



John L. Salomone  
Town Manager

# TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET  
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

**MAYOR STEPHEN WOODS**

## MINUTES

### NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING

7:00 P.M.

Helen Nelson Room

December 13, 2011

#### I PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

#### II ROLL CALL – Councilors Present

Councilor Borjeson  
Councilor Bottalico  
Councilor Castelle  
Councilor Cohen  
Councilor DelBuono  
Councilor Klett  
Councilor Nagel  
Mayor Woods

- Councilor McBride - absent

#### Staff Present

John Salomone – Town Manager  
Richard Mulhall – Chief of Police  
Jaime Trevethan – Executive Assistant to the Town Manager  
Linda Irish-Simpson – Clerk of the Council

#### III AWARDS/PROCLAMATIONS

A. Retirement – Tony Ferraro, Town Engineer

Mayor Woods moved the following:

**WHEREAS, Anthony Ferraro was appointed as the Town of Newington's interim Engineer on August 14, 2006 and to the position of Town Engineer on August 13, 2007; and**  
**WHEREAS, Mr. Ferraro graduated from the University of Connecticut with a degree in Civil Engineering in 1968 and served as a Lt. Colonel of the U.S. Army Reserves; and**  
**WHEREAS, Mr. Ferraro came to Newington with over thirty years of experience serving other area towns including Berlin, East Haven and Hartford; and**  
**WHEREAS, Mr. Ferraro skillfully led staff through numerous Engineering and interdepartmental projects in a professional and knowledgeable manner; and**  
**WHEREAS, Mr. Ferraro served as the staff advisor to the Inland Wetland Commission and assisted the Town Plan and Zoning Commission with appropriate development reviews; and**  
**WHEREAS, Mr. Ferraro has retired from the Town of Newington, effective September 16, 2011;**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Newington Town Council hereby recognizes Mr. Ferraro's professional service and commitment to the Town, and wishes him the best in his retirement.**

Mayor Woods congratulated Mr. Ferraro and appreciated all that he did for the Town during his years of service.

Mr. Ferraro thanked the Town and stated that it had been a privilege to work for the Town where the residents and Councilors asked and not demanded information over the years.

Councilor Bottalico stated that it had been a pleasure working with Mr. Ferraro over the years and wished him well.

Councilor Cohen stated that she found Mr. Ferraro easy to get along with, knowledgeable and it had been a pleasure working with him. She wished Mr. Ferraro a happy and successful retirement.

#### **Public Participation –**

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: Expressed her thanks for Mr. Ferraro's service and for his knowledge and ability to answer any of her questions over the years. She wished Mr. Ferraro well in his retirement.

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

Tom Ganley, 223 Goodale Drive: Mr. Ganley wanted to give the Council background on the history of regional efforts made by Police Chiefs in the area. Several years prior a similar unit was formed called the Capital Region Investigative Support Team and included all towns in the Capital region, which was cumbersome at the time and the technology was lacking. Another form of regionalization was instituted by the prior Town Manager which was a single test for all 11 towns that saved quite a bit of money. This grant allows the area to become focused on what best suits this region Mr. Ganley stated. He hoped that all Councilors would be in favor of this grant, which would be a benefit to Newington.

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: She commented that the directory listing for the Helen Nelson Room should be clearly stated so that individuals can find the meeting easily. Ms. Lyons asked if it would be possible for the Town Manager to send a letter to the individuals who participate in the public section of the Council meeting so they know they were heard and could be given answers to their questions.

Holly Harlow, 11 Edmund Street: Ms. Harlow expressed her appreciation for the Town purchase of the Marcap property and hoped that open space will be available in the Balf property as well. She asked that the Council lay the groundwork for purchasing this space should it become available.

#### **V CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS**

##### **A. Barkledge Drive and Sterling Drive Street Acceptance**

Mayor Woods explained that a resident had expressed concern over the signage on the roads and parking in the area. John Salomone stated that the Town would determine the appropriate parking and any special circumstances would be considered. He has had informal meetings with the residents regarding not parking in front of residences. The Town Manager explained that all four conditions listed in the resolution had been met by the builder and a \$20,000 bond will be held for a year. Councilor Klett commented that the issue of snow plowing was one of the biggest issues for condo owners in Town and wished their roads were built to Town specifications to allow for plowing. Mr. Salomone agreed but stated there was a cost to building to Town specs or the builder might not have the room to build to specs.

Councilor Klett moved the following:

#### **RESOLVED:**

**That the Newington Town Council, following a Public Hearing held on December 13, 2011, hereby accepts Barkledge Drive and Sterling Drive as Town roads, conditioned on the developer's satisfactory completion of the following requirements:**

- 1. Corrections of any defects as determined by the Town Engineer,**
- 2. Submission of two sets of "as built" street plans and profile mylars for recording and certification of merestone placement,**

3. **Warranty deed for roadway extension and drainage easement, if applicable,**
4. **Maintenance Bond, amount to be determined by the Town Manager, for one (1) year from date of acceptance.**

**This acceptance is to take effect following the certification by the Town Engineer on the condition of the road and the written acceptance by the Town Manager.**

The motion was seconded by Councilor Cohen. The motion passed 8 – 0 Councilor McBride, Absent

B. Regional Grant Request: Mid-State Regional Major Crime Squad

Chief Mulhall gave an overview of the grant the five towns were applying for. He stated that grants of this type enhance the regional resources, training and skill levels of the officers, which would result in quicker and better investigations. A crime scene team was developed with the Chiefs from Berlin, Cromwell, Rocky Hill, Wethersfield and Newington. Chief Mulhall stated that the State gave the towns only 45 days to turnaround this application and apologized for the quickness of this. He stated that this is a competitive grant for the entire State and the proposal must meet all the criteria and be very specific since the Town is competing against many other towns. Three of the five towns have passed resolutions regarding this grant he stated and once all five are received he will finish the grant and submit it to the State.

Councilor Cohen requested a revised and updated proposal be given to the Council which the Chief stated he would supply. He stated that revisions will be made to include information on call outs, size of the team and how many hours would be involved in each major crime to enable a dollar amount to be added to the proposal. Councilor Cohen congratulated the Chief and felt the grant was a good opportunity.

Councilor Castelle asked about the recalculation of the mill rate to include savings. The Chief stated that he will be working with the Finance Department on that particular piece. He also said that the computer system included are meant to be put on a harden laptop to be used in the field but it will also be put on the Town's virtual server to access within the Police Department.

Councilor Borjeson thanked Chief Mulhall for answering the Councilor's questions last week.

Councilor Cohen moved the following:

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Newington Town Council hereby authorizes the application for the Regional Performance Incentive Program grant funding referenced in Section 5 of Public Act 11-61 (An Act Concerning Responsible Growth) for the creation of a Mid-State regional crime scene unit;**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

**That the Newington Town Council hereby identifies John L. Salomone, Town Manager, as an individual authorized to sign the grant application and administer the grant. Such application is attached to and made a part of this record.**

The motion was seconded by Councilor Klett. The motion passed 8 – 0 Councilor McBride, Absent

**VI CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS**

A. Regional Grant Request: Regional One Point PSAP Regional Dispatch

John Salomone gave an overview of the proposal. He stated that this request would determine the cost benefit and then take the next step of going to the other Town Councils to determine if this request should go further to an actual RFP. The Town Manager explained that this is an interim step and in last year's feasibility study cost each of the towns \$3,000. He explained that last year's analysis was still being studied by the towns and was not currently available for publication since changes and comments were still being made. The current grant would be more detailed to determine if the towns would actually save money or have better service by centralizing PSAP. He explained that each town currently has a separate 911 center to dispense police, fire and EMS services. Mr. Salomone stated that it would probably work with as few as three towns but not less than that. He said that there would be savings in personnel requirements, equipment and maintenance of software packages as well as facilities. Fiber optics is currently available to each town which will enable communications to go over fiber optics and relayed to respective towns. The Town Manager explained that nothing is finalized as

yet since several of the Chiefs have reservations as to loss of control, personnel and various compromises that would have to be made for regionalization to work. Mr. Salomone stated that they would be applying for \$100,000 in grant money but the actual consultant could cost less than that and once the RFP is done, he would have a better understanding as to the final cost. He was optimistic of winning this grant since it fulfills the State's requirements and what the State has been encouraging. With this grant, he is trying to get ahead of the curve since in the years to come there will be regionalization of some PSAP's. He thanked Chief Mulhall for his help and is encouraged that the five towns are going to go ahead with the next step in the process. Mr. Salomone explained that this was a complicated process but one that he felt would have significant cost savings even though it would be a lot of work.

Chief Mulhall commented that this was an initial study that has brought up many issues that will need to be discussed in detail. This will require a multi-phase approach since it will involve not only Police Chiefs but also Fire Chiefs in each town who have not to date been brought into this project. He explained that the first grant was useful and the current grant will answer some of the many questions raised by the first grant.

Councilor Bottalico asked the Chief about the difficulty in communicating between cruisers with the fiber optics and how would the different dispatchers be handled. The Chief explained that the radio system would be one of the easiest items to accomplish since the radio systems would remain intact and the fiber optics would redirect the communications to a central location. He stated that bringing all the dispatchers together would be a matter of training and that there were software programs available to address it.

Councilor Nagel was concerned about how the public would be affected by this in terms of response time, overload in a particular town and how it would help in getting emergency calls answered efficiently. Chief Mulhall explained that the central location would have a dedicated supervisor which is not the case now; the system would have advanced technology to handle more calls and could program the software to dispatch in a consistent manner.

Mr. Salomone explained, in answer to Councilor Cohen's question, that the town would not be mandated to do this but that smaller towns may be required by the State in the future.

Councilor Klett asked for information on the cost of hiring a consultant and what type of person would be hired to do and their qualifications. Mr. Salomone explained that it could be a firm that is hired who has in-depth knowledge of communication systems, police, fire and EMS work and highway divisions/larger services. The consultant will develop a team and go to each town to review the towns' needs on an individual basis. The State vendors use a standard set of criteria which can be used or modified. Councilor Klett asked for the public act that will be used in this grant, which Mr. Salomone will supply.

Councilor Bottalico asked the Chief for an explanation of how multiple 911 calls currently are handled. The Chief explained that each call is handled in order by the dispatcher. Currently calls are answered within 10 rings and 95% of the time calls are answered in less than four rings. In a centralized location, there would be a certain number of dedicated 911 lines based on the amount of calls from the five towns. Local calls are currently not being tracked but the Chief hoped with the new phone system it would be a possibility.

Councilor Klett wanted information on how the monitoring of prisoners would be handled in a centralized system, since that is the dispatchers' responsibility. The Chief explained that dispatchers currently watch prisoners with video cameras in the cells which are sealed boxes that are safer than the old ones and problems are rare. The dispatcher would bring in an officer from the road to handle any issues, which would not change in the new system.

Councilor Borjeson expressed concern regarding the human side of this grant regarding five different unions and if expanded to five towns, what issues would arise if a dispatcher is not familiar with a different town and would it require a higher quality candidate to handle these calls. Chief Mulhall explained that the current dispatchers are very qualified but that this would push them into new situations which he felt they would adapt to. He explained that software currently brings a map up in front of the dispatcher showing the street and houses on a particular street so the officer can be directed to the location. Councilor DeIBuono expressed concern for there not being a person in the Newington dispatch area and if a citizen needed to see an officer, how would that be handled in the future. Chief Mulhall explained that a phone could be installed, the resident would pick it up, and within a few minutes, a police officer would be available.

John Salomone will add this item to the January 2012 agenda.

## B. Municipal Land Use Evaluation Project Grant

John Salomone explained that this grant promotes when land is developed that it has less impact on the environment especially with water retention and drainage. DEEP is looking for low impact strategies that could be implemented. He gave the example of a sidewalk having the ability to absorb rain water so there is less drainage. The grant would be in two phases: 1. Look at the Town's land use for low impact development (LID) and 2. Would be a demonstration project to show how the low impact project would work and to show it to other towns.

Councilor Klett stated that she and Councilor Nagel had a meeting with Ed Meehan and it understood that Phase I and Phase II were not tied together, which Mr. Salomone agreed with. However, the Town could not do Phase II without doing Phase I. Phase I would require the hiring of a consultant and could take up to a year at which point the Town would have to identify a project. Councilor Nagel stated that under the requirements of the grant no Town funding would be required.

Councilor DelBuono asked Mr. Salomone about requiring action at that meeting since the DEEP wants to have all the applications in by the end of the year. Councilor DelBuono expressed concern about breaking the rules of the Council and this should not be done on a regular basis because it is important to have public input on topics before the Council. Mayor Woods stated that since the December 27 meeting was going to be cancelled there would be no opportunity to vote on this prior to the end of the year.

Councilor Cohen expressed concern if the Town could handle this with the absence of Ed Meehan. Mr. Salomone stated that the project was doable and would be handled by his replacement.

### Public Participation:

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: Asked the Council how long the Town had known about the grant and it seemed like the State was always in a hurry expecting the Town to jump through hoops.

Councilor Bottalico moved to waive the rules. The motion was seconded by Councilor Borjeson and the motion passed 8 – 0 Councilor McBride, Absent.

Councilor DelBuono moved the following:

### **RESOLVED:**

**That the Newington Town Council hereby authorizes the application for grant funding from the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to conduct an evaluation of land use regulations and the consideration of amendments to implement low impact development practices; and**

### **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

**That the Newington Town Council hereby identifies John L. Salomone, Town Manager, as an individual authorized to sign the grant application and administer the grant. Such application is attached to and made a part of this record.**

The motion was seconded by Councilor Bottalico. The motion passed 8 – 0 Councilor McBride, Absent

## C. 2012 Schedule of Town Council Meeting Dates

Mayor Woods suggested that the calendar for 2012 be adjusted to change the meeting for September 25 (Yom Kippur) to September 18 and to change the December 25 meeting to December 18. He asked Jaime Trevethan to get the schedule of 2012 holidays to all Council members and the schedule will be put on January 10 agenda.

## D. Consideration of Canceling the December 27, 2011, Council Meeting

Council Klett is in favor of cancellation of the meeting and felt that since it was school vacation parents would want to spend time with their children.

Councilor Nagel wanted to state that waiving of the rules should be done on a limited basis since this is something that previous Councils have taken this into consideration. Mayor Woods stated that he felt it was an oversight on the part of the previous Council and John Salomone explained that he delayed requesting the cancellation in case something of importance needed to be discussed.

A motion to waive the rules was made by Councilor Bottalico and seconded by Councilor Klett. The motion passed 8 – 0 Councilor McBride, Absent

Councilor Klett moved the following:

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Newington Town Council hereby alters its meeting schedule by canceling its regular meeting scheduled for December 27, 2011.**

The motion was seconded by Councilor Klett. The motion passed 8 – 0 Councilor McBride, Absent

**VII RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS**

A. Accept Resignation of Paul Plavcan (Alternate)

Councilor Klett moved the following:

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the resignation of Paul Plavcan from the Zoning Board of Appeals (Alternate) in accordance with a communication dated November 14, 2011.**

The motion was seconded by Councilor DelBuono. The motion passed 8 – 0 Councilor McBride, Absent.

B. Accept Resignation of Kathleen Clark (Alternate)

Councilor Klett moved the following:

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the resignation of Kathleen Clark as an Alternate member of the Conservation Commission, in accordance with correspondence dated December 1, 2011.**

The motion was seconded by Councilor Nagel. The motion passed 8 – 0 Councilor McBride, Absent

C. Accept Resignation of Dave Lenares

Councilor Klett moved the following:

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the resignation of David Lenares as a member of the Town Plan and Zoning Commission, in accordance with correspondence dated December 12, 2011.**

The motion was seconded by Councilor Bottalico. The motion passed 8 – 0 Councilor McBride, Absent.

D. Appointments – Other

Councilor Klett moved the following:

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Newington Town Council hereby makes the following appointments:  
Affordable Housing Monitoring Agency  
Donald Woods 82 Ivy Lane – Party D  
Commission on Aging and Disabled**

Matilda Demaio -485 Connecticut Avenue – Party D  
 William Demaio- 22 Burdon Lane – Party D  
 Eunice Scharr- 260 West Hill Road – Party D  
**Building Code of Appeals**  
 Alan Paskewich--100 Cambria Avenue – Party D  
**Committee on Community Safety**  
 Phyliss Dicara – 29 Crown Ridge – Party D  
**Conservation Commission**  
 Kathleen Clark - 50 Grandview Drive – Party D  
 Jeff Zelek -55 Welles Drive N – Party D  
 Alan Paskewich -100 Cambria Avenue – Party D (Alternate)  
**Development Commission**  
 Greg Polk -1069 Main Street – Party D  
 Tom Shields- 56 Wilson Avenue – Party D  
 Linda Woods- 82 Ivy Lane – Party D  
 Dave Marsden- 73 Maple Hill Avenue – Party D (Alternate)  
**EMS Committee**  
 Gloria Olesen- 1433 Willard Avenue #3 – Party D (Public Rep.)  
**Employee Insurance and Pension Benefits Committee**  
 Terrance Sullivan- 188 Forest Drive – Party D  
 Jon Kehl -243 Reservoir Road – Party D (Specialist)  
**Environmental Quality Commission**  
 Michael Camillo- 126 Willard Avenue – Party D (Public Rep)  
 Paul Plavcan- 38 Welles Drive N – Party D (Public Rep)  
 Michael Fox- 1901 Main Street – Party D (Public Rep)  
 Pam Foster -414 Griswold Hills Drive – Party D (Public Rep)  
 Edward Horan- 35 Crestview Drive – Party D (Public Rep)  
 Stein Ramstad- 555 Main Street – Party D (Public Rep)  
**Fair Rent Commission**  
 Audra Eckstrom – 281 Faith Court – Party D (Dwell. Unit Tenant)  
 Linda Woods – 82 Ivy Lane – Party D (Dwell. Unit Landlord)  
 Don Woods – 82 Ivy Lane – Party D (Alt. Dwell.Unit Landlord)  
 Michele Camerota – 364 Cypress Road – Party D (Alt. Elector)  
**Library Board**  
 Leean Manke – 112 Northwood Road – Party D  
 C.Neil Ryan – 237 Brockett Street – Party D  
 Kristine Nasinnyk – 50 Theodore Street – Party D  
**Newington Historical Society and Trust**  
 Linda Woods – 82 Ivy Lane – Party D  
**Human Rights Commission**  
 Audra Eckstrom – 281 Faith Court – Party D  
 Karen Faust – 55 Faith Court – Party D  
 Louise Rickard – 108 Little Brook Drive – Party D  
**Board of Parks and Recreation**  
 William DeBlasio – 68 Harold Drive – Party D  
 Richard Khentigan – 79 Whitewood Road – Party D  
 Jim Marocchini – 75 Michael Lane – Party D  
**Standing Insurance Committee**  
 Cheryl Constantine – 198 Beacon Street – Party D (Underwriter)  
 James Zolad – 269 Candlewyck Drive – Party D (Underwriter)  
**Town Plan and Zoning Commission**  
 Dana Woods – 1632 Willard Avenue – Party D  
 Stanley Sobieski – 26 Deepwood Drive – Party D  
 Mike Camillo – 126 Willard Avenue – Party D (Alternate)  
**Tri-town Community Cable Access Committee**  
 Michael Fox – 1901 Main Street – Party D  
**Vehicle Appeals Board**  
 Judy Igielski – 23 Old Musket Drive – Party D  
 Don Woods – 82 Ivy Lane – Party D  
**Zoning Board of Appeals**

**Paul Plavcan – 38 Welles Drive N. – Party D**

**Subcommittees of the Newington Town Council**

**Facilities Naming Subcommittee**

**Myra Cohen – Party D**

**Maureen Klett – Party D**

**IHCC**

**Terry Borjeson – Party D**

**Scott McBride – Party D**

**Town Council Rules Subcommittee**

**Clark Castelle (appointed 11/15/11)**

**Maureen Klett (appointed 11/15/11)**

**Town Manager Evaluation Subcommittee**

**Clark Castelle – Party D**

**Maureen Klett – Party D**

The motion was seconded by Councilor Bottalico. The motion passed 8 – 0 Councilor McBride, Absent

Councilor DelBuono moved the following:

**RESOLVED:**

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

**Board of Parks and Recreation**

**Jen Win-Johnson – 23 Welles Drive N. – Party R**

**Jeff Perillo – 269 Beacon Street – Party R**

**Robert Fresen – 159 Kimberly Road – Party R**

**Town Plan and Zoning Commission**

**Cathleen Hall – 26 Kowall Court – Party R**

**David Lenares – 41 New Britain Avenue – Party U**

**Frank Aieta – 595 Church Street – Party R (Alternate)**

**Subcommittees of the Newington Town Council**

**Facilities Naming Subcommittee**

**Beth DelBuono – Party R**

**IHCC**

**Beth DelBuono – Party R**

**Town Council Rules Subcommittee**

**Beth DelBuono – Party R**

**Town Manager Evaluation Subcommittee**

**Dave Nagel – Party R**

The motion was seconded by Councilor Nagel. The motion passed 8 – 0 Councilor McBride, Absent.

**VIII TAX REFUNDS (action requested)**

Councilor Castelle moved the following:

**RESOLVED:**

**That property tax refunds in the amount of \$1,231.74 are hereby approved in the individual amounts and for those named on the “Requests for Refund of an Overpayment of Taxes,” certified by the Revenue Collector, a list of which is attached to this resolution.**

The motion was seconded by Councilor Cohen. The motion passed 8 – 0 Councilor McBride, Absent

**IX MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

**A. November 15, 2011 Organizational Meeting**

There was no comment on this item.

A motion was made to accept the minutes of November 15, 2011 by Councilor Cohen. The motion was seconded by Councilor Nagel. The motion passed 8 – 0 Councilor McBride, Absent

### **B. November 22, 2011 Regular Meeting**

Councilor Cohen asked that a replacement copy of these minutes be sent to her since she did not receive them. There was no further comment on this item.

A motion was made to accept the minutes of November 22, 2011, by Councilor Castelle. The motion was seconded by Councilor DelBuono. The motion passed 8 – 0 Councilor McBride, Absent

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

John Salomone informed the Council of the retreat that has been scheduled for January 28, 2012 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Breakfast and lunch will be served. He stated that it was helpful to get input from the members as to what the priorities will be for the coming year and status reports from staff will be given on certain important issues. The Town Manager also mentioned that Mayor Woods and he are meeting with department heads so that the Mayor can meet and discuss issues with each manager. The Fire Department Commissioner has invited the Council to take a tour of the various fire stations, the apparatus, and individuals. Mr. Salomone suggested that tour be done prior to the retreat. The Library Director has invited the Council to tour the library and would like to discuss long range plans for the Library. Mr. Salomone will contact the Fire Department for various tour dates and the Council can decide what works for each. The public will be invited to tour as well via bus.

Councilor DelBuono suggested a tour of the Fire Department and the volunteer ambulance facility on the same day. Mr. Salomone agreed to set up any tour the Council wanted such as the Water Department or Police Dispatch.

### **XI COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilor Nagel – Board of Fire Commissioners

He commented that generators were discussed at the last meeting since the generators will need to be replaced at some point. This item will be placed on the Commissioner's wish list. Communication systems were discussed as well as the Council tour of the facilities.

Councilor Nagel – Library Board

He and Councilor Clark attended the last meeting and were given an update on the storm related damage to the building, which fared well. The Library had a camp on E-readers and tablets, alternatives to print books and future workshops are planned. He mentioned that the Friends of the Library Book Sale was very successful and they took in over \$13,000. Another book sale is planned for May. Councilor Nagel stated there was concern over the skylight in the Library, which was leaking and may be incorporated into the CIP for next year. Councilor Clark stated that it was his first meeting with the Library Board as a liaison and the Board discussed in general terms their long range plans which involve technology improvements and expansion. He felt it was a very interesting meeting and never knew so much was involved in running a Library.

Councilor Cohen – Youth Adult Council

She stated that the Council has a very active agenda and should be very exciting.

Councilor Cohen – Commission on Aging and Disabled

She commented that the Commission was looking into revamping the coffee shop but it was still in the planning stage. Councilor Cohen stated that Diane Stone will be attending some State functions and would be requesting a small amount of reimbursement.

Councilor Cohen – Downtown Revitalization Committee

She stated a special on-site meeting was held in Market Square regarding the placement of parking signs which will be moved but not placed in concrete to allow easy access for wheelchairs. A future project will involve having all parking signs look uniform.

Councilor Klett / Councilor Castelle – Rules Committee

Councilor Castelle stated they held their first meeting and reviewed current rules as they work with the Town Charter. They discussed incorporating some of the references that were made to the Town Charter so

Councilors and residents would have an easier time reading and understanding the rules. The goal is to have a more readable document and more comprehensive.

Councilor Klett reported that she and Councilors McBride and Bottalico will be having a meeting on December 21 with anyone from the TPZ and anyone wanting input in Ed Meehan's replacement. Mr. Meehan agreed to review the job description and give his recommendations.

Councilor Bottalico asked the Town Manager about the signs for the Market Square parking lot and when they will be completed. Mr. Salomone stated that some are done but they need to keep it simple and in the next month or so recommendations would be made to the Downtown Revitalization Committee and the Planning and Zoning Department may become involved for the signs are finalized.

Councilor Bottalico asked for the status of the storm cleanup and projected costs. Mr. Salomone explained the cost was in excess of \$1.5 million and 35% will be paid for by the Federal Government. The temporary land fill operation was almost complete and were about 75% done hauling the wood chips created from the brush to a landfill 25 miles away. The Town is clearing high branches that are in the Town right of way which total about two hundred. The Town has completed about 65% of the leaf collection Mr. Salomone explained and he hoped that the Town will be completed shortly.

Councilor Cohen asked about the disposing of tree limbs if a resident missed the pickup collection. Mr. Salomone stated that since the last storm on the previous Saturday created more down tree limbs, the Town will go back through and pick up one more time. If a citizen misses the last collection, the material can be dropped off at the landfill or the contractor who cut the brush can usually chip it and cart it away.

## **XII PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL (In person/Via Telephone)**

Domenic Pane, 638 Church Street: Mr. Pane congratulated the new Town Council on their election and expressed his concern regarding the old Town Planning and Zoning Room, which for many years was known as the Curtis Ambler Room. He was concerned that the room is no longer referenced as that and was wondering if the Council could rectify it. Mr. Pane believed that since the room was named after Curtis Ambler it should always be referenced by that name.

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Street: Mrs. Lyons expressed concern regarding several issues around Town. The first was regarding outages of street lights and who to report those to. The second was regarding a recent newscast that showed the sign in front of Town Hall as reading "LICE DEPARTMENT" instead of Police Department. Her third comment was regarding the moving of parking signs at Market Square and was glad it had been done. Mrs. Lyons stated that several years the Committee of Community Safety gave recommendations to the Council and she would like to have someone from that Committee update the Council in the future. She commented that she wanted to ensure that the Mayor would be back from the Fire Department tour in time for the Talk to the Mayor show.

## **XIII REMARKS BY COUNCILORS**

Mayor Woods discussed the open position of Town Planner since Ed Meehan has left after 22 years. The Council will take part in the hiring of his replacement and the Mayor asked Councilors Nagel, Klett and Councilor McBride to create a subcommittee to start the process. They will report regularly to the Council on the status.

Councilor Cohen asked for clarification on the time for Ed Meehan's reception at Town Hall. Jaime Trevethan explained that it would start at 2 p.m. on Friday, December 16. She wished everyone a Happy Holiday and Happy New Years.

Councilor Klett asked the Town Manager for the date of the reception for Ken Freidenberg, which will be January 10 from 2 – 4:30 p.m. in the Lobby of Town Hall. She wanted to be sure that the public was made aware of the date and time. She also asked if the Community Safety Committee had been meeting and Mr. Salomone stated that he did not think they had met in the last year. Councilor Klett mentioned the status the Curtis Ambler and if the room was being used by the TPZ. The Mayor explained that it was not used by the TPZ and she thought it would be a good idea for the Facilities Naming Committee to review this. The Mayor stated that the Council had an obligation to ensure that once a room is named for someone that it remained named.

Councilor Nagel wanted to thank the Town and various organizations for the various holiday festivities and especially the Newington Historical Society boutique and open house. He visited and took part in it as a historical character. He expressed his sympathy for the passing of Barbara Boni, former Councilor Tony Boni's wife. Mayor Woods passed along his condolences to the Boni family. He felt Tony had served the Town very well and she will be missed. He also thanked the Town Manager for taking the time over the last couple of weeks to indoctrinate the Mayor into his new role. The Mayor appreciated his time and the department heads time. He thanked the Police Department for their Toy Drive at Walmart, which was very successful. He congratulated the Highway Department and Parks and Rec Department for going above and beyond to handle the recent back-to-back storms. They did a great time and Newington is far ahead of other towns in this regard. He also wanted to be sure that in the future the Town had enough generators and enough capacity to handle any storm. The Mayor wished everyone a Happy Holiday and Happy New Year.

The Mayor stated that he had wanted the Town Attorney at the meeting to kick off the possibility of charter revision this term. He will be attending the January 10 meeting to walk the Council through the process.

#### **XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

Councilor Bottalico moved to adjourn at 9:25 p.m. and seconded by Councilor Klett. The motion passed 8 – 0  
Councilor McBride, Absent.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Irish-Simpson  
Clerk of the Council