busway, including this site, and based the estimate on a conceptual plan. He explained that the planning exercise developed the square footage, density and usage for a hotel, retail and residential area and applied construction values and trip generation numbers based on land use, and this is used to recommend short-range traffic improvements. Councilor Klett noted that the projection includes redevelopment of the National Welding site and adjacent properties. Mr. Meehan concurred. Councilor Klett noted that the National Welding site is 3.9 acres and noted current TPZ regulations that require a minimum of five acres for a zone change. She inquired whether that regulation will be waived since the Town owns the land. Mr. Meehan stated that the Town has exempted itself from the regulation and explained that State land is also exempt; therefore the zoning change will not pose an issue. Councilor Klett noted that there are different colored markers on several trees along the west side of Fenn Road and inquired why there are there. Mr. Ferraro explained that yellow and orange markers on trees are often for wetland delineation but also noted that it is possible the markers are due to survey work. Mayor Wright noted that it is likely State property. Councilor Klett requested that someone research the markers and let her know why they are there.

Deputy Mayor Lenares inquired who currently maintains the former National Welding site property. Mr. Meehan replied that the Town secures and maintains the property. Deputy Mayor noted that he noticed a plow truck in on the property recently but was unsure whether it was a Town truck. Mayor Wright stated that the Town plows the area so that it is clear in the event of an emergency. Town Manager Salomone noted that the Town is using some of the space for temporary indoor storage of equipment.

Councilor McBride inquired if there are any plans in place to alleviate traffic on Fenn and Cedar besides the possible raised medians. Mr. Meehan noted some of the suggestions from the recent CRCOG-commissioned traffic study, including off-ramp lane widening to create a double right turn onto Fenn Road south, and turn lane improvements. Town Manager Salomone noted that the study includes several short and long term suggestions and stated that the Council will receive a copy of the study for review. Councilor Nagel noted a past discussion about the bridge being reconstructed in a way in which traffic will not be affected on Cedar Street. He inquired if this is still true, and if so how that process will work. Mr. Ferraro stated that the reconstruction will be performed in two phases, the first will involve work being done underneath the existing bridge, with the height of the bridge being reduced. Once the new structure is in place the bridge will be dropped and a second phase will complete the roadway portion, which will also improve sightline improvements. Town Manager Salomone cautioned that it is a major project and although the travel lanes are not worked on until the last possible moment there will still be the possibility of some traffic disruption on Cedar Street. He remarked that this innovative approach should, however, minimize any disruption. Councilor Nagel inquired whether the bridge work will have any affect on any future bus or railway. Mr. Ferraro replied that there are minimum heights that must be maintained for bus and train traffic, and this bridge will meet those standards.

Councilor Cohen inquired whether consideration is being given to what type of development will produce the least amount of traffic to Fenn Road, other than the solution being to widen Fenn Road. Mr. Meehan stated that the land use and traffic impact will be discussed with the TPZ. He stated that high density retail use would generate quite a bit of traffic and office use would generate traffic during peak hours. Councilor Klett inquired whether the new road will access of the Stop and Shop site. Mr. Meehan replied that there is a cross driveway that would be extended from Stop and Shop into the site, but it would be a private driveway. He stated that it will, however, reduce traffic circulation on the main roads when people are travelling between the two sites. Councilor Klett noted that the EDC has made this development their top priority and also noted that Mr. Hayes

has agreed to divide his property. She commented that this is a big benefit to the Town and noted that this area has been discussed for development for a number of years. She stated that with the increased tax revenue this is a win-win situation for the Town. Mayor Wright agreed. Councilor Casasanta remarked that it is time to move forward with the project and she is excited about the concept plans. Mayor Wright inquired whether there will be a crosswalk in the area for pedestrians coming from CCSU. Mr. Meehan replied that the intersection may end up being five or six lanes wide and that a crosswalk in that area may be a safety issue, as well as affecting traffic signal timings. He also noted discussions about creating a crosswalk farther up away from the intersection, and stated that the safest location of a crosswalk is to be determined. Mr. Meehan also noted the possibility of a bike/multi-purpose trail under the bridge that could tie the CCSU campus into the development area. Councilor Cohen noted that the DOT can move forward with the busway without the Town's input, the TPZ is in control of the zone changes and the Development Commission has a role in the development of the area. She inquired about the role of the Council with the project. Mr. Meehan replied that the Council would make the decisions regarding the capital improvement budget and will be asked at some point to authorize the Town Manager to sign a letter of agreement with the other partners to form a public-private partnership, and the Council will also have to approve any upcoming grant applications. Town Manager Salomone noted that the Council would also direct the staff in the RFP process for redevelopment of the site.

Councilor Banach inquired whether the former Crest Pontiac parcel abuts the National Welding site. Mr. Meehan replied in the negative and indicated that the Crest site is about a half-mile from the National Welding site, and also noted that there are high tension wires and an Amtrak line that runs between the two properties. Councilor Klett inquired whether the CIP Committee has to vote to recommend budgeting for this project or the Council can take action on the spending on its own. Mayor Wright stated that the CIP Committee is an advisory committee to the Town Council and that the Council has the ultimate decisions on expenditures. He stated that if the Council feels strongly about moving forward with the letter of agreement it can take action on the item at the next meeting. He stated that there have been many years of discussion and many meetings and although it has been a very slow process, now is the time to move forward. Mayor Wright stated that this is a unique opportunity for the Town and it allows the Town to set the table to make this a gateway site that provides significant property tax revenue and will be a site that the Town can be proud of. Councilor McBride noted that the hotel planned for the site had recently backed out of the project and inquired whether any other possible business mentioned for the site have lost interest as well, and if there has been interest in the site in general. Mr. Meehan replied that the developer would know better, but as of now there does not appear to be a lot of interest in the area in its current condition with the blighted structure. Councilor McBride remarked that fixing up the National Welding site would be the first domino to fall for development to occur. Mr. Meehan agreed and stated that there are many pieces to be addressed, such as the site cleanup, infrastructure and traffic solutions. He stated that the developer would like to move forward with the process, perhaps as soon as this spring or summer. He stated that with the DOT as a partner now would be a good time to start work on getting RFPs prepared.

Councilor Klett stated that it doesn't make sense to hold off on the project and noted that the Town has been discussing this property for years. She stated that there have always been issues about access to the property, but since there is now a solution it doesn't make sense not to move forward.

Councilor Cohen inquired whether agendas for upcoming meetings are posted on the Town's website. Town Manager Salomone replied in the affirmative. Councilor Cohen inquired whether backup materials are also posted. Town Manager Salomone replied in the negative. Councilor Cohen inquired whether backup materials can be posted online. Town Manager Salomone stated that it would not be possible to post everything due to file size but stated that he would look into posting some backup information. Mayor Wright requested that Mr. Meehan make himself accessible to Councilors who might have questions on the project in the coming weeks. Town Manager Salomone noted that the topic will be discussed in the Council's goal-setting session on January 14, 2010.

C. Discussion: VA Health Care Supportive Housing

Mayor Wright stated that he and Mr. Meehan received a presentation about two years ago from the VA regarding a project that would create housing for homeless veterans on the VA property. He noted a recent VA press release regarding selecting a developer for the project and stated that he is both surprised that the project is moving forward so quickly and concerned that the press release indicates that the housing will be open to both veterans and eligible non-veterans. He stated that he will be in contact with representatives from the VA about attending a future Council meeting.

Councilor Nasinnyk stated that she was in attendance at the presentation two years ago and stated that she was under the impression that it is VA property and the VA can do as they choose. She noted that the inclusion of non-veterans seems to be a change from the original presentation. Mr. Meehan stated that the Town had sent a list of questions to the VA as well as a request that the Town be kept informed about the RFP. He remarked that until the press release the Town was not aware of the status of the project. Councilor Klett stated that she researched the Women's Institute for Housing and Economic Development and commented that the group appears to be reputable, however she expressed concern that the plan calls for two and three bedroom apartments, which would create extra students in the school system. She stated that this could be a significant concern and stated that while the Town does not have a lot of control over the situation, the Town should be aware of the criteria of who will receive the housing. Town Manager Salomone noted that the Town has already relayed these concerns to the VA and there was no answer at the time regarding the cost to the school system. Councilor Casasanta noted that the site is in close proximity to Newington High School and stated that the Town should keep informed about security plans for the project. Councilor Cohen inquired about the types of services that the residents require, and if they don't receive services from the VA would the Town have the responsibility to provide those services. Town Manager Salomone stated that there are many questions to be answered and that a dialogue with the VA is needed. Councilor Nagel noted that veterans would likely be taken care of within the facility, the question would be with services to non-veterans.

VI RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

A. Open Space Committee

Mayor Wright inquired about the term lengths for members of the public serving on the newly formed Open Space Committee and noted that the resolution creating the Committee does not specify term lengths. He noted that the members of the TPZ, Council and Conservation Commission serving on the Open Space Committee will all serve terms lengths that correspond with the terms of their Commissions/Council. He stated that this is a permanent committee and stated that he is not comfortable with making lifetime appointments to this committee. Town Manager Salomone stated that the terms for members of the public serving on the Committee can be staggered four year terms so that there is not a membership turnover all at once. Councilor Banach inquired whether other committees use four-year staggered terms. Town Manager Salomone noted that the TPZ and Parks and Recreation Board utilize staggered terms. Councilor Banach requested an explanation on how the terms would work. Town Manager Salomone replied that with five members of the public, two will serve initial two-year terms with three serving four-year terms. After the initial two-year terms the appointments will all be four-year terms. Councilor Cohen suggested that the terms all start effective December 1, 2009 and expire on November 30, 2011 or November 30, 2013 depending on the term length. Mayor Wright inquired whether the terms can be changed when the members are appointed or if the resolution creating the Committee must be amended to include term lengths. Mayor Wright inquired as to whether the item can be tabled until the next meeting. Councilor Banach inquired about when the item could be addressed again. Town Manager Salomone stated that while the item can be discussed at the Council's goal setting session on January 14, the Council cannot take action on the item because it is a special meeting and the item does not appear on the agenda. He stated that if the item were to be tabled it would be addressed at the January 26, 2010 regular meeting.

Councilor Banach moved to go into a brief recess to gather the information necessary to amend the resolution. Motion seconded by Councilor Nasinnyk. Motion passed 9-0.

The Council went into recess at 8:30 pm and returned at 8:40 pm.

Councilor Banach moved to add an item to the agenda: Amend Resolution 2009-123: Open Space Committee Term Lengths. Motion seconded by Councilor Nagel. Motion passed 9.0.

1. Amend Resolution 2009-123: Open Space Committee Term Lengths

Councilor Banach moved to waive the rules to vote on the newly added agenda item. Motion seconded by Councilor Nasinnyk. Motion to waive the rules passed 9-0.

Councilor Banach moved the following:

RESOLVED, that the Newington Town Council hereby amends resolution 2009-123 to read as follows:

WHEREAS, the Town Council discussed the possibility of establishing an Open Space Committee to determine the means to acquire, preserve & protect the Cedar Mountain parcels and various other open space parcels within the Town of Newington; and

WHEREAS, the Council considers the establishment of said Committee and Cedar Mountain preservation to be a high priority;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council establishes an Open Space Committee consisting of eleven (11) members and composed of two (2) Town Council members, two (2) members from the Town Plan and Zoning Commission, two (2) members from the Conservation Commission, and five (5) members from the public at large, with the members from the public serving staggered four (4) year terms, beginning with two (2) members serving an initial two (2) year term.

Motion seconded by Councilor Nasinnyk. Motion passed 9-0.

2. Appoint Members to the Open Space Committee

Councilor Banach moved the following Democratic appointments and Councilor Casasanta moved the following Republican appointments:

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby appoints the following to the Open Space Committee:

11 members, staggered terms
Party Max: (7)

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
Town Council Rep.: David Nagel	1175 Willard Avenue	R	NTC Term	New
Town Council Rep.: Kristine Nasinnyk	50 Theodore Street	D	NTC Term	New
TPZ Rep.: Carol Anest	30 Harding Avenue	D	TPZ Term	New
TPZ Rep.: David Lenares	41 New Britain Avenue	U	TPZ Term	New
Cons. Comm. Rep.: Mark Pappa	105 Back Lane	R	Cons. Comm. Term	New
Cons. Comm. Rep.: Philip Block	58 Fleetwood Road	D	Cons. Comm. Term	New
Elector: Carol Wojtowicz	50 Brookdale Avenue	D	ASAP – 11/30/13	New
Elector: Bernadette R. Conway	177 Hartford Avenue	D	ASAP – 11/30/13	New
Elector: Stanley Marcinczyk	91 Ivy Lane	D	ASAP – 11/30/11	New
Elector: Thomas Bowen	22 Woods Way	D	ASAP – 11/30/13	New
Elector: Jay Bottalico	37 Valley View Drive	R	ASAP – 11/30/11	New

Motion seconded by Councilor Nasinnyk (Democratic appointments) and Councilor Nagel (Republican appointments). Motion passed 9-0 for both Democratic and Republican appointments.

Councilor Banach inquired as to who calls the first meeting of the Committee. Town Manager Salomone replied that the Committee staff member Ed Meehan will set up the first meeting, with the first item on the agenda being organization of the Committee.

VII MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A. Regular Meeting: November 24, 2009

B. Regular Meeting: December 8, 2009

The Council agreed by consensus to table approval of both minutes pending additional corrections to be made to both meeting minutes. Councilor Nagel indicated that he would abstain from the vote to accept the minutes of these meetings because he was not seated on the Council at the time of the meetings.

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

(none)

IX COUNCILOR LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Klett requested that the various boards and commissions email their minutes to the Councilors. Councilor Cohen requested hard copies.

Councilor Cohen reported on the Youth/Adult Council:

- The Youth/Adult Council has been working in conjunction with the Human Rights Commission to coordinate a talent show to raise funds for Human Services programs.
- Planning for the annual Super Hoop-la basketball event is in progress.
- The group is planning a community forum on internet safety, which will update a previous forum to include new concerns.

Councilor Cohen reported on the Commission on Aging:

- Tax preparers are in the process of tax code training and are very well qualified.

Councilor Nasinnyk reported on the CIP Committee:

- The Committee is scheduled to meet on January 13, 2010.
- The Committee was formed in order to make sure that capital improvements continue on a regular basis. The makeup of the Committee consists of members of the Council and Board of Education. The Committee goes through a list of improvements and meets with Department Heads to determine priorities for both the Town and the Board.
- As a subcommittee of the Council, the CIP Committee makes recommendations but the Council has the final vote on the Committee's recommendations.

Councilor Klett inquired whether there is a certain dollar amount that is broken down between the Town and the Board of Education for the CIP. Councilor Nasinnyk replied that the breakdown is between the pay-as-you-go and bonding projects. She stated that the Town and the Board make their own priorities for projects. Councilor Cohen stated that as the debt service goes down the pay-as-you-go projects increase. She requested that the CIP Committee appear on the Council agenda for discussion early in the budget process. Councilor Nasinnyk stated that with the election year the Committee just met for the first time two weeks ago. Councilor Cohen recalled that last year the CIP Committee came before the Council very late in the budget process and she felt that the conversation was rushed. Mayor Wright stated that there is not a hard ceiling on the CIP budget, noting that last year it was \$6.4 - \$6.5 million dollars. Councilor Cohen countered that it has been \$6.3 million for several years. Mayor Wright stated that it was increased last year, and stated that in this economic climate it can be decreased as needed.

Town Manager Salomone noted that a long time Town employee, Gerald McCusker, passed away unexpectedly over the weekend. He stated that Mr. McCusker was currently employed by the Board of Education, but prior to that had been a long time Head Dial-A-Ride Driver.

X PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL (none)

XI REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

Councilor Nasinnyk noted a December 10 article in which a Boston-based consumer environmental group that encouraged more states to "think outside of the bottle" and having states not purchase bottled water. She noted that Governor Rell has ordered State agencies to cut bottled water purchases, which totaled over \$500,000 per year. She noted that pitchers of water and paper cups can be utilized rather than bottled water.

Councilor Banach remarked that he is pleased to have the Open Space Committee formed and he wished them well.

Councilor Nagel noted that one of the local television stations recently featured a story about recycling and how the process works once the recyclables are picked up from the curb. Deputy Mayor Lenares welcomed Councilor Nagel back to the Council.

Mayor Wright noted that West Hartford is looking into single stream recycling. He also noted that another area Town that utilizes single stream recycling with automated 95-gallon containers has seen the recycling amounts increase dramatically. He stated that he is excited about the program and the Town's price for pickup. He also thanked the former Clerk of the Council, Scott Coleman, who had been serving as Clerk since July but has had to resign due to personal reasons and he welcomed Mary Richard to the position.

XII ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Nasinnyk moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:02. Motion seconded by Councilor McBride.

Motion passed 9-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. Jaime Trevethan
Executive Asst. to the Town Manager
Interim Clerk of the Council