



John L. Salomone  
Town Manager

# TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET  
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

**MAYOR JEFF WRIGHT**

## MINUTES

### NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

January 27, 2009

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 Boni  
Councilor Bottalico  
Councilor Bowen  
Councilor Cohen  
Councilor Lenares  
Councilor Nagel  
Councilor Nasinnyk  
Mayor Wright

Staff Present

Lori Verreault, Executive Assistant  
Ann Harter, Finance Director  
Ed Meehan, Town Planner

#### III AWARDS/PROCLAMATIONS

A Volunteer of the Year – Bob Gillis

Mayor Wright read the following proclamation:

**WHEREAS, each year the Town Council recognizes someone who has voluntarily dedicated time and/or resources for the benefit of others and the community at large; and**

**WHEREAS, this year Bob Gillis is being recognized for his active involvement in overseeing the organization and stocking of the Newington Food Bank throughout the year in addition to preparing and assisting staff with the Thanksgiving food distribution; and**

**WHEREAS, Mr. Gillis comes into the Town Hall 3-4 times a week to organize the food storage areas and restock the food pantry to ensure there is enough food for the two weekly distributions; and**

**WHEREAS, Mr. Gillis also volunteers twice a month at the outdoor market distributing fresh vegetables and fruit from the mobile food truck; and**

**WHEREAS, during the holiday season, Mr. Gillis volunteers additional hours to help prepare the food distribution area and assists in distributing food to over 270 households;**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Newington Town Council hereby designates Bob Gillis as its 2008 Volunteer of the Year in recognition of his volunteer activities for the welfare of the**

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**community as a whole and for serving as a positive role model and an example of all that can be accomplished through the efforts of volunteers.**

Mayor Wright thanked Mr. Gillis for his hard work and stated that his work has been valuable to the Town. The Councilors also congratulated Mr. Gillis on his efforts. Councilor Bottalico stated that Mr. Gillis does a wonderful job, especially in these times when volunteers are hard to come by. Councilor Boni stated that he is thankful to have people like Mr. Gillis in the Town, thanked him and urged him to keep up the good work. Councilor Cohen thanked Mr. Gillis for his work, now more than ever when more and more families rely on his efforts. Councilor Nagel thanked Mr. Gillis for his hard work and for setting a great example for other volunteers. Councilor Nasinnyk stated that volunteering is done for the soul and not for the paycheck. She stated that Mr. Gillis does vital work and she hopes that others will follow his example. Councilor Banach thanked Mr. Gillis and stated that his work should be admired and respected. Councilor Bowen noted that Mr. Gillis's name stood out upon a very worthy list of volunteers and stated appreciation for all of his hard work. Deputy Mayor Lenares stated appreciation for all of Mr. Gillis' hard work.

Ken Freidenberg, Director of Human Services, congratulated Mr. Gillis and remarked that both he and the entire Human Services Department appreciate his efforts and the model that he is for other volunteers. He also thanked the Council for selecting Mr. Gillis for this honor.

Mr. Gillis noted that it takes many volunteers to run the organization and programs through Town. He expressed appreciation for the donations and volunteers that are helping to keep the food bank running strong.

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

#### **IV PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL**

Jeff Perillo, 269 Beacon Street: Mr. Perillo spoke regarding the possibility of installing synthetic turf fields at Clem Lemire field. He stated that he is a twenty-five year member of Newington Midget Football. He noted efforts by himself, the Town and State Representatives to obtain a grant for the artificial turf and noted discussion about whether the turf would be of best use at Clem Lemire or at Newington High School. Mr. Perillo remarked that the Town's youth sports programs have been neglected for years while at NHS there is a new track and a new field house. He stated that the Clem Lemire field can be used for lacrosse and soccer as well as for youth football. He stated that Clem Lemire has been neglected for years and is in need of upgrades for safety purposes and for better use. He stated that the youth who use these fields have parents who pay taxes and urged the Council to think of the youth programs. Mr. Perillo distributed safety information regarding artificial turf to Councilor Cohen.

Peter Gajowiak, 60 Pickens Drive: Mr. Gajowiak stated that with his three children he has spent much time at the Town's various athletic fields. He stated that he is the president of Newington Lacrosse, which currently has about one-hundred players. He stated that Newington Lacrosse is a growing organization and is looking to bring in tournaments to the Town. He agreed with Mr. Perillo that the field at Clem Lemire is not safe and is in need of renovations. He stated that there will be value to having a quality field in Town and stated that it is time for the Town to step it up and support youth sports programs. He stated that the field gets a lot of use and upgrades will benefit multiple sports.

Sandy Lallier, 27 Elton Drive: Mrs. Lallier congratulated Mr. Gillis and thanked him for his volunteer service to the Town. She also expressed appreciation for the Council's debate on the Charter revision at its last meeting and expressed hope that more members of the public will become informed about what's going on. She urged the Council to continue to discuss and debate ideas in a positive manner without personal attacks. Mrs. Lallier quoted President Obama, "Everywhere we look there is work to be done and we urge our leaders to spend wisely and perform business in the light of day." She stated hope that the Council works in this fashion and urged the Council to encourage the public to participate. She stated that the price of confidence of our citizenship should be an effort and an involvement by the citizens in our government and communities. She also stated that there should be an effort by the leaders to communicate their opinions and why they come to the decisions that they make. Mrs. Lallier requested that the Council disclose the cost of the upcoming vote on the Charter revision, and recommended that the Council match the budget for the referendum to the Human Services department, which could use the donation.

**V CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS**

- A West Meadow Cemetery Expansion Project: Accept Plans, Specification and Cost Estimate and Authorize project to go to Bid.

Councilor Cohen stated that the Committee has reviewed and accepted the plans for the project and is requesting authorization to go out to bid. Councilor Cohen moved the following:

**RESOLVED:**

**Pursuant to Chapter 8, Article X, Section 8-45, Project Building Committees, of the Newington Code of Ordinances, the Newington Town Council hereby approves the revised final plans and cost estimates for the West Meadow Cemetery Expansion as reviewed by the Town Council on January 27, 2009 and as recommended by the West Meadow Cemetery Expansion Project Building Committee and authorizes the project to proceed to bid.**

Motion seconded by Councilor Nasinnyk.

Councilor Bowen stated that the project will be paid by the cemetery’s funds and inquired why the Council has to approve of it since it is not being paid for using Town funds. Councilor Cohen replied that since it is a building project it requires Council approval. Councilor Bowen maintained that the Council does not have control over the cemetery’s funds. Councilor Cohen noted that there is to be a transfer of funds, and noted that no taxpayer money is being used for this project.

Councilor Nasinnyk indicated that she is a member of the Committee and explained that the expansion will involve only a portion of the available land but will set the groundwork for the next phase of expansion. She stated that the Committee has worked very hard on the project and stated that it has been a well thought-out process. Councilor Cohen stated that this project should take care of the cemetery’s needs for the next twenty years and will lay the groundwork for future expansions. Councilor Bottalico inquired whether the Council has control of the cemetery’s budget. Mayor Wright replied in the negative. Ann Harter, Director of Finance, stated that she control’s the cemetery’s funds as it is a Town organization.

Motion passed 9-0

- B Set Dates for Public Hearings on Budget

Deputy Mayor Lenares moved the following:

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Newington Town Council, pursuant to Section 805 of the Newington Town Charter, will hold two Public Hearings on the proposed budget for fiscal year 2009-2010. These Public Hearings will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall (unless otherwise indicated) as follows:**

<b>Monday, March 16, 2009, 7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Town Manager’s Proposed Budget</b>
<b>Monday, April 6, 2009, 7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Town Council’s Proposed Budget</b>

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

- C DEP Grant – Artificial Turf Multi-use Athletic Field – Clem Lemire Recreation Complex

Deputy Mayor Lenares moved the following:

**RESOLVED:**

**That John L. Salomone, Town Manager of the Town of Newington, is hereby authorized to execute on behalf of the Town of Newington a Personal Services Agreement (PSA) with the State of Connecticut for financial assistance for “Artificial Turf Multi-use Athletic Field, Clem Lemire Recreation Complex.”**

## **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

**That John L. Salomone, Town Manager, is hereby authorized to enter into such agreements, contracts and execute all documents necessary to said grant with the State of Connecticut.**

Motion seconded by Councilor Bottalico.

Mayor Wright noted that thanks to the hard work of Senator Doyle and other State Representatives, the State Bonding Commission approved the grant in May 2008 and stated that the grant was set up for an artificial turf field for Clem Lemire. He stated that there has since been discussion with the Board of Education and the Parks and Recreation Department as to whether the field would be of better use to the Town if it were installed at the High School. He stated that Senator Doyle has recommended in a letter dated December 30, 2008 that the Town move forward with the process. Mayor Wright indicated that the motion on the table will allow the Town Manager to complete the grant application and submit it to the State. He stated that the amount of the grant, \$500,000, is not enough for the turf field and stated that while he does not anticipate the field being built this year he has learned that it is essential that the Town submits the application on a timely basis. He stated that once the Town is approved for the grant it has five years to act on building the field.

Councilor Nasinnyk noted that there has been some question as to the safety of artificial turf and thanked Mr. Perillo for submitting safety information to Councilor Cohen. She inquired whether the vote on the resolution could be tabled until the next meeting in order to give the Councilors a chance to read and absorb the information. Mayor Wright stated that the resolution is merely to move the process forward to secure the funds and does not commit the Town to building the field right away. He stated that once the grant is approved there will be many discussions about the safety of the field and other aspects of the project. He stated that there is no downside to moving forward with the resolution. Councilor Cohen noted that the State will require a status report within six months. Mayor Wright stated that while the Town may be required to give a status report it will still have five years to begin the project. Councilor Cohen inquired why the Council has not received more information comparing the cost, lifespan and upkeep of natural grass versus artificial turf. She noted that the funding will only cover a portion of the project cost and remarked that the Council has not received the information needed to justify the cost or to move forward. She stated that the Council has approved items in the past with the understanding that it will have a say in the project once the funds are approved and then the project continued without the Council's input. She stated that if she votes for the resolution she wants to be sure that the project will come back to the Council before it moves forward. Mayor Wright stated that this action will not be the basis for any permanent decisions regarding the field and stated that the project will not move forward without further Council input.

Councilor Banach inquired whether the Council would have to authorize any expenditures related to the project. Mayor Wright replied in the affirmative. Councilor Banach inquired whether this vote will lock the Town into Clem Lemire or will it give the Town the flexibility to explore the possibility of using the funds towards building a field at a different location. Mayor Wright replied that by his understanding the grant funds are intended specifically for Clem Lemire field and would require the Town to go back before the Bonding Commission and would require legislation at the State level to change at this point. He noted Senator Doyle's letter, which recommended that the Council move forward with the application due to the State's difficult economic situation. Senator Doyle stated in his letter that it will not be easy for the Town to change the project location.

Councilor Bowen noted that the Town's open space grant has been a problem because it is very specific in nature. He stated that the Town has had trouble using the grant funds due to the strict parameters within the grant. He noted that there have been conversations regarding whether moving the artificial turf project to a different location could save the Town money. He stated that the Board of Education was requested to sit down with the Parks and Recreation Department to try to figure out a way to make it work. Councilor Bowen stated that the grant as written will lock the Town into the Clem Lemire location and expressed disappointment that the involved parties have not been able to work together to come up with an equitable solution that works for the Town. He indicated that Mr. Perillo serves on the Board of Parks and Recreation and expressed concern at hearing that there are safety issues with the existing fields and requested that the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation come before the Council to explain why those safety concerns exist. He stated that safety concerns at any field must be addressed whether or not an artificial turf field is installed. Councilor Bowen remarked that it is very likely that the High School will eventually ask for or need a turf field and stated that installing a turf field at Clem Lemire only to eventually install one at the High School will cost the Town an additional million dollars, leaving the Town with two turf fields at an estimated cost of 2.3 million dollars total when most towns only have one. He stated that the purpose of the conversation about the location was not to take any authority away from

Parks and Recreation, but to bring people together to discuss an equitable solution for the Town. He remarked that the situation has become so convoluted that he is unsure whether the involved parties have come to an agreement. He stated that it is unfortunate because installing a turf field at Clem Lemire will eventually cost the Town 2.3 million dollars - because eventually the High School will need a field as well. Councilor Bowen stated that he has been involved in various youth sports for more than twenty years and remarked that his intentions have never been to slight the youth players. He noted that the youth players will eventually become high school players. He noted that once the Council approves the resolution and it is sent back to the State it will lock the Town into the Clem Lemire location. He stated that he is embarrassed that the involved parties could not come up with a better solution. Councilor Bottalico replied that he had tried and failed to get some answers from the various people involved.

Deputy Mayor Lenares stated that he understands safety concerns with the existing field at Clem Lemire and stated that if concerns do exist then the Council will send someone out to address the issue. He noted that there are times when the fields are not playable after heavy rains, and stated that this is normal on any field. Deputy Mayor Lenares remarked that the Parks and Recreation Department does an excellent job in maintaining the fields, especially given the amount of use at each field. He noticed that there may be forty-fifty football games on a field in a season plus soccer and lacrosse. He noted that the resolution is simply for the Council to authorize the Town Manager to apply for the grant and stated that if the Town doesn't move forward then it will forfeit the funds and they will just go to a different Town. He inquired why the Town shouldn't take the money being offered by the State. He noted that the CIP will propose to move the additional funding needed for the project to a future year due to budget constraints. Deputy Mayor Lenares stated that he researched the possibility of moving the project to the High School and indicated that the consensus of the Board of Parks and Recreation is to install the turf at Clem Lemire. He indicated that if the field is installed at NHS then the Board of Education assumes ownership of the field which could present some problems with scheduling especially in the event of bad weather. He urged the Council to secure the grant before it is lost.

Councilor Nagel agreed with Deputy Mayor Nagel and stated that there are benefits to having the field at either location. He stated that the funds will go away if the Town does not apply and urged the Council to move forward with the matter of securing the funds at this point. He stated that the Town is in danger of losing the money if the process to change the venue is put in place and he expressed concerns over scheduling if the field is installed at NHS. Councilor Cohen stated that there are pros and cons and remarked that it would be wise for the Council to wait for the State's study of turf fields prior to making any decisions. She expressed concern that the Council does not have any concrete figures as to the cost to the Town and questioned whether the Town should be put into the position of having to come up with the additional funds needed in light of the current economy and the various capital improvement needs of the Town. She stated that the Council should have numbers, more information and an absolute guarantee that the project will not move forward without the Council's input prior to voting on the resolution. Mayor Wright reiterated that accepting the grant will not mean that the Town is committing to spend any funds at this point and stated that there will be many discussions about the costs and specifics of the project in the future and there will be many cost decisions to be made as well. He stated that the funding is at risk if the Town does not move forward. Councilor Bottalico indicated that there are many different types of turfs, and stated that studies have shown that safety problems are with turf constructed using ground-up tires. He stated that when the Town goes to RFP it will gather information regarding safety and all of the details of the project. Deputy Mayor Lenares reiterated that the only decision to be made by the Council at this point is whether to move forward with the grant and stated that there will be committees and studies and decisions to be made once the funds are received.

Councilor Banach stated that the Council is charged to make sure that the Town gets the most value for its money. He inquired as to the deadline for the application. He also commended Councilor Bottalico for attempting to find a solution. He stated that the Council should redouble its efforts to try to come up with an agreeable solution that will save money. Councilor Bowen remarked that football would have more usage with the High School having the turf field. He stated belief that the Town is limiting its options by approving the resolution as written and noted that the Council does have the two weeks to gather information prior to the vote. He stated that once this resolution is passed the Town will be locked into the Clem Lemire location. Councilor Banach indicated that he will abstain from the vote. He stated that while he is very supportive of youth programs he feels that the Town can work out a better deal. Mayor Wright stated that given the State's current budget deficit there is the possibility that the State will pull back grant funds if the Town does not act.

Mayor Wright requested a roll call vote.

### Roll Call Vote

Councilor Banach: Abstain  
Councilor Boni: Yes  
Councilor Bottalico: Yes  
Councilor Bowen: Abstain  
Councilor Cohen: Abstain  
Councilor Lenares: Yes  
Councilor Nagel: Yes  
Councilor Nasinnyk: No  
Mayor Wright: Yes

Motion passed 5-1 as indicated.

Councilor Cohen stated that she abstained from the vote because she would have liked to have the opportunity to amend the resolution.

## **VI CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS**

### **A Strategic Plan Presentation – Metropolitan District Commission**

MDC Commissioner Bud Salemi, co-chair of MDC's Strategic Planning Committee, made a presentation regarding the Strategic Plan.

- Eight towns form the MDC: Hartford, Newington, East Hartford, West Hartford, Windsor, Bloomfield, Wethersfield, Bloomfield and Rocky Hill. The MDC belongs to the member towns
- In 2006 the MDC passed a resolution creating a Strategic Planning Committee with the goal to realign resources and services in the district in anticipation of its second century of service.
- As a result of a two-year effort, the Committee has submitted a plan that realigns the services of the MDC and outlines what the MDC will need to do to meet future challenges, particularly in regards to treatment and disposal waste water.
- One of the Committee's goals is to keep in mind at all times that this work is being done for the member towns.
- A major part of the plan has been with the Clean Water Project, which was approved by all eight member towns, and involves reconstruction of much of the sewer system throughout Hartford.
- Because of the Clean Water Project the MDC will be able to have some programs that member towns probably could not afford on their own, such as advanced design and management software for storm water drainage, which is owned by the MDC and therefore owned and available for use by the member towns. There is also a program that allows towns to use the MDC's facilities for washing municipal trucks at a reduced cost.
- The MDC has been able to enact some of the Plan as it has been finalized, particularly in the areas of financial control, resulting in lower tax costs to the towns and lower water usage costs for all MDC customers.

Commissioner Salemi requested that the Council read through the Committee's report. Question and answer session followed. Mayor Wright inquired about sewer-lining work being performed in Town. Commissioner Salemi replied that there is efficiency in relining sewers because it prevents the sewers from having to be dug up, it seals the cracks and the smooth surface of the lining can actually increase water flow through the sewer.

Councilor Banach noted the MDC's goal to protect public health, in particular in its collection of waste water. He noted that he has inquired repeatedly about the Town's problem with raw sewage overflows into Mill Brook and Piper Brook during heavy rainfall and has yet to receive a satisfactory answer. He indicated that he has requested several times that the public is informed/warned of the problem and advised to stay away after a heavy storm. He requested that the MDC work with the Central Connecticut Health District to do something in terms of making the public aware of this health threat. Commissioner Salemi indicated that it is a public health issue and should be addressed. He noted that at one point areas of Hartford were fitted with overflow alarms, and stated that any overflow situation should be subject to analysis. He stated that he will carry the concerns back to the MDC.

Councilor Bowen inquired as to who serves as the current chairperson of the MDC. Commissioner Salemi replied that the current MDC chair is William DiBella. Commissioner Salemi encouraged the Town to discuss

the usage of the MDC's map system and stated that the goal is to provide a storm water management plan for all member towns while reducing costs to the towns. Mayor Wright noted complaints about littering on the MDC property in the Eighth Street area and noted that the MDC responded very well by installing a gate to the entrance of the area.

## B Year in Review Presentation – Central Connecticut Health District

Paul Hutcheon, Director of Health for the Central Connecticut Health District, presented the Council a slide presentation outlining CCHD's written report of its year in review. Mr. Hutcheon was joined by CCHD Board of Director members Kevin Borrup and Nancy Klatt.

### Introduction

- CCHD is the local health department for the towns of Berlin, Newington, Rocky Hill and Wethersfield
- Organizational structure overview
- CCHD Board of Directors:
  - Berlin: Patricia Checko, Co-Chair, Ray Jarema and Carolyn Wysocki
  - Newington: Kevin Borrup, Amanda Hurwicz and one vacancy
  - Rocky Hill: Judith Sartucci and Arthur Yoaps
  - Wethersfield: Dianne Doot, Nancy Klatt and one vacancy
- Office Locations:
  - Berlin Town Hall – Sanitarian
  - Newington Town Hall - Sanitarians
  - Wethersfield Town Hall: Central Office
  - Rocky Hill Town Hall: Sanitarian
  - Newington Senior and Disabled Center: Community Health Coordinator

### Highlight of Activities

- Updated website ([www.cchtd.org](http://www.cchtd.org))
- Obtained \$37,210 in community health grants to support a variety of programs and services
- Adopted a Sanitary Code providing for the regulation and licensure of food establishments, public swimming pools, motels and salons
- Completed a strategic planning process and adopted a new strategic plan
- Updated Community Health Report Card

### Regulated Facilities

- Food Service Establishments
- Public Swimming Pools
- Motels
- Salons
- Child Day Care Centers
- Septic Systems
- Private Wells

### Regulatory Services

- Investigation of child lead poisoning
- Complaint investigations: regulated facility and environmental/public health hazards

### Environmental Health Program Highlights

- Updated the "Food Service License Application and Guidance" packet for prospective food establishments
- Refined food recall notification program
- Provided on-site training at several food service establishments on proper food handling practices

### Community Health Screenings

- Blood cholesterol screenings
- Senior dental screenings
- Skin cancer screenings
- Blood glucose screenings

- Osteoporosis screenings
- Vascular screenings

#### Community Health Clinics

- Child passenger safety checks
- Senior dental cleanings
- Prescription drug counseling
- Influenza and pneumonia immunizations
- Visit with a nurse
- Pedicare foot care clinics

#### Community Health Education

- Blood cholesterol education classes
- Health promotion for people with disabilities
- Obesity-smart dining in the district program
- Dental education workshop
- Diabetes: self-care
- Asthma prevention program
- Mental aerobics classes
- Meals for one demonstrations

#### Community Health Services

- Public health emergency preparedness planning
- Investigations of communicable diseases
- Prescription health fairs
- Guest speakers
- Articles/press releases
- Sale of bicycle helmets and radon test kits

#### Current year Budget – Expenditures

- \$956,787
- Salaries: \$573,820 (60%)
- Employee Benefits: \$226,484 (24%)
- Program Expenses: \$98,990 (10%)
- Operating Expenses: \$57,493 (6%)

#### Current Year Budget – Revenue

- \$956,787
- Town Contributions: \$384,136 (40%)
- Grants: \$312,491 (33%)
- Permits/Licensing Fees: \$104,665 (11%)
- Reserve Fund Transfer: \$81,795 (8%)
- Program Receipts: \$55,700 (6%)
- Interest: \$18,000 (2%)

Question and answer session followed. Councilor Nasinyk inquired about how communicable diseases are reported to the CCHD. Mr. Hutcheon replied that the CCHD is notified based on mandated reports obtained by a physician's office or hospital.

Councilor Banach inquired about the issue he had previously reported to the MDC regarding a health threat at Mill and Piper Brooks after a heavy rain storm. Mr. Hutcheon agreed that there is a health threat present that occurs during a heavy rainfall. He stated that the CCHD can work with the MDC to pinpoint areas of concern and to place signage. He noted, however, that there are instances where the problem areas could involve a manhole in the middle of the road and he also noted that there is a flow and the concern eventually moves away from the area. Councilor Banach inquired how long a public health threat remains after an overflow event. Mr. Hutcheon replied that it can last for several days, depending on temperature, sunlight and other environmental factors.

C Appointment of Small Cities Consultant

Town Planner Ed Meehan indicated that the Town has gone to RFP for a Small Cities consultant and received only one response: L. Wagner & Associates. He noted that there are only a couple of firms that provide these services in the state. Mr. Meehan stated that L. Wagner has served as the Town's consultant since 1993 and has been successful in helping the Town obtain various Small Cities grants. He recommended that the Council vote at its next meeting to appoint L. Wagner as the consultant. He stated that doing so will allow the Town to meet with the Wagner staff and bring back a list of recommended projects for 2009, including Phase II of the New Meadow project.

D Mid-Year Transfers

Finance Director Ann Harter indicated that the Council has received a mid-year report of the Town's estimated revenues and expenses and stated that the Town is faring well despite the economic downturn. She stated that interest income is down due to federal interest rate cuts which will result in an approximately \$400,000 deficit. She stated that the Town has received more funding through a manufacturing pilot program which has generated about \$159,000 in revenue. Mrs. Harter stated that the tax collection rate through December 31 is consistent with last year but due to the economic downturn, collections will be monitored very closely. She stated that fees collected are consistent with the budget. She stated that there are expenditure savings that offset revenue deficits and indicated that utility costs are on track. Mrs. Harter noted that Highway Department overtime may be expended completely due to the number of snow storms this winter but noted that lower than anticipated fuel rates will help to offset some of the cost of the snow account. She also noted that the Town has received a reduction in its solid waste tip fee.

Councilor Bottalico inquired whether the Town has locked into a fuel contract. Mrs. Harter replied that the Town has locked in for unleaded fuel. Mrs. Harter continued that there are savings due to vacancies in several departments that will offset additional anticipated shortage in the personnel line item. Mrs. Harter indicated that the cost of the Charter revision referendum will be about \$28,000 for the legal notice, ballots and poll workers and stated that the Council will be asked to authorize the payment from the Town's contingency account. Councilor Boni inquired about the Town's investments. Mrs. Harter replied that most of the investments are in savings accounts and stated that the deposit of public funds is controlled by the State.

E Alter Town Council Meeting Schedule

Mayor Wright stated that the Council's regularly scheduled meeting on February 24 will conflict with the Charter revision referendum voting date and indicated that the Council will be requested to vote on canceling the February 24 meeting and instead holding a Special Meeting on Monday, February 23. He stated that the item will appear on the next meeting agenda.

**VII RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS**

- A. Environmental Quality Commission
1. Acknowledge Resignation of Maura Stamm
  2. Appoint a Replacement (none)

Deputy Mayor Lenares moved the following:

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the resignation of Maura Stamm from the Environmental Quality Commission, in accordance with a letter dated December 24, 2008.**

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

- B Appointments to Other Boards and Commissions

Councilor Banach moved the following:

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Newington Town Council hereby makes the following appointments:**

16. School Code Compliance Committee

5 members, No term end  
Party Max.: 4  
Members: 3 Rep., 1 Dem

Name	Address	Party	Term
Town Council Rep.: Tom Bowen	22 Woods Way	D	Council Term

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

**VIII TAX REFUNDS**

Councilor Bowen moved the following:

**RESOLVED:**

**That property tax refunds in the amount of \$18,418.85 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 seconded by Councilor Banach. Motion passed 9-0.

**IX MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

A Regular Meeting, December 16, 2008

Councilor Nasinnyk moved to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting, December 16, 2008 as written, Motion seconded by Councilor Boni. Motion passed 9-0.

B Public Hearing re Charter Revision, January 12, 2009

Councilor Cohen moved to accept the minutes of the Public Hearing re Charter Revision, January 12, 2009 as written, Motion seconded by Councilor Boni. Motion passed 9-0.

C Regular Meeting, January 13, 2009

(Tabled until the next meeting.)

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

(tabled until the next meeting)

**XI COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS - None**

**XII PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL**

Sandy Lallier, 27 Elton Drive: Mrs. Lallier stated that it was nice to hear the Council discuss the issues on the agenda and stated that she appreciates hearing answers and discussion among the Council.

**XIII REMARKS BY COUNCILORS**

Councilor Nasinnyk stated that she was under the impression that the artificial turf item would not be on the agenda and remarked that she feels that the vote was pressured. She stated that she would like to have discussed the item without having the pressure to vote. She remarked that she is not opposed to a turf field but would have liked the time to hold further discussions and do further research prior to voting.

Councilor Cohen remarked that she would have liked to amend the turf resolution to require that the project come back to the Council prior to moving forward. She stated that she would have been in favor of tabling the motion until the following meeting.

Councilor Bottalico stated that the turf project started in the CIP and remarked that he does not believe that an agreement will be reached between the Board of Education and Parks and Recreations and stated that Parks and Recreations wants to have the field installed at Clem Lemire. He remarked that this is why the item appeared on the agenda.

#### **XIV EXECUTIVE SESSION Re: REAL ESTATE/LITIGATION**

Councilor Nagel moved to go into Session, Re: Real Estate/Litigation at 9:40pm. Motion seconded by Councilor Bowen. Motion passed 9-0. The Executive Session was attended by all Councilors, Mayor Wright, Town Planner Ed Meehan and Town Attorney Ben Ancona.

Deputy Mayor Lenares moved to go out of Executive Session at 10:00pm. Motion seconded by Councilor Bottalico. Motion passed 9-0.

#### **XII ADJOURNMENT**

Councilor Bowen moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:01pm. Motion seconded by Councilor Banach. Motion passed 9-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. Jaime Trevethan  
Clerk of the Council