



John L. Salomone  
Town Manager

# TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET  
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

**MAYOR JEFF WRIGHT**

**MINUTES  
NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL  
December 22<sup>nd</sup> 2009**

Mayor Wright called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM in the Helen Nelson Room of the Newington Town Hall.

**I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**II. ROLL CALL**

<b>Councilors Present</b>	
Councilor Christopher Banach	X
Councilor Meg Casasanta	X
Councilor Myra Cohen	X
Councilor Maureen H. Klett	X
Councilor Mike Lenares (absent)	--
Councilor Scott P. McBride	X
Councilor David Nagel	X
Councilor Kristine Nasinnyk	X
Mayor Jeff Wright	X
<b>Total present</b>	<b>8</b>

<b>Staff Present</b>	
Town Manager - John Salomone	X
Executive Assistant - Jaime Trevethan	X
Council Clerk - Scott Coleman	X
Finance Director - Ann Harter	X
Highway Superintendent - Tom Malloy	X
Highway Asst. Super - Rob Hillman	X

**Town Manager Salomone** suggested that the Councilor swearing-in of Dave Nagel be moved up in order that he might formerly partake of the public participation.

**Councilor Casasanta moved** to amend the agenda to move up item VI.A., the resignation and appointments of Councilors. **Councilor Banach** seconded the motion. **Motion passed; 7– 0**, (Deputy Mayor Lenares absent).

- VI. A. Resignation: Town Council**  
 1. Accept resignation of Toni Boni

**Councilor Casasanta** moved the following:

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the resignation of Tony Boni from the Newington Town Council, effective December 22, 2009 in accordance with a letter dated December 14, 2009.**

**Councilor Banach** seconded the motion.

**Councilor Casasanta** thanked **Councilor Boni** for his service to the Council and stated that they would deeply miss his service. **Councilor Banach** stated that Councilor Boni was a worthy opponent and that he respected and admired him. **Mayor Wright** said that the Council would miss the Councilor and thanked him for all his hard work.

**Motion Passed 7-0 (Deputy Mayor Lenares absent)**

2. Appoint a replacement: David Nagel

**Councilor Casasanta** moved the following:

**RESOLVED:**

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

**Newington Town Council**

9 members, 2 year term  
 Party max.: 5  
 Remaining Members: 3 Rep., 5 Dem.

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
<b>Dave Nagel</b>	<b>1175 Willard Avenue</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>IMMED.-11/15/11</b>	<b>Tony Boni</b> (Res. Eff. 12/22/09)

**Councilor Banach** seconded the motion. **Motion Passed 7-0** (Deputy Mayor Lenares absent). Jaime Trevethan, Executive Assistant to the Town Manager and notary public swore in Councilor Nagel. **Mayor Wright** welcomed the Councilor. **Councilor Nagel** explained that this was not the circumstance under which he hoped to serve. He wished former Councilor Boni the best for the future. He thanked the Republican Town Committee for his appointment and congratulated the other Councilors on their election. **Councilor Nasinnyk** welcomed the Councilor back.

**III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL**

**Carol Anest** Resident 30 Harding Ave. Newington

- Inquired whether the concrete trash receptacle in the parking lot was going to remain in its current location and whether it would be clapboard-sided. Stated that she had received quite a few phone calls on the subject and wished to alert the Council.

**Rose Lyons** Resident 46 Elton Drive Newington

- Welcomed returning Councilor Nagel
- Hoped to hear from the State Representatives in attendance concerning the status of the State and the Budget's impact on the town
- Explained that not all residents are Cox subscribers and some do not now receive the NCTV broadcasts of town meetings
- Expressed concerns how the 2020 Plan of Development can envision Newington maintaining its small town character when indications are that the Town would become part of an urban sprawl.
- Explained the difficulty in reading a sign on Cedar Mountain announcing the public hearing due to the speed of the vehicles and the size of the lettering. The public was alerted to what was happening through the efforts of volunteers handing out flyers.

- Mentioned that the public has been alerted through the use of postcards about major issues and suggested that a quarterly newsletter be mailed, as not everyone has access to NCTV or the Internet.
- Requested that the Council and TPZ reach a consensus regarding the purpose or role of the 2020 POD: which is it, a “guideline for development and growth” or a “roadmap, a defined plan”.

**Councilor Casasanta moved** to amend the agenda to move up item V.A., New Business, Visit with the Legislative Delegation. **Councilor Banach** seconded the motion. **Motion passed; 8– 0**, (Deputy Mayor Lenares absent).

## V. CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS

### A. Visit with Legislative Delegation

**Mayor Wright** welcomed Senator Paul Doyle, Representatives Tim O'Brien and Sandy Nafis, and explained that Representative Guerrera was unable to attend due to the holiday. **Senator Doyle** further explained that Representative Guerrera was picking up his daughter from college and forwarded his apologies. Senator Doyle conveyed a message from **Representative Guerrera** that anyone with a question should contact him directly, and that he would be willing to schedule another Council appearance.

**Senator Doyle** stated that he appreciated the opportunity to meet with the Council. He spoke about the difficult times the state faces, about the work ahead and how difficult it is to obtain funds for the Towns he serves. He explained that now might be the time to look at other areas other than monetary which could be addressed. As an example he pointed to the firefighter legislation on which Representative Nafis had showed leadership.

**Representative Nafis** offered to step up and help on the Town's open space issues, where they are able. She mentioned that they were pleased that they had been able to save the Town from the proposed \$81 million cut to municipal aid. She explained that a commission has been established that's looking at all agencies to determine what consolidations and changes are possible. She expressed the need for a positive attitude in 2010 and to work together, soliciting input from everybody. The Representative spoke about the SEBAC agreement which the state had signed with the unions and that there will be outreach to the rank-and-file this year

**Representative O'Brien** stated that there had been many ideas which had come up during the past legislative session which did not get the attention that they deserved such as regionalism which he felt could remake the way that we do government in the state. He spoke about changes in the state's tax policy which could be very significant, and explained that the deficits in the out years could be in the billions of dollars. He commented on the loss of manufacturing and financial industry within the state.

**Mayor Wright** asked Representative O'Brien about regionalism and how specifically it might help “save us”. **Representative O'Brien** responded that we needed to look at all aspects from public safety, to education, to public works, and we to find ways we can share resources “so that we are not all 169 cities and towns doing our own show”. Again the Mayor asked for specifics. The Representative commented that we have to be thinking of ways to raise resources to run government which would make us not as reliant on property taxes. Upon further questioning by the Mayor, he mentioned that another legislator had mentioned replacing the property tax moving to some other more fair system, possibly based on people's ability to pay. Mayor Wright asked if this meant raising income taxes. The Representative responded that this might be one possibility, although not the only one. He suggested changing the property taxes so that they might be more progressive. Also, he mentioned sharing the hotel and sales taxes. Generally, he advocated for substituting current systems with fairer approaches. Mayor Wright stated that the surrounding towns of Wethersfield, Rocky Hill, and Berlin, and sometimes Cromwell meet to discuss regional approaches. His two concerns with regionalism are that there has to be a net saving, and oftentimes that it is a code for getting the suburbs to absorb services costs from the cities. He stated that he very opposed to this, and suggested that “carrots” be used. The Representative responded that many the programs already established are incentive programs to help encourage volunteer regional delivery of services. The Mayor responded that if the proposals are aimed at *forcing* the towns, then the message he wished to send is that this is not what is wanted. The Mayor gave, as an example, regional boards of education. He spoke about Hartford, its failure, and how it would be wrong to tie Newington's successful education system to Hartford's failed system. Representative O'Brien commented that the system must be fair for all. The Mayor said that if the state was looking to cut funding to the Town, then the state should look at reducing the unfunded mandates which cost the state nothing. He further explained that in his conversations with the former Chairman of the Board of Education one of the areas which came up was the drastic under-funding of students which the Town must educate from other districts, such as Hartford. He noted that the Town receives \$4-\$5,000 per pupil from Hartford, but it costs Town \$12,000. For us to help out Hartford, it's costing the Town \$8,000. He stated that while it may be a good thing to help our neighbors, it

doesn't seem very fair that it should end up costing us \$8,000. "Either fund us the right way, or then maybe, don't send the kids to us", was the Mayor's comment.

**Representative Nafis** mentioned other issues such as the way Magnet and Charter schools are funded; as an example pointing out how the schools receive about \$4,000 for each student, yet the students are still counted in their ECS formulas. She said that this double-dipping should not go on. If issues such as this are addressed, then maybe funds could be freed to help the communities. The **Mayor** commented that Newington is short-changed about \$800,000 for education for the out-of-town students. **Representative O'Brien** stated that education is one of the areas in which strides in terms of regional approaches have been made. He explained that there are disconnects in the way in which the system works, and that this is certainly one of them. It must be fair.

The **Mayor** brought up the situation in which the Hartford Magnet and Charter schools were sending out bills to the suburbs from which the students originate. **Representative O'Brien** noted that he had spoken with the chairman of the education committee and that "there was a lot of interest in making sure that this didn't happen again". The funding has been set up so that this it not supposed to happen.

**Councilor Banach** thanked the representatives for doing an extraordinary job. He mentioned that he is a long time opponent of the busway and possibly that Representative Guerrero might rescheduled for a January meeting to further address the issue. He asked the representatives to take a hard look at the cost of building the busway and the fact that it will be running at a loss each and every year. He commented that he thought light rail would seem the way to go. He inquired about what might be done about restraining the state university and college system from jacking up the fees and tuition for kids, while the presidents themselves are getting extraordinary sums of money, as was recently reported in the Hartford Courant. **Representative O'Brien** explained that the state higher education system operates with a greater degree of independence from procedures and oversight that most state agencies have to follow, and that they might have to be reigned in. He commented that needs to be revisited and that more oversight is needed. **Councilor Banach** commented that the increases in tuition have far outstripped any rates of inflation which begs the question as to where that money is going. **Representative Nafis** commented that there might be legislation this session which would bring more oversight to the process. **Senator Doyle** commented, using UCONN Hospital as an example, where the legislature had made it clear that it was not interested in seeing a merger with one of the urban hospitals, but that it had already been included in the budget. UCONN had ignored the legislature, and the Senate stopped them. He felt that there seems to be a pattern of arrogance, and that there's a lot of evidence that the legislature might act this year on providing for more control.

**Councilor Banach** inquired about the possibility of grants being recalled. **Senator Doyle** explained that they could be, but that he had checked on the field grant, and that it was secure. He said that it could happen, but that he didn't think it would. He urged the Town to make a decision, and to proceed. He stated that he had spoken to OPM and that the money could be used for design work right away, to preserve it. At some point, he thought others might start to look at those grants, which were not being spent. He suggested that the money be used, so that it was not lost. **Town Manager Salomone** stated that the Town was already spending some of the turf grant for preliminary design. **Senator Doyle** stated that it would be hard to stop a grant that was already underway. **Mayor Wright** asked Manager Salomone whether he had already started accessing the \$500K "small cities" grant which had already been received. The Town Manager responded that all the grants had been signed and that he was waiting for the state to return the final paperwork. **Representative Nafis** explained that this was federal money, that it was quite safe, and that the Town should be fine.

**Councilor Nasinnyk** asked of the representatives what was planned concerning the closing of the Cedar Crest Hospital. **Senator Doyle** explained that he, along with Representatives Nafis and O'Brien, have been trying to prevent it, but the legislature's clear intent is to try to preserve it. The Governor does have certain authority and her intent is to try to close it. The thought is to move the beds over to CVH in Middletown. It's still up in the air, but it appears that it's on track by the Governor through her executive authority. **Representative Nafis** added that they were trying to do their best to prevent its closure. **Senator Doyle** commented that if it is closed, there is a question about what happens to the land. He noted that the neighboring building was closed about fifty years ago, and that it's still vacant. While they could try to obtain the land for open space, they cannot make any promises, as it's state property and the state is trying to sell assets for cash. **Representative Nafis** spoke to assure the audience that it was not an asset on the list to be sold. **Councilor Nasinnyk** commented that she was told that Cedar Crest is definitely closing because even staff had been rehired by other DDS (Dept. of Developmental Services) facilities around the state and asked whether or not Cedar Crest was indeed going to be closing. **Representative O'Brien** commented that the State had made it clear that this was what they would like to do.

**Mayor Wright** commented that he had been told that about 100 patients reside in the facility, administered to by about 320 employees. He noted that the ratio of employees to patients was about three to one and asked why they were fighting to keep it open if it's such a giant burden. **Senator Doyle** responded that he represents some of the patients, pro-bono, and that these are some of the most challenged citizens that really need this quality of support. These same care-ratios would be seen at CVH. **Mayor Wright** inquired if Middletown could handle all the patients. **Senator Doyle** responded that Middletown has a vacant building and that they had been talking about renovating it and moving the patients there. This is the idea of the Governor. **Mayor Wright** responded that we have to save money. **Representative O'Brien** cautioned that we have to be smart about how we do things and not do things which will ultimately cost us more. He expressed concerns that policies are letting patients be discharged before they were ready. His concern is that the budget might be cut in ways which makes life worse for a lot of people and ends up costing more in other places. **Representative Nafis** expressed concern that not only were they looking to move the people in Cedar Crest, but they are looking to reduce beds statewide. If beds are reduced for people that really need them, they are going to end up in other higher cost facilities. **Mayor Wright** asked, rhetorically, about places with costs higher than \$250 - \$300K per patient? **Representative Nafis** explained that the people being cared for have very, very acute needs. **Councilor Klett** stated that either they are going to be kept safe in a facility like Cedar Crest, or they'll end upon the streets of Newington; that many of these patients will not seek help on their own.

**Councilor Cohen** asked whether the entire parcel was being treated as one big parcel, or whether there was a chance that the parcels would be split in two. **Representative Nafis** responded that the entire property Cedar Crest (Cedar Ridge, the hospital piece) is owned by the State. While there has been no mention of dividing the property, it is up to the Governor what is to be the disposition. **Mayor Wright** commented that the property is 72 acres. **Senator Doyle** added that the property is secure as it is locked down. He went on the mention that there were other costs such as demolition and possible remediation (environmental, asbestos) that would be involved in taking over the property.

**Councilor Klett** asked several questions and expressed some of her concerns:

- She inquired about the act concerning the Deficit Mitigation Plan (section 4), and the mention of \$2million being transferred from the conservation fund to the maintenance, repair and improvement account. She asked the Representatives for an explanation of that fund. **Representative O'Brien** responded that they were attempting to make sure that they have the money in the right place to do things. The Councilor asked whether it had anything to do with (inaudible) availability, and was told it did not.
- She also inquired about Harkness Memorial State Park in Watertown and why it had been singled out with money put aside for improvements. **Senator Doyle** responded that the Governor has line item control over all the line items in the State, and that this was giving her the ability to transfer money between accounts. It sounded to him like a cut from allocations to DEP. **Representative Nafis** explained that it's just a transferring of funds between accounts.
- The Councilor asked about section 6 of the Deficit Mitigation Plan and the taking of \$5 million from the Tobacco and Health Trust Fund. She explained that, to the best of her knowledge, this fund was set up by the Federal Government and given to the states for the purpose of tobacco prevention programs. She expressed concern that this fund is always such an easy target, and that funds were being taken from programs meant to promote health. **Senator Doyle** clarified that this was not Federal money, but resulted from lawsuits by the states against the tobacco companies. He said that what she was saying was correct, and this is emblematic of what they are facing, whether the most needy people and programs are cut. He said that he could live with the decision to use the money elsewhere, and that they have to prioritize spending. **Representative O'Brien** explained that it's easy to talk about the budget in the abstract, but when actual cuts have to be made, they are tough decisions.
- She appreciated that the Representatives were on top of the Cedar Crest issue, and expressed her hope that they have a handle on where patients are being transferred, and that they are not just being discharged. **Senator Doyle** responded that care is being taken with the decisions as it is recognized that the patients are indeed helpless.

**Councilor Nagel** asked about the comment made previously that State properties were being sold off, and whether there were other smaller properties within the Town which were being considered. He also asked whether it was hoped that towns would purchase them. **Senator Doyle** responded that even if Cedar Crest was closed a year from now, that there is an internal process in the State that takes time. The properties are offered to other agencies, and there would be another year or two internally. It would be years down the road before the property could be marketed. Currently, it was determined that some State assets would be sold. An article appeared in the paper recently that the Governor is selling some properties, one of which is a small parcel in Newington, at the bottom of Cedar Street, which has been offered to the Town. He said that it didn't appear that there was a lot of interest on the part of the town. The Mayor and Town Manager both commented about the maintenance costs of taking on the property, and it's lack of desirability. **Mayor Wright** commented

that the town typically gets the first right of refusal to purchase at market value. **Representative Nafis** commented that in better times the State had obtained property for the Town for which there has been no charge.

**Town Manager Salomone** brought up the subject of solid waste disposal, and the status of CRRA. He explained to the Representatives that the Town has a two and a half year contract remaining with CRRA and that it must make a decision on how it will proceed with solid waste removal after 2012; whether it will re-up with the CRRA, go out on its own, establish some framework regionally, or join another agency that exists already, like Bristol Resource Recovery. He explained that there are several regional approaches under consideration: the small regional approach involving four to five towns, the large regional approach, CRRA with 72 members, or a new movement which is "percolating" involving CCROG and 40-60 members. He expressed his concern that the Town should at least have a seat at the CCROG discussion table. **Mayor Wright** asked the Town Manager whether CCROG had actually formed a body as yet. He responded that it had not, but that CCROG does now have a 4-6 page draft agreement establishing themselves. He further stated that he was not asking this evening that the Council reconsider joining, but that he did "want to get it on the table as the Town is a player in the middle of the situation".

**Town Manager Salomone** expressed his concern about the impediments to getting another alternative moving, such as that proposed by CCROG, due to the built in inertia which exists with CRRA. He commented that the Town needed to get on board even if, in the end, they decided an alternative approach was more viable. He told the audience that the Town spends in excess of \$1 million per year on disposing of its solid waste; that's after it leaves the curb. **Senator Doyle** suggested that the Town keep all its options open since no one knows what the market or best deal will be in four years. **Mayor Wright** encouraged the legislators to assist in increasing the options available by reducing the barriers to entry, thereby creating a more competitive environment, giving the towns the best product at the lowest cost.

**Representative Nafis** suggested that the Town provide specifics for the January Midstate meeting. **Representative O'Brien** asked how many towns were in the same situation. **Town Manager Salomone** responded that most of the CRRA 72 towns have contracts expiring within the next two and a half years.

**Mayor Wright** thanked the Representatives and summed up asking that the any cuts be made on a fair percentage basis, not giving preference to a certain city or cities, and if aid is to be, cut that it is done on a proportional basis. He also encouraged the Representatives not to raise any new taxes explaining that the Town was already getting crushed, and stating that "we can't be for jobs *and* against business". What happened to Pratt and Whitney and their moving of jobs is systemic of the environment created in the State.

## VI. CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS

### A. Sanitation/Recycling Collection Contracts

The **Mayor** invited to the Council table Ann Harter, Finance Director, Tom Malloy, Town Highway Superintendent, and Rob Hillman, Assistant Highway Superintendent, to discuss sanitation and recycling contracts. The Mayor summed up the progress which had been made since the last meeting. While the collection renewal contract increase for residential homes remained at 3%, the collection rate increase for condos was negotiated down from 11% to 4%. The cost of the recycling containers, for the single-stream recycling program, was negotiated down from \$65, each, to about \$50.

#### 1. Solid Waste Collection for Residential Homes

**Councilor Banach** moved the following:

**WHEREAS, the Town has entered into a contract with Trash Away, Inc. for solid waste collection for residential homes; and**

**WHEREAS, that contract expires on June 30, 2010; and**

**WHEREAS, the contract can be extended to June 30, 2012 by mutual agreement and the Town accepts the proposal of the three-percent increase in each of the extension years;**

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town enters into a two year renewal with Trash Away for the collection of solid waste for residential homes, commencing July 1, 2010 and ending June 30, 2012 at a three-percent increase per fiscal year.**

**Councilor Nasinnyk** seconded the motion. **Motion Passed 8-0** (Deputy Mayor Lenares absent).

2. Solid Waste Collection for Condominiums and Elderly Housing Complexes

**Councilor Nasinnyk** inquired whether the reduced rate increase was merely a matter of suggesting that the Town would go out to bid. **Highway Superintendent Malloy** responded that it was indeed the ultimatum and the fact that the contract could potentially be lost.

**Councilor Banach** moved the following:

**WHEREAS, the Town has entered into a contract with All-Waste, Inc. for solid waste collection for condominium and elderly housing complexes; and**

**WHEREAS, that contract expires on June 30, 2010; and**

**WHEREAS, All Waste has proposed to increase the cost per unit by four-percent per year;**

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town exercise its option to extend the contract for two years to All-Waste, Inc. at an increase of four-percent per year.**

**Councilor Nasinnyk** seconded the motion. **Motion Passed 8-0** (Deputy Mayor Lenares absent).

**Town Manager Salomone** referred the Council to an "amendment memo", dated December 22<sup>nd</sup>, discussing the CWPM recycling contract. CWPM is the company which collects the Town's curbside recycling (the 14 gallon blue bins). **Town Manager Salomone** stated that the original quote was \$43.33 per unit; included was the amortized cost of the bin, if purchased by CWPM. If the Town were to purchase the bins, the cost would be \$35 per bin, or \$297,740 for 11,364 units. The new quote was a 3% increase over \$27.50, or \$28.33 for a total increase of about \$9,000. He stated that the quote included condo units which were using the current blue recycling bins. **Town Manager Salomone** stated that the Town would still be buying the bins. "Whether they will be purchased in 3, 5 or 7 years increments would be up to what the Town thinks financing is best". He added that "the Town would be saving additional funds in the future years because the out-years could be substantially more than the three percent that was in the original contract." **Town Manager Salomone** continued "that if you use the original contract, the \$35 would've yielded about \$85,000 in additional funds vs. this one which is about \$9,400 so you'll already ahead of the game by \$75,000." "And this, of course, doesn't include the recycling across the board .... or about \$70,000,.Payback between the two is about \$150,000 or more a year, less the cost of the bins plus cost avoidance for the solid waste that's not going into the landfill." He added that the difference between "this item" and "the other two items" is that this item does not have an automatic renewal in the contract so the contract would have to be amended. The other contracts have two renewal dates, this one does not. **Town Manager Salomone** stated that the contract could be amended and ready for the next Council meeting. He added that he would "seek a waiver of bid that's in the best interest of the community, which we think it is". "The first two contracts discussed are pretty much set to go, as they are just enacting the options that are currently in the contract, so there's no change. " The recycling contract "needs a little bit more paperwork," he said, "as it must be amended to include the 3% increase and it needs to be signified as a no-bid contract." "And Council must concur with that." **Mayor Wright** asked the **Town Manager** if he would have it ready at the next meeting and **Manager Salomone** responded that he would.

**Mayor Wright** commented that CWPM stepped up after reading the paper that the Town was going out to bid. He stated that he felt that there were two big benefits to extending the contract with them for another two years 1) the Town knows the costs and the amount is a very minimal increase to make the change; additionally CWPM will absorb all the costs involved in updating their equipment, 2) CWPM offered to make the change in March. He stated that he didn't think that the Town would be quite ready at that time, but by April or May 1<sup>st</sup> the Town could be "rolling a couple months ahead of schedule, saving and increasing the recycling a lot sooner and reducing the amount of waste or tipping charges which could help save money sooner". He added that since it was only a two month extension, and that the Town would go out to bid again in two years.

**Councilor Nasinnyk** inquired whether the new proposal was "for the town or just for the condos". **Town Manager Salomone** responded that it covered both. The Councilor inquired as to the size of the bin. She was told that it was the larger bin, but that a number of smaller bins would be ordered to accommodate those unable to store the large size. She inquired about the pickup schedule and was told every two weeks. **Town Manager Salomone** explained further that where there were issues regarding strength (the ability of a person to maneuver the bins), or appearance, the Town would have work closely with those (condo) associations. He

elaborated further that the 4' x 4" footprint is "not that far from the bigger one ... it's a bit more vertical." **Councilor Nasinnyk** asked whether it was a 95 gallon bin. **Town Manager Salomone** answered "that it's the one of choice, but that it doesn't mean that we cannot provide a smaller version for people that show a hardship". **Councilor Nasinnyk** inquired whether this was an automated process. **Mayor Wright** affirmed this and explained that the footprint for the smaller 65 gallon bin was similar to that of the 95 gallon container, and that the ultimate goal was an automated process to increase the productivity and reduce costs. **Mayor Wright** pointed out that it was easier with a larger bin to dispose of larger size recyclables without having to size them to fit in the smaller bins.

**Councilor Klett** expressed her concern about inequity and enforcing something on the community. She posed the question "what if 50% of the community doesn't want the 95 gallon option. She pointed to a letter from a Candlewood resident who made some valid points. She explained that she even had a problem with the 65 gallon bin, although she was not faced some of the issues others were such as driveway distance or hill slope. She can sympathize with others who face those issues. **Town Manager Salomone** expressed his feeling that these same issues faced the towns initially, when they first introduced the bins, and they would shake out over the next few months. **Mayor Wright** suggested that maybe condos could be given a 65 gallon bin and single family homes the 95. He thought a mailing might be a way to inform and clarify for the public the alternatives and their advantages. He asked Councilor Klett whether she would feel comfortable with that approach. She responded that she just wanted to make sure that everyone was being treated fairly. **Mayor Wright** asked the Town Manager to look at the research regarding the waste bin size, and have it available.

**Town Manager Salomone** mentioned that he was working with NCTV and IT staff regarding making streaming informational videos available to the public. The **Mayor Wright** mentioned that the Town had a commitment from CRRA to help pay for the some of the informational programs.

**Councilor Cohen** mentioned that when the Town went with the new garbage system NCTV showed videos over and over. She asked the Town Manager whether someone could change their mind on the size of bin selected. He responded, yes.

**Councilor Nagel** mentioned that with that one of the advantages of single-stream recycling was that residents would not have to separate the recyclables.

**Mayor Wright** stated that he would like to follow an aggressive schedule and have the program up and running April or May 1. He added that the sooner the program is implemented, the sooner the Town would start saving.

B. Council Rules of Procedure

**Councilor Banach** moved the following:

**WHEREAS: the Newington Town Council amends its Rules of Procedure from time to time; and**

**WHEREAS: the Rules of Procedure were last amended on February 12, 2008;**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Newington Town Council hereby amends Rules of Procedure Section 10, Public Participation, by increasing the time limit for public remarks from three (3) minutes to five (5) minutes at each opportunity for Public Participation on a meeting agenda.**

**Councilor Nasinnyk** seconded the motion.

**Mayor Wright** stated that he is not in favor of the motion and that he would be voting against it. **Councilor Nasinnyk** commented that she has always been an advocate of public participation, and that since the rules can always be changed at any time, she is willing to give it a try. **Councilor Cohen** noted that she is very much in favor of the motion, and that the public should be able to speak if they have something to say. She stated that she didn't feel that it would be abused and that if it is, the rules can be changed back. She further commented that if there was a room full of people wishing to comment that they would be respectful and not be repetitive, and would try to keep their remarks short. **Councilor Banach** explained that many people speaking at meetings do bump up against the three minute limit, and that they're not available during the second half of the meeting. He feels that to grant them an additional 120 seconds is not asking too much. He added that it was important to encourage public participation, and that he would be voting in favor of the motion.

**Councilor Klett** stated that she would not be voting in favor of the motion. She mentioned that she had spoken with previous Council members to better understand the history of the three-minute time limit. She explained that there is a clause in the current Council Rules which she would count on the Mayor to enforce, with fairness for all speakers, which allows the speaker an additional thirty seconds. She elaborated that she believed that speakers were not aware that they could ask for additional time. She noted her personal experience in speaking before the Council and that she felt three minutes were adequate. If a speaker needs an additional thirty seconds to wrap up, she felt that this was the way to go, rather than going to five minutes and having speakers then requesting additional time. She added that if it wasn't working out, that the rules could later be amended.

**Councilor Casasanta** echoed the points that **Councilor Klett** had made. She added that she felt that public had been very respectful of the three minute time limit, and that she looked to the Chair to make the judgment call if a speaker requested an additional thirty seconds. **Councilor Banach** commented that many speakers are not experienced in public speaking and may require the additional time, and reiterated his point that he felt an additional 120 seconds was not a lot to ask. **Mayor Wright** responded that it's actually a 66.7% increase in the time, and made the point that all members of the Council hear from the public outside the Council meetings so that contact was not limited to just meetings. **Councilor Nagel** also concurred with what **Councilor Klett** had said.

**Councilor Cohen** reiterated the point, as per the Rules, that the Chair has the capability to grant speakers additional time, but that this had not been happening. She offered that if she felt secure that the Chair would not cut a speaker short, that they would be granted the additional time needed, and that this would be respected, then she wouldn't be so determined as to want the five minutes. She addressed the Mayor, commenting that she counts on his ability to be a little more gracious sometimes when someone really has something to say not to cut it short, allowing them not just a few seconds, but the time they need to finish what they have to say.

**Mayor Wright** responded that he has been consistent to this point and didn't want to be accused of favoritism by being selective in awarding additional time. He added that if it was being asked that he grant additional time, he felt that he could do that. He asked that he be given hints on when to or not to grant the additional time. He wants to be as fair as possible, but that he would try to be more flexible. **Councilor Cohen** countered that then five minutes should remove it from being his responsibility. **Mayor Wright** responded that with one or two people, it's not an issue but with twenty-five people who wish to speak, that the Council needs to have the time to do the business of the people. **Councilor Klett**, addressing the Mayor, stated that she had never felt that he was being unfair to her when she spoke as a member of the public, and that he granted her the additional time when he felt it was necessary. She stated that she would have been the first person to call him on it if he had.

**Councilor McBride** explained how difficult it can be sometimes, as a speaker, in getting your thoughts together. He stated that the Council does do the business of the people, and that not all Councilors have a job in which they are reachable by the public during business hours to speak face-to-face. He added that he is a big proponent of fact-to-face communications, and that he felt interpersonal communications get lost through phone and email. He commented that there may be many speakers, but that it should not be assumed that all wish to speak for five minutes. He would be supporting the resolution, if everyone is abusing the five minutes requesting additional 30 seconds, than he could look back on it. He stated that "this is not a knot which we cannot untie, so that he would be supporting it".

**Mayor Wright** commented that the vote might result in a tie and, addressing **Councilor Cohen**, asked whether her previous offer for keeping the rules as is, if he would agree to grant speakers who needed it additional time, was still valid ...” **Councilor Cohen** responded with a “no”, stating that the five minutes would take the responsibility off the Mayor’s shoulders, and that speakers would respect the fact that they don’t have to take the five minutes if they don’t have anything of quality to say, just to fill up the time.

**Mayor Wright** requested a roll call vote:

**VOTES:**

ROLL CALL VOTES		Yes	No
Councilor	Banach	X	
Councilor	Casasanta		X
Councilor	Cohen	X	
Councilor	Klett		X
Councilor	McBride	X	
Councilor	Nagel		X
Councilor	Nasinnyk	X	
Mayor	Wright		X

TOTAL VOTES	4	4
<b>The Resolution FAILS due to a tie vote</b> (Deputy Mayor Lenares absent)		

**Mayor Wright** stated that he would try to be a bit more flexible, while at the same time remaining fair.

C. Establish Open Space Committee

**Councilor Cohen** moved the following:

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

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

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council establishes an Open Space Committee consisting of nine (9) members and composed of two (2) Town Council members, one (1) member from the Town Plan and Zoning Commission, one (1) member from the Conservation Commission, one (1) member from the Economic Development Commission and four (4) members from the public at large.**

**Councilor Klett** seconded the motion. **Mayor Wright** initiated the discussion by directing a question at the Town Manager, whether there ought to be more to the motion. He commented that he felt that the motion didn't really adequately define the committee. He explained, using as an example the establishment of the Safety Committee, stating the staff members, the goals, other staff available were part of that Resolution. He asked whether more should be added to the motion. He commented that it appeared to be rather "light" considering it was creating such an important committee. **Councilor Klett** felt that the committee could wrestle with those details but that a timeline was lacking. She indicated that she would be supporting the resolution, but that she felt a timeline should be included for the committee to report back. It should set an end date. **Town Manager Salomone** stated that resolutions are supposed to be to the point, rather than being onerous. He felt that it was up to the committee to develop the timelines for the individual projects.

**Councilor Casasanta** stated that she wanted to make sure that there was sufficient representation on the committee. Referring to Manager Salomone's memo of December 2<sup>nd</sup> discussing the establishment of the committee, she inquired about item 6 and asked whether open space acquisition negotiations should be done at the committee or Council level. **Mayor Wright** responded that that it was his understanding that the commission being formed would not have any acquisition-determining authority. **Town Manager Salomone** affirmed that the Council is the ultimate property acquisition fiscal authority. The commission can make reports and recommendations but cannot make any legal affirmations on behalf of the town.

**Councilor Cohen** stated that the commission could come up with the ideas and then report back to the Council. She believes that the resolution is fine the way it is worded. She went on to comment that this resolution is the result of the recent Cedar Mountain discussions and that it's a high priority. The idea of forming this committee is to find some way to save the mountain with grants or whatever suggestions the commission can develop.

**Councilor Nagel** inquired about the wording "high priority" contained in the Resolution, as it relates to Cedar Mountain. He asked whether the resolution speaks to the "possibility" of establishing a commission or to the actuality of establishing one. Several Councilors clarified that the intent of the resolution was indeed to establish the Commission.

**Councilor Klett** stated that when she first brought up the idea of the commission, it was out concern for Cedar Mountain but it was also that she felt that there were other open space areas within the community on which she felt the public should have an opportunity to comment. She explained that she felt that a committee was not needed to save Cedar Mountain or to identify funding sources. She said that she felt this was the responsibility of the town employees. She stated that she felt that there was a value to forming the committee, but that she didn't think that they should lose sight that there are other areas in town that members of the public would feel that are important to them and would want an opportunity to express their support. She didn't want the committee to lose sight of the other open space areas.

**Mayor Wright** opened the discussion expressing his concerns about the use of the wording “high priority”. He explained that when the public safety committee was established that it did not use similar terminology. He suggested that “to be a high priority” be stricken from the resolution.

**Councilor Banach** wished to emphasize that there is a real sense of urgency here. He also expressed his interest and the importance of the role of the public on this committee. He supported leaving the wording as is. He would like to make the committee appointments at the first meeting in January. **Mayor Wright** commented that he is also in favor of the committee but that he wanted to discuss the composition of the committee. His concern is that the committee will be comprised of one member from each of three commissions. He asked if it might be possible to take two or even three people from each of the commissions. That way, he explained, there would be representation from each of the parties, and that there would be coverage if a commission member could not make a specific meeting. He also noted that it might be advantageous to have input from several commission members rather than just one. **Councilor Banach** stated that he felt nine was an optimum number. **Councilor Klett** commented that she felt it was important to have a sufficient number of members from the public. She added that she felt that if the committee were to be expanded to 11 members that two should come from each of open space and conservation, none from Economic Development. She felt that the members taken from the various commissions had an expertise that would be important to the committee. She did not have a problem increasing the number, adding one more member from each of the TPZ and Conservation Commissions.

**Councilor Cohen** noted that she knew that there was going to be a problem from the start concerning minority representation. She stated that she hoped the membership would maintain a non-partisan outlook and would be neutral. The larger number she felt would be too unworkable. **Mayor Wright** reiterated his concern that should a single appointed member of a land-use commission be unable to attend, that the high level of expertise from their specialized area would be missing from the debate. **Councilor Cohen** again expressed her concern that eleven members would be too large, as this had been tried in the past. **Councilor Banach** stated the “we underestimate the goodwill of the people, and that this body is going to be very different than most”. He felt that maybe there would not be many of the anticipated problems. **Mayor Wright**, in response, again expressed his concerns over minority representation and the lack of sufficient depth of expertise.

**Councilor Casasanta** asked about appointing commission alternates. **Town Manager Salomone** offered a new composition consisting of three Councilors, 2 members from TPZ and 2 from Conservation, plus four from the public for a total of 11. The Mayor and Councilor Klett commented that they felt good about the suggestion. **Councilor Banach** expressed concern that the Council would take control over this committee. He felt that public block should be the largest. **Mayor Wright** suggested the composition of 2 Councilors, 2 members from each of TPZ and Conservation and five from the public. **Councilor Banach** asked why Economic Development was being eliminated, that they had a stake in what was being conserved and not developed. **Town Manager Salomone** responded that staff should serve that purpose here.

**Councilor Klett** offered to withdraw her second of the original motion, if the maker would be willing to restate the composition to 2,2,2, and 5. **Councilor Banach** stated that he wished to support the motion as it was originally read. **Mayor Wright** brought up the issue of the legality of the lack of minority representation.

**Councilor Nagel** stated that he would be more inclined to go with the 2,2,2,5 composition. **Councilor Casasanta** pointed out that it would be beneficial to have a greater number of members of the various commissions to be better able to explain to the public. She also expressed support for the 11 member committee. **Councilor McBride** stated that he concurred with Councilor’s Casasanta’s comments, but that he had no opposition to any of the proposals. He felt that the group would be very motivated and that there would be very little partisanship. He would support any of the proposals.

**Councilor Cohen** inquired about voting on the motions and what the effects varied outcomes might have. **Town Manager Salomone** stated that if the vote ended in a tie, and therefore failed, that a new motion could be introduced. **Councilor Cohen** then asked for another second since **Councilor Klett** had withdrawn her second earlier. **Councilor Banach** seconded the original motion of a nine member committee. **Councilor Klett** stated that she didn’t wish to vote on a motion which would fail, but wished to revise it so that it would pass. **Councilor Cohen** stated that she didn’t want the proceedings to get bogged down in minority representation and asked the seconder to withdraw his second. **Councilor Banach** withdrew his second and she then withdrew the main motion.

**Councilor Cohen** then moved the following:

The first part of the original motion stands as written above and as originally read into the record:

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council establishes an Open Space Committee consisting of eleven (11) members and composed of two (2) Town Council members, two (2) members from the Town Plan and Zoning Commission, two (2) members from the Conservation Commission, and five (5) members from the public at large.**

The motion was seconded by **Councilor Klett**.

**Motion Passed 8-0** (Deputy Mayor Lenares absent).

D. Consolidation of Newington High School Project Building Committees

**Councilor Casasanta** moved the following:

**WHEREAS, the Town Council recognizes that the High School gymnasium floor replacement impacts the schedule and activity of related code compliance improvements at Newington High School;**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the High School Gymnasium Floor Replacement Building Committee is hereby discharged; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby amends Resolution 2008-35 to revise the charge of the School Code Compliance Committee to include responsibility for the gymnasium floor replacement project at Newington High School. All other elements of Resolution 2008-35 remain in full force and effect.**

**Councilor Klett** seconded the motion.

**Councilor Nagel** stated that he supported the motion based upon his experience on the last Council as Chairman of the School Code Compliance Committee. .

**Motion Passed 8-0** (Deputy Mayor Lenares absent).

## V. CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS

B. Discussion: Spending and Hiring Freeze

**Mayor Wright** opened the discussion by explaining the gravity of the economic situation and the severity of the State's budgetary deficit. He highlighted the fact that the no one should expect full funding from the State, either this or next year, He feels that it makes sense to start tightening our belts with some sort of spending freeze. He'd like the Town to consider a hiring freeze as well. He pointed to Town Manager Salomone and Finance Director Harter's spending status memos. **Town Manager Salomone** stated that the Town would be "pretty much on target if the Town had only to rely on the revenues and expenditures that the Town itself controls". He added that many of the Town's revenue sources are tied very closely to the state of Connecticut, the bulk of those being ECS funding along with others such as special education reimbursement, mandated suspension programs, curricula, special aid in the classroom, minimum bussing requirements, etc. He stated that "on our side, the Town is watching funds diligently", that it has implemented cost containment programs both this and last year, and has aggressively hired additional patrol officers to actually reduce the amount of overtime required on the police force. He stated that a hiring freeze is in place, and to a large extent, a wage freeze covering 95% of the Town's non-police and education personnel. He stated that the Town is entering into the collective bargaining negotiations for the year, which will start in February and March with meetings of the IDPO and CT State Association of Employee Representatives. He stated the CSEA had already given the Town a wage freeze which ends June 30<sup>th</sup> of 2010. The Town Manager indicated that the Town would be looking for work rule changes and other devices which are as effective as salary cuts or freezes. Additionally, he mentioned that they would be looking at the medical benefits portion of the contracts. He explained that a "soft" freeze is in place; individuals are only hired on a case-by-case basis ... if the person is public safety oriented, if the position can save money, etc. He suggested that if he is faced with the need to hire, that he will appear before the Council with justification; the Council will have the actual veto on the hiring. He continued on to discuss discretionary spending such as leaf collection, and painting lines on fields. He intimated that he wished to involve the Council in the spending decision making process and added that he would be getting some spending ground rules out to the department heads by January 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Councilor Nasinnyk** asked the Town manager that if the State were to cut funding, what would that do to the Board of Education and would it be a proportional type hit? **Town Manager Salomone** responded that it was dependent upon the type of cut and to what; i.e. is it LOCIP, ECS, or something else more specific.

**Councilor Klett** stated that she had “enough confidence in the Town Manager as the administrative leader to recognize when a position is warranted and when it can be eliminated and didn’t feel that it was necessary for the Council to throw their support behind a proposed hiring freeze.” She expressed concern over the ratio of local resident vs. out-of-town usage of town paid services such as the library or senior services. She wanted to make sure that town services which directly affect the residents would not be cut in favor of those benefiting those from outside the area. She asked if there were a way of evaluating the beneficiaries and associated costs of services provided. **Town Manager Salomone** explained that he would be working on providing decision packages which delineate services, costs and beneficiaries. **Councilor Klett** suggested evaluating regional services. **Mayor Wright** asked if, due to the late hour, the conversation would be continued at a later meeting. The consensus was affirmative.

**VI. RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS**

B. Amendments to December 8, 2009 Appointments

**Councilor Banach** moved the following

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Newington Town Council hereby amends resolution 2009-117 by correcting the term dates of the following appointments:**

1. **Committee on Community Safety:** Amend the term dates of Phyllis Dicara to 1/1/10 – 11/30/11.
2. **Library Board:** Amend the term dates of Pauline Kruk and Alan Nafis to 12/1/09 – 11/30/15.
3. **Town Plan and Zoning Commission:** Amend the term dates of Michele Camerota, Carol Anest, David Pruett and Michael Carragher to 12/1/09 – 11/30/13.

**Councilor Klett** seconded the motion.

**Motion Passed 8-0** (Deputy Mayor Lenares absent).

C. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

**Councilor Banach** moved the following

**RESOLVED:**

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

1. **Affordable Age-Restricted Housing Study Committee**

5 members  
 Party Max.: 4  
 Remaining Members: 2 Dem.

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
<b>Myra Cohen</b>	<b>42 Jeffrey Lane</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>NTC Term</b>	<b>Myra Cohen</b> (Term Exp. 11/10/09)
<b>David Nagel</b>	<b>1175 Willard Avenue</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>NTC Term</b>	<b>David Nagel</b> (Term Exp. 11/10/09)
<b>Kristine Nasinnyk</b>	<b>50 Theodore Street</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>NTC Term</b>	<b>Kristine Nasinnyk</b> (Term Exp. 11/10/09)

**3. Balf-Town Committee**

7 members, 3 alternates, No term end  
 Party Max (Reg. Members): 5  
 Remaining members (Newington residents):2 Dem., 3 Rep. Alternates: 1 Dem, 1 Rep.

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
Balf Rep. :				Vacant
<b>Town Council Rep: Mike Lenares</b>	<b>76 Stonehedge Drive</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>NTC Term</b>	<b>Mike Lenares</b> (NTC Term Exp. 11/10/09)
<b>Town Council Rep: Kristine Nasinnyk</b>	<b>50 Theodore Street</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>NTC Term</b>	<b>Kristine Nasinnyk</b> (NTC Term Exp. 11/10/09)

**4. Capitol Region Council of Governments**

2 members, 2 year term  
 Mayor automatic appt.

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
<b>David Nagel</b>	<b>1175 Willard Avenue</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>NTC Term</b>	<b>David Nagel</b> (NTC Term exp. 11/10/09)

**5. Town of Newington CIP Committee**

5 members: 3 Town Council, 2 BOE  
 Party max.: 4

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
<b>Town Council Rep: Chris Banach</b>	<b>145 Starr Acvenue</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>NTC Term</b>	<b>Tom Bowen</b> (NTC Term Exp. 11/10/09)
<b>Town Council Rep: Mike Lenares</b>	<b>76 Stonehedge Drive</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>NTC Term</b>	<b>Mike Lenares</b> (NTC Term Exp. 11/10/09)
<b>Town Council Rep: Kristine Nasinnyk</b>	<b>50 Theodore Street</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>NTC Term</b>	<b>Jay Bottalico</b> (NTC Term Exp. 11/10/09)

**6. Newington Commercial Façade Easement Rehabilitation Loan Program Selection Com.**

7 members  
 Party Max.: 5  
 Remaining Members: 2 Dem., 0 Rep.

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
<b>Town Council Rep: Scott McBride</b>	<b>211 Beacon Street</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>NTC Term</b>	<b>Tony Boni</b> (NTC Term Exp. 11/10/09)
<b>Town Council Rep: Chris Banach</b>	<b>145 Starr Avenue</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>NTC Term</b>	<b>Chris Banach</b> (NTC Term Exp. 11/10/09)
<b>Town Council Rep: David Nagel</b>	<b>1175 Willard Avenue</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>NTC Term</b>	<b>David Nagel</b> (NTC Term Exp. 11/10/09)

**7. Education Facilities Project Building Committee**

7 members: BOE (2), NTC (2), Public (3)  
 Party max.: 5  
 Remaining members (public) 3 Dem.

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
Town Council Rep: Meg Casasanta	110 Steeplechase Drive	R	NTC Term	Tom Bowen (NTC Term Exp. 11/10/09)
Town Council Rep: Myra Cohen	42 Jeffrey Lane	D	NTC Term	Myra Cohen (NTC Term Exp. 11/10/09)

**9. Employee Insurance and Pension Benefits Committee**

9 members, 2 alternates, 2 year term  
 Party Max.: 6  
 Remaining members: 1 Rep., 1 Dem.  
 Remaining Alternates: 1 Rep.

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
Town Council Rep: Meg Casasanta	110 Steeplechase Drive	R	NTC Term	Jay Bottalico (NTC Term Exp. 11/10/09)
Town Council Rep: Scott McBride	211 Beacon Street	D	NTC Term	Tom Bowen (NTC Term Exp. 11/10/09)

**13. Downtown Revitalization Committee**

7 members  
 Party Max.: 5  
 Remaining members: 1 Dem.

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
Town Council Rep.: Myra Cohen	42 Jeffrey Lane	D	NTC term	Vacant (J. Wright res. 3/25/09)
Town Council Rep.: Scott McBride	211 Beacon Street	D	NTC term	Jay Bottalico (Term Exp. 11/10/09)
Town Council Rep.: Chris Banach	145 Starr Avenue	D	NTC term	Chris Banach (Term Exp. 11/10/09)
Town Council Rep. Mike Lenares	76 Stonehedge Drive	R	NTC term	Mike Lenares (Term Exp. 11/10/09)

**14. Firehouse Expansion Project Building Committee**

7 members  
 Party Max.: 5  
 Remaining members: 1 Rep., 3 Dem.

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
Town Council Rep: Mike Lenares	76 Stonehedge Drive	R	NTC Term	Mike Lenares (NTC Term Exp. 11/10/09)
Town Council Rep: Chris Banach	145 Starr Avenue	D	NTC Term	Tom Bowen (NTC Term Exp. 11/10/09)

17. **NHS Track Renovation Project Building Committee**

3 members, 2 NTC, 1 BOE  
 Party Max.: 2  
 Remaining members: 1 Dem.

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
Town Council Rep: Mike Lenares	76 Stonehedge Drive	R	NTC Term	Tom Bowen (NTC Term Exp. 11/10/09)
Town Council Rep: Myra Cohen	42 Jeffrey Lane	D	NTC Term	Myra Cohen (NTC Term Exp. 11/10/09)

18. **Newington School Improvements Project Building Committee**

7 members, 2 NTC, 2 BOE, 3 Public  
 Party Max.: 5  
 Remaining members: 3 Dem., 0 Rep.

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
Town Council Rep: Meg Casasanta	110 Steeplechase Drive	R	Town Council Rep: Meg Casasanta	Chris Banach (NTC Term Exp. 11/10/09)
Town Council Rep: Myra Cohen	42 Jeffrey Lane	D	NTC Term	Myra Cohen (NTC Term Exp. 11/10/09)

19. **School Code Compliance Committee**

5 members, 3 NTC, 0 BOE  
 Party Max.: 3  
 Remaining members: 1 Dem., 1 Rep.

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
Town Council Rep: Maureen Klett	104 Harold Drive	D	NTC Term	Mike Lenares (NTC Term Exp. 11/10/09)
Town Council Rep: Myra Cohen	42 Jeffrey Lane	D	NTC Term	Tom Bowen (NTC Term Exp. 11/10/09)

20. **Standing Insurance Committee**

9 members, 2 alternates, 2 year term  
 Party Max.: 6  
 Remaining members: 1 Rep., 0 Dem,  
 Remaining alternates: 1 Rep.

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
Town Council Rep: David Nagel	1175 Willard Avenue	R	NTC Term	Jay Bottalico (NTC Term Exp. 11/10/09)
Town Council Rep: Kristine Nasinnyk	50 Theodore Street	D	NTC Term	Kristine Nasinnyk (NTC Term Exp. 11/10/09)

21. **Town Hall Renovation Project Building Committee**

5 members, 3 NTC, 2 BOE

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
Town Council Rep: Chris Banach	145 Starr Avenue	D	NTC Term	Tom Bowen (NTC Term Exp. 11/10/09)
Town Council Rep: Mike Lenares	76 Stonehedge Drive	R	NTC Term	Mike Lenares (NTC Term Exp. 11/10/09)

Town Council Rep: Myra Cohen	42 Jeffrey Lane	D	NTC Term	Jay Bottalico (NTC Term Exp. 11/10/09)
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23. West Meadow Cemetery Expansion Project Building Committee

5 members, 2 NTC, 3 Public  
 No Term End (Public)  
 Party Max.: 4  
 Remaining members: 1 Rep., 1 Dem. 1 Unaf.

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
Town Council Rep: Myra Cohen	42 Jeffrey Lane	D	NTC Term	Myra Cohen (NTC Term Exp. 11/10/09)
Town Council Rep: David Nagel	1175 Willard Avenue	R	NTC Term	Kristine Nasinnyk (NTC Term Exp. 11/10/09)

Councilor Casasanta seconded the motion. **Motion Passes 8 – 0;** (Deputy Mayor Lenares absent).

VII. TAX REFUNDS

Councilor Nasinnyk moved the following:

**RESOLVED:**

That property tax refunds in the amount of \$ 822.91 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.

Councilor Cohen seconded the motion. **Motion Passes 8 – 0;** (Deputy Mayor Lenares absent).

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

Town Manager Report to be presented at the next meeting

IX. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (Approvals)

A. Regular Meeting: November 24, 2009

Councilor Nasinnyk moved to table the motion in order to discuss changes with Council Clerk:

Councilor Banach seconded the motion.

The motion to table passed; 8 – 0, (Deputy Mayor Lenares absent).

B. Regular Meeting: December 8, 2009

Councilor Nasinnyk moved to table the motion in order to discuss changes with Council Clerk:

Councilor Banach seconded the motion.

The motion to table passed; 8 – 0, (Deputy Mayor Lenares absent).

X. COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

## XI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL

**Rose Lyons**                      Resident                      46 Elton Drive                      Newington

- Thanked Councilors Banach, Nasinnyk, Cohen and McBride for the ‘yes’ votes on extending the time for public participation.
- She explained that two years ago when she first began participating as a member of the public, she felt very intimidated when being timed.
- She note that the total time used by the two public presenters this meeting was probably no more than five minutes.
- She has never seen additional time granted speakers, although it is permitted under the Council Rules.
- She commented that, according to the rules, public participation should be added prior to a Council vote, but she had not seen this occur.
- In her experience, she had witnessed speaking members public being rudely cut short, being laughed at, and that more time was expended discussing time used, rather than would’ve been used had the person been permitted to finish making their comments.
- Wished all happy holidays

## XII. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

- **Councilor Klett** wished all a happy and healthy holidays.
- **Councilor Cohen** wished all Merry Christmas and Happy New year
- **Councilor Nasinnyk** stated that for a meeting which was going to be canceled., much business had been conducted, in the best interest of the Town. Wished the public a very happy holiday.
- **Councilor Banach** agreed with Council Nasinnyk’s remarks and mentioned that the Council has a very ambitious agenda,
- **Councilor Nagel** complemented all concerning the appearance of the Kelsey House and the exterior which had recently been renovated. Thanked his wife for allowing him to return and participate as a member of the Council. Wished all a happy holiday.
- **Councilor Casasanta** welcomed Councilor Nagel back to the Council table and wished the public all a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.
- **Mayor Wright** mentioned that
  - AT & T’s going to be coming to NCTV in the near future.
  - The Constitution Square dumpster would be contained by decorative block, but no lattice. Gates will be placed in front of the enclosure.
  - Thanked all those who had worked so hard in moving the Constitution Square project forward.
  - Wished all a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## XIII. ADJOURNMENT

**Councilor Cohen** moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:26 pm

**Councilor Klett** seconded the motion

The motion passed 8-0

Respectfully Submitted

Scott Coleman  
Clerk of the Council

December 29<sup>th</sup> 2009