



John L. Salomone  
Town Manager

# TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET  
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

## MAYOR JEFF WRIGHT

January 25, 2011

Minutes – Newington Town Council

Deputy Mayor Lenares called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Helen Nelson Room of the Town Hall

### I PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### II ROLL CALL

#### Councilors Present:

Councilor Banach  
Councilor Casasanta  
Councilor Cohen  
Councilor Klett  
Councilor Lenares  
Councilor Nagel  
Council Nasinnyk

Councilor McBride and Mayor Wright absent

#### Staff Present

John Salomone, Town Manager  
Jaime Trevethan, Exec. Asst. to the Town Manager  
Bruce Till, Parks & Recreation Superintendent

### III PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mady Kenny, 53 Crestview Drive – requested some additional time be allocated because of the subject matter. She said that the Council will not be willing to fund this project she said we were only hearing the buzz words for this budget year. 0% for the Town and Board of Education, cut backs fiscal responsibility. She asked how can we justify approving a plan that will ultimately cost 1.3 million dollars on plastic grass. That with the \$250,000 from last years CIP budget, \$601,200 from this year and the \$500,000 grant from the State, and the CIP proposals have not been presented. A statement was made on a partial justification in spending this money, that this expenditure will not affect our taxes. The bottom line is that the tax payer's dollars is ultimately footing this entire bill. She asked when will the more flamboyant items be looked at with the same scrutiny as the less showy projects. When our Superintendent of Schools came before this Council his feet were held to the fire by the Mayor to justify the money needed for the relocation of the mandated transitional academy. She said that the same level of scrutiny was not applied to the pet project of installing plastic grass. She proposed two things. That the same level of scrutiny be applied to all that comes before this body with no favoritism and also in this economic climate the awarding of grants is highly unlikely, any proposals to obtain grants or funds be brought publicly to this Council and the Town Manager for authorization and grant review prior to actually requesting them. She urged the public to come and speak out.

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive – she said that she expected the Mayor to be present and she is asking to please to consider not waiving the Council's vote on the artificial turf field, and that the plans are made available to the tax payers so we are aware of how the dollars are spent. She said although additional funds were allocated for the turf field, has not yet been approved by the Council. She said that the plan can be amended along the way, projects can get shifted or can get scrapped altogether. She said that in these economic times she believes that an explanation should be given to the public as to how to justify spending over 1.3 millions dollars on artificial turf.

Phone: (860) 665-8510 Fax: (860) 665-8507  
townmanager@newingtonct.gov  
www.newingtonct.gov

She is concerned that next year more requests will come forward for more lights, etc. She believes that more discussion should be considered to justify the expenditures of these monies.

Pam Austin, 105 Old Farm Drive – thanked Councilor Klett and the Committee that she heads for the hard work over the past years in getting this field in. She asked the Council to keep the project moving forward.

#### **IV. CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS**

##### **A. Set Public Hearing Date: Post Employment Benefits Amended Ordinance**

Mr. Salomone said that with two previous meetings on the Post Employee Benefits structure that we're implementing to be in compliance and the next step is to introduce the ordinance and to set the public hearing date be February 22, at 6:55 PM

##### **INTRODUCTION:**

**I hereby introduce for the Town Council's consideration proposed amendments to the Town of Newington Code of Ordinances, Chapter 48: Funds a copy of said proposed amendments has been filed with the Clerk of the Council.**

**Introduced by: Councilor Casasanta**

##### **RESOLVED:**

**That a Public Hearing be held on Tuesday, February 22, 2011 at 6:55 p.m. to consider proposed amendments to Town of Newington Code of Ordinances, Chapter 48: Funds.**

MOTION BY: Councilor Casasanta

SECONDED BY: Councilor Nasinnyk

VOTE: 7 yes (Councilor McBride, Mayor Wright Absent)

**Town of Newington  
Proposed Ordinance Amendment  
Chapter 48: Funds**

#### **An Ordinance Establishing an Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust**

##### **Creation of fund.**

In accordance with the provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes § 7-450(b), there is hereby created for the Town an Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust Fund (the "trust"). Said trust shall serve as a means to hold and invest all contributions and assets of the Town's certain post-employment benefits, other than pension benefits. The trust shall be for the purpose of meeting the long term obligations of the Town regarding benefits provided to certain Town and Board of Education employees, retirees, their spouses and dependents in accordance with provisions for such benefits contained in any agreement between the employees and the Town.

##### **Revenues.**

There shall be paid into said trust such transfers and appropriations as the Town Council authorizes plus any return of investments of such funds and any premium cost sharing paid by retirees.

##### **Expenses.**

Expenses of such trust shall include those expenses necessary for the maintenance and administration of the fund, including but not limited to actuarial and consulting fees. Expenses shall not include compensation for any town employee or other general office-related expenses unless approved by the Town Council.

##### **Administration.**

The trust shall be administered and operated in accordance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statements 43 and 45, as the same may be amended from time to time and pursuant to the terms as set forth in the Other Post-Employment Benefits Declaration of Trust, including revisions thereto, as are hereafter approved by the Town Council. The members of the Employee Insurance and Pension Benefits Committee

shall provide oversight for the trust as described in Section 8-32 through 8-37 inclusive in the Newington Code of Ordinances.

## V. CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS

The Town Council agreed by consensus to discuss New Business item C prior to item A.

### C. Approve Final Plans, Specification & Cost Estimates: Clem Lemire Turf Field Project

Mr. Bruce Till, Park & Recreation Superintendent, commended the Clem Lemire Turf Field Project Building committee, who has done a very good job. They've been meeting for several months and there's been a lot of work, they've done their homework, investigated the facilities and have been very tough in negotiations.

Vince McDermott of Milone & MacBroom gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Turf Field plans and cost estimates to the Council. An outline of the presentation is attached.

**Councilor Klett** said that this committee has been meeting since May 24<sup>th</sup> and has been available to anyone to look at and also the committee members were speaking to her with their expertise on the subject matter. She said that the committee met on a monthly basis and she feels confident from listening to these people with expertise that it's important to realize that we've come a long way and she doesn't understand why anyone feels that this needs further discussion. **Deputy Mayor Lenares** said that lots of hard work has been done, with Vince putting up with our questions and phone calls, this has been a big learning process and has been out there to the public for months and everyone is welcome. **Councilor Casasanta** thanked everyone involved for their hard work. Also she mentioned that this is also an important matter of safety. **Councilor Nasinnyk** asked by reading the minutes, it sounds like in the specifications that the mix would be 70% sand, 30% rubber mix. She asked if there is any company that makes that mix.

Mr. McDermott said 'yes' and anyone can propose any mix they choose. In actuality the mix that was accepted is closer to the 50/50 mix. She asked if there is any estimate on the number of years. Mr. McDermott said the reason for higher was suggested was one of higher lever performance, but here the 50/50 mix is certainly acceptable. Anything can be mixed according to what you prefer and this one is a good solid field for the type of use. Mr. McDermott said that knowing that this field will be for children and young adults, and did not have a need for the professional NFL type of field and we went for the best products that would hold up for a number of years with good warranties and that's what we accomplished. **Councilor Nasinnyk** asked if there is an estimate of years, and Mr. McDermott answered that the years run from 8 to 10 years. She said that the questions being asked are certainly appropriate and once we have firm numbers they we will have a more sense of comfort level. She said that right now we don't know what those numbers are. **Councilor Klett** said that the Parks & Rec Board has already approved passing and then to the Council for a vote tonight. And she said that the turf portion was a big concern because there are other towns who have had experiences that did not meet their expectations. She said it's important to make sure that everything was done exactly the way it should have been done.

Councilor Banach moved to waive the rules. Councilor Nasinnyk seconded. Vote 7 – 0 Councilor McBride and Mayor Wright absent.

**Deputy Mayor Lenares** asked for any public comments on waiving the rules.

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive – said that the CIP meetings that are open to the public and she was surprised that no one ever appeared and her main concern on the waiving of the rules, she feels that again the public has the right to come before you and express their likes and dislikes and she thought that waiving rules was held for emergency situations. She doesn't know what this emergency is here.

### RESOLVED:

**Pursuant to Chapter 8, Article X, Section 8-45 (H), Project Building Committees, of the Newington Code of Ordinances, the Newington Town Council hereby approves the final plans, specifications and cost estimates for the Clem Lemire Turf Field Project as reviewed by the Town Council and as approved by the Clem Lemire Artificial Turf Project Building Committee and the Board of Parks and Recreation and authorizes the project to proceed to bid. Acceptance of the bid will be contingent upon funds being allocated to the Capital Improvement Fund.**

MOTION BY: Councilor Klett  
SECONDED BY: Councilor Cohen  
VOTE: 7 Yes (Councilor McBride and Mayor Wright Absent)

### **A Central Connecticut Health District Annual Update**

Mr. Paul Hutcheon, CCHD Director and Kevin Borrup, CCHD Board President gave a PowerPoint presentation of the Health District's year in review to the Council. A copy of the presentation is attached.

**Councilor Klett** asked if the grant is specific to homes or businesses who may have employees at risk. Mr. Hutcheon said that the grant requires them to work with the home environment. **Councilor Banach** asked if the CCHD anticipates any shortfalls, or any change in the operation. Mr. Hutcheon said that they are building their budget now and working to set up our public hearing and will forward that on to the Town Council. He said that they are making the assumption at the \$1.85 level, other grants may or may not come through and will make adjustments accordingly.

**Councilor Nasinnyk** commended the CCHD on their work. She also said that what she has seen, all the communities are included, and she also noted and thanked Mr. Borrup for the extra work has put into this project. **Councilor Nagel** thanked CCHD for being here and that we should be reminded of the services that people may not know about. He asked if there are any things that the CCHD considered, any particular things that they see as vital to the community.

Mr. Hutcheon said that the majority of the programs offered are in fact 100% grant funded, so the dollars don't come from the community. He said that the good news is that we do have that grant support. **Councilor Cohen** said that it's very impressive, going to a pharmacy with no long lines, the organization is really effective. **Councilor Klett** said that the public may not have a good understanding of all the responsibilities involved and thinks it was a great job.

### **B. Single Stream Recycling Update – tabled**

### **D. Hartford/New Britain Busway**

Councilor Banach said he would like to waive the rules.

**Councilor Banach** said that this subject has a long history with the Council and he has been a long standing opposition to it because of the amount of money being spent and for some people who haven't been present at some of the Department of Transportation's presentations one of the questions asked will this make a good investment and the answer came back 'not really' in other words we'll be paying out money that will not be taken in. **Councilor Klett** said she never understood the busway project, but now with the new Governor who has not lent his support to the busway and we have an opportunity to make our concerns known. She said that the cost has spiraled out of control and in her opinion she has concerns that the busway may not be to our benefit. **Councilor Nasinnyk** said when the representatives were here it was said that time is of the essence and we have been involved for several years and was thought that if we voiced our opposition we would have no say, and that's the reason for asking to waive the rules tonight.

**Councilor Cohen** said that one point made at the last meeting was that the danger of giving up on the busway was financial and the problem would jeopardize the ability to get future funding, and the representative said that was not the problem. But she said one question was what about the project which had escalated so far, that compared to the money that we'd have to return to the Federal Government if we dropped it, couldn't compare it. **Councilor Klett** said that we should know that Congressman Larson wrote to ask if there were changes would we still be eligible, it would have to be resubmitted to them but it would not knock us out of consideration. **Councilor Nagel** said he still supports the project and he said that it is agreed that some kind of transportation is needed, and he is pleased to see that most are in agreement that taking some traffic off the highway is necessary. He referred to a Courant article that shows facts that are viable ones, and shows the busway as opposed to rail. Also mentioned he said that buses will be able to connect to different cities and that bodes well with people having to walk long distances. **Councilor Klett** said that it is important that there are other credible organizations that are opposed to the busway and in favor of the railway. She believes that the rail way would

be the better way for transportation for the people of Newington. She doesn't see a large part of Newington being in favor of the busway.

**Councilor Banach** referred to the article mentioned and what he doesn't point out is the losing proposition of upward of 9 to 10 million dollars by the Department of Transportation, that they would be losing money. He said he has not heard anyone in Newington in favor of this. He said that if we spend \$450,000,000 on a busway, that's something we could spend on other forms of transportation. He said that would be much more effective to spend it on rail than on busses.

**Councilor Banach moved to waive the rules. Seconded by Councilor Nasinnyk. Vote 7 – 0 Councilor McBride and Mayor Wright absent**

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive – said her parents moved here about 60 years ago, and today she said she doesn't see too many people taking the bus between Hartford and New Britain. She feels that the trains are the way to go.

Sharon Braverman, 39 Churchill Lane – Board of Education Liaison – asked Councilor Banach if the rail would follow the same path as the busway was.

**WHEREAS:**

**The Newington Town Council joins with West Hartford and the Central Connecticut Chambers of Commerce and its affiliates in Farmington, Burlington, Plymouth and Wolcott as well the Plainville Chamber of Commerce in support of a "transit-way" using railway rather than continuing to pursue the Hartford-New Britain Busway, due to the current economic conditions and belief that this would be a better enhancement to Connecticut's transportation infrastructure; and**

**WHEREAS:**

**U. S. Department of Transportation Federal Transit Administration representative sent a recent letter to the Honorable John B. Larson, U. S. Representative, 1st Congressional District, identifying that the State of Connecticut could redefine the project as a railway transportation project rather than a busway, and still apply for New Start funds. Once the additional planning and necessary design changes have been completed the Federal Transit Administration would determine if the New Start criteria has been met.**

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

**That the Town Council directs Town Manager, John Salomone to send a letter on behalf of the Newington Town Council to Governor Dannel P. Malloy informing him and his administration of the Newington Town Council's opposition to the busway and support for a transportation infrastructure that restores the railway system with capability of freight and passenger rail service between Hartford and New Britain through Newington. The Town Manager, John Salomone shall hand deliver the said letter within 48 hours to Governor Dannel P. Malloy. The Town Manager (or his designee) is further directed to email a signed electronic copy (pdf file) of the letter to the Town Council members.**

Roll Call Vote

Councilor Banach – yes  
Councilor Casasanta – yes  
Councilor Cohen – Yes  
Councilor Klett – Yes  
Councilor Lenares – Yes  
Councilor McBride – Absent  
Councilor Nagel – No  
Councilor Nasinnyk – Yes  
Mayor Wright - Absent

MOTION BY: Councilor Banach  
SECONDED BY: Councilor Klett  
VOTE: 6-1 (Per Roll Call)

**E. Set Public Hearing Dates – Budget Process**

Mr. Salomone said that two Public Hearings must be held on the proposed budget for fiscal year 2011-12.  
Monday, March 14, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.  
Thursday, April 7, 2011 - 7:00 p.m.

**Deputy Mayor Lenares** asked about the dates is there enough time the way the schedule is set up.  
Mr. Salomone said they tried to set it up to not have a heavy agenda for the regular meetings.

## **VI. RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS**

### **RESOLVED:**

**That the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the resignation of John Kennedy from the Board of Parks & Recreation in accordance with a communication dated January 18, 2011.**

MOTION BY: Councilor Cohen  
SECONDED BY: Councilor Nasinnyk  
VOTE: 7 yes (Councilor McBride and Mayor Wright Absent)

## **VII TAX REFUNDS**

### **RESOLVED:**

**That property tax refunds in the amount of \$2,160.80 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.**

MOTION BY: Councilor Casasanta  
SECONDED BY: Councilor Nasinnyk  
VOTE: 7 yes (Councilor McBride and Mayor Wright Absent)

## **VIII MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

- A. Regular Meeting, January 11, 2011
- B.

Councilor Cohen – Page 3 - 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph - she made reference that returning the funds to the Federal Government is not the problem, the fact of returning the funds would be minor. Also the Committee she had made reference to was the Board of Education Roof Replacement Project Building Committee.

Councilor Cohen moved to accept the minutes as corrected. Seconded by Councilor Banach. Vote 7 – 0 (Councilor McBride and Mayor Wright absent.)

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

Mr. Salomone said that the payroll budget is getting to the point where with snow removal we've used two thirds of the budget and more snow is expected. He said we do have material sufficient for the year. He said that the crews are getting very tired and have been very busy and still more snow is expected. Councilor Klett commended Mr. Molloy and the crew on the work that's been done on the streets.

## **X COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilor Cohen said that the Building Committee met last night and had received nine responses for architects and narrowed it down to eight and also got news that we will have funding coming as we did for Martin Kellogg and will be integrating the solar panels with no additional cost to the Town.

## **XI PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive – said she was present on behalf of Sharon Braverman who had to leave, regarding the memorandum regarding the two public hearings, both read the year 2010 and should be changed to 2011.

Mady Kenny, 53 Crestview Drive - stated that she hopes that her opposition to spending the money on the turf field does not in any way cast aspersions on the committee. She said they're doing a wonderful job and she thinks the program is the best thing since sliced bread. She thinks to spend that kind of money on this type of project when there are many other more deserving projects, is not what she thinks should be done.

## **XII REMARKS BY COUNCILORS**

Councilor Cohen reported that this coming Monday Kiwanis will be sponsoring another of the speaker nights and the speaker will be Brad Davis, the program starts at 7 p.m. at Paradise Pizza and everyone is encouraged to attend.

Councilor Nasinnyk reported that tonight is the night when we had two Council members who are not present and for the previous Council meetings we've held off having an Executive Session because people were not present, and she proposed that the next Council meeting on February 8<sup>th</sup> that we have the Executive Session starting at 6:15 p.m. so it doesn't have to be delayed.

Deputy Mayor Lenares thanked Councilor Klett on a great job on the turf field and he's happy to see it moving forward.

## **XIII EXECUTIVE SESSION RE: PERSONNEL - Tabled**

## **XIV ADJOURNMENT**

Councilor Casasanta moved to adjourn at 8:40 p.m.. Councilor Klett seconded. Vote 7 – 0  
Councilor McBride and Mayor Wright were absent.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Richard  
Council Clerk