



John L. Salomone
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

MAYOR STEPHEN WOODS

MINUTES

**NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELEN NELSON ROOM – TOWN HALL
7:00 P.M.**

FEBRUARY 14, 2012

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

I & II PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & ROLL CALL

Councilors Present

Councilor Borjeson
Councilor Bottalico
Councilor Castelle
Councilor Cohen
Councilor DelBuono
Councilor Klett
Councilor McBride
Councilor Nagel
Mayor Woods– absent

Staff Present

John Salomone, Town Manager
Ann Harter, Finance Director
Steve Juda, Assessor
Jaime Trevethan – Executive Assistant to the Town Manager
Linda Irish-Simpson – Clerk of the Council

III PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – (in person/via telephone)

Michael Fox, 1901 Main Street: He spoke about the article in the Courant regarding the expected final decision by the Department of Energy and Environment Protection regarding the impact on the wetlands if the Busway went through. The report will state there would be no significant damage to the adjacent wetlands which the Newington Environmental Commission took exception to. A letter will be delivered to the State indicating there would be some damage to the wetlands and hoped the Council would sign onto the letter.

Bernadette Conway, 177 Hartford Avenue: She was following up on the closing plan for the Balf quarry. Mrs. Conway felt that a plan should be developed so that a giant hole in the ground would not be the responsibility of the Town to fill when the quarry was closed. She also suggested that the Town create a Cedar Mountain Committee to include residents to determine how to proceed on the use of the land by the Town.

IV AWARDS/PROCLAMATIONS

A. Retirement – Wayne Fox

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

Deputy Mayor McBride moved the following:

WHEREAS, Wayne Fox was appointed to the position of Supernumerary Officer for the Town of Newington on November 13, 1978, was appointed to the position of Full Time Public Safety Dispatcher on April 16, 1984, was appointed to the position of Animal Control Officer on January 13, 1991 and was promoted to the position of Senior Animal Control Officer on September 2, 2001; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fox is a graduate of New Britain High School, served in the United States Army and has been a longtime resident of Newington; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fox was a founding member of Newington Volunteer Ambulance in 1969 and served as its first Chief from 1972 – 1973; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fox has assisted other towns by serving as an oral interview panelist for Animal Control Officer applicants; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fox has received numerous notes and letters from residents and local businesses in appreciation of his professional and knowledgeable service; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fox has retired from service to the Newington Police Department and the Town of Newington, effective January 27, 2012;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Newington Town Council hereby recognizes and extends its sincere appreciation to Mr. Fox's extensive service and commitment to the Town, and wishes him the best in his retirement.

Deputy Mayor McBride congratulated Mr. Fox on his impressive record of service and appreciated his loyalty to the Town.

Councilor Klett added her thanks for his years of service and stated his smile and good humor would be missed. Councilor Cohen thanked him for his service and said she was unaware of his service to the Ambulance Corp. and thanked him for that as well.

Mr. Fox thanked the Town and stated he loved working for the Town and was looking forward to retirement.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Cohen and passed 8 – 0 (Mayor Woods-absent)

B. Volunteer of the Year – Richard Brown

Deputy Mayor McBride read the following motion:

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

WHEREAS, Mr. Richard Brown is being recognized for his active and continuing involvement with the Newington Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brown joined the Newington Civil Defense Fire Unit at the age of 16 in 1951 and became an active member of the Newington Volunteer Fire Department Company #2 in 1956; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brown served as a volunteer firefighter in the towns of Greentown, Ohio and Enfield, Connecticut from 1959 – 1967 before moving back to Newington and rejoining Company #2 in 1967; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brown has served in several positions within the Fire Department, including Radiological Monitor, Company #2 Drill Master, Second Lieutenant, First Lieutenant, Captain and Department Safety Officer; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Brown has served the Town of Newington for nearly fifty years and continues to be an active member of Company #2, responding to incidents and driving fire apparatus to the scene;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Newington Town Council hereby designates Richard Brown as its 2011 Volunteer of the Year in recognition of his volunteer activities for the welfare of the community and for serving as a positive role model and an example of all that can be accomplished through the spirit of volunteerism.

Deputy Mayor McBride remarked on his impressive record and that Mr. Brown helped to build the Fire Department over the years. Councilor Klett and Cohen thanked him for his service and felt that no one was more deserving of this award than Mr. Brown. They wished him well on his retirement. Councilor DeIBuono stated that not only was Mr. Brown a volunteer but a firefighter who put his life on the line for the Town. She appreciated his efforts and wished him well in his retirement.

Councilor Nagel extended his congratulations on Mr. Brown's retirement and for his efforts for 50 years in one of the most important organizations in Town.

Mr. Brown thanked the Town for the award and thanked Chief Schroeder and his staff. He thanked his wife and children for all the missed meals and time spent away from the family. He thanked all the members of the Fire Department for their dedication and hours spent protecting the Town and its residents.

Mr. Robert Seiler, 83 Flagler Street, Chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners: He was glad that Council members got to visit the fire houses last week to see what fire fighters have to do and the requirements. Mr. Seiler stated that Dick was always available to help and quietly would do his job. Whenever someone needed help they could go to Mr. Brown. He wanted to thank Dick personally for what he did over the years.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Klett. The motion passed 8 – 0 (Mayor Woods – absent)

V CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS
A. Mid-Year Transfer

John Salomone reviewed the transfers to be made which were mostly due to the October/November storms. The amounts indicated should be the final bills for these storms and the Town expected to receive 75% reimbursement from the Federal Government of the \$1.7 million. The smaller transfer would reimburse various accounts for salary raises that were put in the contingency account and must be moved to the accounts as listed.

Councilor Bottalico asked about the extra \$300,000 and if it was due to union contracts. Mr. Salomone stated that the amount was almost all due to the debris and tree removal by the private contractor with some due to the Highway Department.

Councilor Castelle asked Ann Harter the amount left in the contingency fund once the transfer was made and she indicated that there would be \$132,000 left.

Councilor Castelle moved the following:

WHEREAS, President Obama issued a major disaster declaration for the State of Connecticut for Storm Alfred for the following Counties: Fairfield, Hartford, Litchfield, Middlesex, New Haven, New London, Tolland and Windham Counties thus allowing reimbursement of up to 75% of eligible costs from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); and

WHEREAS, the Town of Newington has experienced major damage from said Storm Alfred that required significant financial resources above and beyond the Town's 2011-12 Adopted Budget; and

WHEREAS, the Charter of the Town of Newington, Section C-408 states: "A referendum shall not be mandatory when such bond or note authorization, or such special appropriation shall be for an emergency purpose to protect the public peace, health and safety";

CERTIFICATION: In accordance with Section 807 of the Town Charter, I hereby certify that there exists, free from encumbrances, the sum of \$1,700,000 in the undesignated, unreserved General Fund Balance;

Ann J. Harter, Director of Finance

RESOLVED, That the Newington Town Council, in accordance with Sections 408 and 807 of the Town Charter, hereby authorizes the above-certified funds to the following accounts in the General Fund for the stated purpose of financing storm related costs in order to preserve the public peace, health and safety for its residents:

<u>Account Number & Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>	
190 General Services	\$3,000	
210 Police	\$36,000	
230 Fire	\$9,000	
260 Emergency Management	\$33,000	
310 Engineering	\$5,000	
320 Highway	\$1,551,000	
640 Senior & Disabled Center	\$2,000	
810 Parks & Recreation Administration	\$1,000	
830 Grounds Maintenance	\$60,000	
Total		\$1,700,000

The motion was seconded by Councilor Cohen and the motion passed 8 – 0 (Mayor Woods-absent)

Councilor DelBuono moved the following:

CERTIFICATION:

In accordance with Section 808 of the Town Charter, I hereby certify that there exists, free from encumbrances, in the following appropriation in the General Fund, the amount listed below:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>
962	<i>Special Contingency</i>	<i>\$132,000</i>

Ann J. Harter, Director of Finance

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby transfers the above-certified funds to the following accounts in the General Fund:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>
110	Town Council	1,550
120	Town Manager	7,000
140	Registrar	700
150	Finance	8,700
170	Town Clerk	2,500
190	General Services	14,250
210	Police Department	27,600
230	Fire Department	3,700
260	Emergency Management	3,800
310	Engineering	2,000
320	Highway	20,950
350	Solid Waste	4,600
420	Town Planner	3,800
450	Building Department	2,550
610	Human Services	6,750
640	Senior & Disabled	3,300
710	Library	6,600
810	Parks Administration	4,400
830	Grounds Maintenance	7,250
	Total	\$132,000

The motion was seconded by Councilor Cohen and passed 8 – 0 (Mayor Woods-absent)

B. Room Naming – Curtis Ambler Room (L-101)

Councilor Klett moved the following:

WHEREAS, conference room three in Newington Town Hall was dedicated in the name of the late Mr. E. Curtis Ambler, a longtime volunteer who served the Town in many capacities including volunteer firefighter, Fire Commissioner, member of the Town Plan and Zoning Commission and Town Councilor among several other boards and commissions; and
WHEREAS, the Newington Board of Education Transition Academy is now located in the space formerly occupied by the Ambler Room; and
WHEREAS, the Town no longer utilizes the space formerly occupied by the Ambler room as a conference or meeting room; and
WHEREAS, the Town Plan and Zoning Commission now holds its meetings in conference room L-101, located in the lower level of Town Hall;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Newington Town Council hereby dedicates conference room L-101 in the name of Mr. E. Curtis Ambler to commemorate Mr. Ambler's many years of outstanding service to the Town of Newington.

Councilor Klett commented that she was thankful a resident notified the Council regarding the fact that the originally designated Ambler Room was not currently being used by the TPZ and the new room should be designated as the Curtis Ambler Room going forward. Councilor Cohen stated that Mr. Ambler was a long time member of the TPZ and it made sense to move the designation to the TPZ room.

Councilor Nagel asked Mr. Salomone if the items removed from the original Curtis Ambler room had been found and could be placed in the new area. Mr. Salomone indicated that the plaque had been removed but would be placed in the new conference room once voted on by the Council.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Nagel and the motion passed 8 – 0 (Mayor Woods – absent)

C. Elderly Tax Exempt Program

Mr. Juda presented a report to the Council regarding the expense to the Town for alternative tax assistance to the elderly; Mr. Juda stated that this study was done at Councilor Bottalico's request. He indicated that Councilor Bottalico had asked for information regarding three possible upgrades to the tax assistance program:

1. The cost to increase the average benefit from \$350 to \$620 per applicant.
2. The additional cost to option 1 if the means test is increased from the current \$39,500 to \$60,000 per year.
3. The cost to include an element of stabilization or freeze for property owners over age 65 who meet the increased means test and have owned property in Newington for over 20 years.

A copy of Mr. Juda's presentation is attached.

Mr. Juda stated that the State passed a law in 1983 to provide people over age 65 who meet certain income thresholds with tax relief. He noted a breakdown of the qualifying income range and average benefits to Town residents as outlined on the attached presentation. He noted the results of the informal survey he took of other area towns regarding elderly tax benefits and town allocations as indicated in the attached presentation and noted that Newington's average benefit and allocation is less than many area towns. He noted that Newington's annual cost is about \$175,000 whereas the survey average is \$309,676. He stated, therefore, that it would cost the Town an additional \$135,000 to meet the survey average.

Mr. Juda indicated that the second scenario involves increasing the income limits from the current limit of \$39,500. He stated that the State law does not specify an income limit. He stated that with the increased limit there would be about 750 households eligible for the program in comparison to the current 500 eligible households. He indicated that the additional cost for the additional homes and the increased benefit would be approximately \$290,000.

Mr. Juda explained that the concept of the third scenario is to "freeze" the taxes of property owners who qualify for the tax relief program and have owned property in Newington for more than 20 years. He indicated that this

could be done by either using the local option or by placing a lien on the property deed. Mr. Juda indicated that the State did away with the freeze about 25 years ago, due to cost and he noted that there are still eight homeowners in the Town who are on the program from 25 years ago. He stated that the State has capped the benefit to \$2000 per year. He indicated that implementing this program in Newington would cost the Town an additional \$116,000 to \$1,214,000 annually, as explained on the attached presentation. Mayor Lenares indicated whether the projected number of households changes as the years progress. Mr. Juda replied in the negative and stated while the projected number of households stays the same, the projection includes a yearly mill rate increase. He mentioned that the projections include 800 households per year and remarked that the important number to note is the \$5,000 average frozen tax rate per household and the costs associated with projected annual taxes above the \$5,000 mark. Councilor Bottalico noted that while the \$1,214,000 cost projected for 2020 appears to be a large number he remarked that it will likely only be a small percentage of the 2020 budget.

Councilor Cohen inquired who the Town would certify those eligible for the increased means thresholds. Mr. Juda replied that income is verified at the Assessor's office through income tax documentation and stated that State audits the program. Councilor Cohen stated that this is a budgetary issue and inquired whether the Assessor's staff would be able to administer the increased participation. Mr. Juda replied in the affirmative. Councilor Klett concurred with Councilor Cohen and noted that this topic was discussed during the last budget session. She stated that it is a budgetary issue and while this is important information, it should be discussed during next year's budget deliberations.

Mr. Juda noted a summary of costs as outlined on page seven of the attached presentation. He summarized the costs as follows:

- Item 1: \$135,000
- Item 2: \$425,000
- Item 3: \$541,000 to \$1,639,000

Councilor Cohen asked what percent of a mill would the increase mean in taxes and Mr. Juda indicated it would be about 1/6 of a mill for this program and with the inclusion of the Veterans Tax Exemption would be approximately 1/3 of a mill.

Councilor Bottalico asked how the Council should proceed and Mr. Salomone stated it should be taken up during the budget process and put in the context of the entire package to determine what the other revenue and expenditure issues would be. Councilor Bottalico stated that he felt the Council definitely had to do something since 1/6 of a mill would be a minimal figure and would help 750 people in Town. Councilor DelBuono agreed with Councilor Bottalico while understanding it will be a difficult budget season the tax relief is most needed during these times.

Councilor Castelle agreed with the need for tax relief especially since Newington was at the low end with regards to other area towns but questioned whether now was the best time to increase tax relief. Other residents might be in worse shape than the elderly. He was concerned about those residents who might be unemployed or in risk of losing homes. Even though the 1/6 of a mill would be a small amount spread over all residents he wanted to review the impact.

Councilor Nagel mentioned that it had been years since the issue had been reviewed and that Newington is next to the last in aid given to the elderly. He has gotten comments from the elderly in Town about giving more assistance. He agreed with Councilor DelBuono that the Council had to review the money being received but the Council should address the needs of those who are least able to afford taxes, medicines, food or various other items.

Councilor Klett thanked Mr. Juda for his work in helping the Council understand the issue and Councilor Bottalico for his persistence in this issue. She wanted this issue to remain open since sometimes those most in need are the last to ask for help.

Deputy Mayor McBride asked Mr. Salomone asked what would be the best option for reviewing the issue and Mr. Salomone indicated it would be most appropriate to do it through the budget process. When it came time to review tax collections, the Council could have a discussion on the mill rate affect. Councilor Klett asked if Mr. Salomone would be getting back to the Council before the budget was finalized since it is usually brought before the Council then to determine cuts to be made. Mr. Salomone indicated that the budget would be submitted

within the next two weeks and there would be time for adjustments during the hearings. He did not want to presume what dollar amount the Council would want to consider. Councilor Klett thought the Council should meet to give direction to Mr. Salomone and suggested it be added to the next meeting in February.

Councilor Borjeson indicated that this should be a high priority for all of them but was uncomfortable moving forward on it prior to budget meetings since all Councilors ran on a platform of no increase in taxes and are already being hit with revaluation and premature to place this priority to bring on added spending before we have a complete picture. Councilor Cohen agreed with Councilor Borjeson that this needed to wait until budget time to determine what else is involved before taking a position, high or low. She asked Mr. Salomone what 1/6 of a mill would equal in terms of dollars to each household and Mr. Juda indicated it would be \$26.40 approximately per household on an average assessment.

Councilor DelBuono agreed with the above comments and stated that when the Council starts the budget process there would be an opportunity to add or delete from the budget. She felt it should be discussed prior to the budget is finalized to compare it to everything in the budget and be able to set priorities.

Councilor Cohen wanted to caution everyone that the Town has families who are not elderly and use the food bank and clothing closet on a regular basis and asked Mr. Salomone for a report on the number of people using these types of programs for the next meeting.

Councilor Castelle asked that this item be put on the next meeting's agenda so the Council could discuss which option they felt appropriate. Councilor Bottalico mentioned that he felt Option 3 would be out of the question and the Council would have to decide between Option 1 or Option 2.

Deputy Mayor McBride thanked Mr. Juda for his work on this item and for Councilor Bottalico bringing it to the Council's attention.

VI CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS

A. Veterans Tax Exempt Program

Mr. Juda gave an overview of the cost of providing veteran tax exemptions. State law dictates what the exemption is worth. It started at \$1,000 and doubled to \$2,000 and the State contributed an additional \$1,000 so in Newington the exemption is \$3,000 off the assessment of the house. The average benefit is worth a \$90 reduction of their taxes each year. He explained that state legislators passed a law that tied the exemption to the change in the real estate assessment during the year of revaluation and if the revaluation doubled then the exemption would also double. However, this did not happen in Newington and the exemption has stayed the same. There was nothing that Newington could do on its own to increase the dollar amount to each veteran. Mr. Juda presented two options the Council could consider:

Option 1: Allows a means test for those veterans who met the income requirements and would receive \$2,000 from the Town as a basic exemption and \$4,000 from the State, with the promise the State would reimburse the Town for the loss of income. For veterans who met the means test they would receive \$240 versus \$90. In 2002 the State passed another law that allowed the Town to bring the \$2,000 exemption to \$10,000. This item had never been brought to the Council in the past, would bring the exemption to \$300 for each veteran. Mr. Juda stated that there were 187 low income veterans receiving the tax exemption for a total of \$374,000 which multiplied by the mill rate of 30.02 is an annual tax of \$11,227. He indicated that the State prorates the amount to be paid to the Town and currently that amount is .40 on the dollar. The return from the State is \$10,399 and Newington carries \$11,227 not reimbursed and additionally, the amount of \$15,598 promised to be reimbursed but was not. The total amount of non-reimbursed money was \$26,826 for 187 veterans.

Mr. Juda indicated in his second table the maximum benefit was \$10,000 the Council could agree to and the amount of reimbursement from the State would be the same with the total cost of the program \$71,000. The Town was currently losing \$26,000 of that amount which left a cost of \$45,000 non-reimbursed money for the 187 veterans.

Option 2: The Town could raise the means test by \$25,000. That would qualify more than 187 households. The means test would move up to \$57,300 for single veterans and \$64,500 for married veterans, which would be up from \$32,300 and \$39,500 respectively.

Mr. Juda explained the cost of moving the means test would cost the Town \$387,000. He stated that instead of covering 187 veterans the number would rise to 1,000 veterans based on moving the income levels. That would amount to a five-fold increase in the number of people eligible for the program.

Councilor DelBuono asked Mr. Juda what the poverty level was and if the program could be increased in increments up to \$25k. Mr. Juda replied the poverty level was approximately \$12,000 depending on the number of people in the family and that the Council could do any increment level they wanted to. She indicated that in Option 2 it was apparent that many veterans are struggling and the Council should look long and hard at helping these individuals.

Councilor Klett agreed the Council should give some consideration to the veterans and give the Town Manager information on what direction to take. She also asked about the exemption remaining in effect for the spouse if the veteran were to die and Mr. Juda explained it would remain for the spouse throughout their life.

B. Presentation: Central CT Health District Year in Review

Please see attached presentation regarding the Central Connecticut Health District (CCHD) Year in Review, presented by CCHD Director Paul Hutcheon, and CCHD Board Chairperson Judith Sartucci.

Councilor Klett thanked the representatives for their presentations and for handling such important health matters for the Town. Councilor Castelle agreed with Councilor Klett and stated he was not aware of all the programs the organization was responsible for.

Deputy Mayor McBride asked how prevalent lead was in houses and Mr. Hutcheon replied that he normally handled a handful of cases each year. Larger towns in the State were faced with much larger burdens of lead in homes. Deputy Mayor McBride asked how long the lead dust stayed in the air and was told by Mr. Hutcheon that most children have hand to mouth infection or by gnawing on window sills since the taste of lead is sweet. He was asked about lead in toys and Mr. Hutcheon suggested going on the CT website for a list of toys, necklaces and other items that were contaminated.

Councilor Cohen asked about lead in cosmetics and Mr. Hutcheon replied that the instance he referred to was a cultural situation for the use of Surma to highlight eyes and parts of the body.

Councilor Klett suggested Mr. Hutcheon write an article for the local paper as a public service regarding the danger of lead in the home.

Councilor Nagel stated he assumed that the lead warnings are meant for adults and pets as well. Mr. Hutcheon stated that he did get reports of adult lead poisoning from time to time, which would be investigated by the State Health Department. He felt most of the instances would be job and employment related or a hobby such as making of lead sinkers or bullets.

C. Special Meeting Schedule – FY 2012-13 Budget

John Salomone gave an overview of the special meetings to be held for the budget process. He explained they have clustered departments together they felt could be handled in an evening and would attempt to do them in sequential order for the first time.

Councilor Castelle asked if the public would have time to review the budget prior to the March 13 meeting and Mr. Salomone indicated that the budget would be released by March 2, 2012 and copies would be available to the public at that time.

Councilor Castelle stated that he would be out of town on March 19 the evening the Board of Education budget would be reviewed and asked if it would be possible to move that discussion to another night. After some discussion it was determined that the Board of Education budget could be moved to March 27, 2012.

Councilor Klett stated she would be out of town on March 2, 5 and 6. Mr. Salomone will give her an update on information she missed during those dates.

Councilor Cohen indicated she felt that CIP should be given more time since it covers five years and what is planned four or five years down the line could affect plans in year one. More time should be spent on the five year plan to ensure the Council knows what they want to prioritize for year one.

Councilor Nagel said he had a conflict with March 19 but would change his schedule to be able to attend the planned budget meeting.

Councilor Cohen asked about the date for the second goal setting meeting and Mr. Salomone explained that it would be held on February 22 at 5 p.m. in conference room L100.

VII RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS

A. & B. Development Commission

1. Accept Resignation – Kevin Chick

Councilor Klett moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the resignation of Kevin Chick from the Development Commission and the Greater Hartford Transit District, in accordance with a communication dated January 19, 2012.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Cohen and the motion passed 8 – 0 (Mayor Woods – absent)

B. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

Councilor Klett moved the following:

Balf-Town Committee

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
Balf Rep. :				Vacant
Env. Quality Comm. Rep: Michael Fox	1901 Main Street	D	Env. Quality Comm. Term	Vacant

The motion was seconded by Councilor Cohen and the motion passed 8 – 0 (Mayor Woods – absent)

VIII MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A. Public Hearing, Chapter 332, Refuse & Recyclables, January 24, 2012

A motion was made to approve the Public Hearing minutes by Councilor Cohen. The motion was seconded by Councilor Bottalico. The motion passed 8 – 0 (Mayor Woods – absent)

B. Public Hearing, Continuation, Blight Ordinance, January 24, 2012

A motion was made to approve the Public Hearing minutes by Councilor Nagel. The motion was seconded by Councilor DelBuono. The motion passed 8 – 0 (Mayor Woods – absent)

C. Regular Meeting, January 24, 2012

Councilor Cohen indicated that on page 7 the committee indicated was incorrect. It should have read "Town Hall Building Committee."

A motion was made to accept the amended minutes by Councilor Cohen. The motion was seconded by Councilor DelBuono. The motion passed 8 – 0 (Mayor Woods – absent).

D. Special Meeting, Goal Setting Session, January 28, 2012

Councilor Bottalico asked that the spelling of his name be corrected on page 3 of the minutes.

A motion was made to accept the amended minutes by Councilor Bottalico. The motion was seconded by Councilor Borjeson. The motion was passed 8 – 0 (Mayor Woods – absent).

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

None

X COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commission on Aging and Disabled: Councilor Cohen remarked that the coffee shop would be redone in the future. She stated that the tax help program had begun for anyone who needed help.

Councilor Cohen stated the Youth/Adult program would be going ahead with the football program.

Councilor Nagel attended the Library meeting and indicated the library was given a certificate of appreciation from the Radio League. There will be a fund raiser on April 10-12 at Ruby Tuesday with a percentage of the sales going back to the Library. All patrons must have a flyer from the Library prior to going to the restaurant. Councilor Nagel indicated that the Handel concert will be held on April 15.

Councilor Nagel said he attended a School Code Compliance meeting, which was a site area review. There is a sub-contractor not performing adequately. He toured with the Mayor, Mr. Salomone and department heads concerned with the project.

Councilor Borjeson attended the Capital Region Council of Governments which recently met with NE Utilities regarding the recent storm. He felt there was a lot of good information to get from these meetings and would regularly update the Council. He indicated that the State task forces have no towns represented on them. There was a lot of regionalization being discussed and was something the Town could possibly take advantage of. There will be a meeting on March 15 at NE Utilities to review emergency management services and citizen preparedness. He indicated that it was open to the public and thought that Mr. Salomone would have a representative at the meeting.

Councilor Castelle followed up on Councilor Cohen's remarks on the Commission on Aging and stated that Connecticut is #7 in terms of age in the United States and Newington is #3 in Connecticut.

Councilor Klett thanked Councilor Castelle for attending and bringing back good information on the Capital Region Council of Governments and felt it might be good to add to the Council agenda after each meeting.

Councilor Bottalico stated that the Market Square Streetscape Committee met and one of the concerns was regarding snow removal and according to Town Ordinance, the owners are responsible for the snow removal. He informed the Council that the building inspector is checking into moving three poles and a hydrant by Steve's. They also asked if the Town should turn off the lights on the CL&P poles. Mr. Salomone would get back to him with answers.

XI PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: She listed the following items – 1) She cautioned that the microphones pick up all the side conversations but when people speak she still has trouble hearing 2) she hoped that the entire amount submitted to FEMA would be eligible for the 75% reimbursement 3) the directions to the conference rooms should be clearer to individuals and uniform. She asked that the Town use name or numbers to indicate meeting space. 4) Mrs. Lyons asked that minutes of CIP discussions should be recorded and available. She agreed that CIP was an important piece of the budget and needed more review. 5) Elderly tax relief – She indicated that

according to Mr. Juda if a person was over 65 and a veteran they would receive both tax exemptions. 6) Mrs. Lyons disputed her assessment on her home and felt it was a positive experience. She urged people who had a problem with their assessment to review it with the Assessor's office. 7) She indicated that the speakers in the TPZ conference room are horrible and you cannot hear in the audience. She urged the Town to move to digital recorders.

XII REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

Councilor Cohen remarked on the recent Fire Department tour and had thought she was aware of all that they did but felt the tour was an eye opener. She learned about their training, equipment, knowledge and the upgrades mandated by OSHA. She stated they were very dedicated and could not imagine anyone volunteering for that type of position. She hoped that the residents realized the dedication of these individuals and the money saved by having a volunteer force.

Councilor Nagel indicated that as the previous CROG representative he had attended many different meetings and had presented various things to the Council. During the last Council Councilor Nagel would attend when Mr. Salomone could not and perhaps that was why previous Council's did not hear as much information as they might have. He wanted to clarify that for the public so there was no misinterpretation of his attendance at those meetings.

Councilor Bottalico remarked on the lighting bills from CL&P at Clem Lemire Field. He had bills for \$108, \$63 and \$20 an hour. He contacted CL&P and after a month of not getting any information was told by the representative, "she was very busy." Councilor Bottalico stated that the lights at the Little League field were billed at \$8.58/hour which was much lower than the football field lights. He asked that the Council give John Salomone permission to do an electrical audit on all the electricity in the Town. John Salomone indicated the Town could hire a firm on a contingency basis or a firm which billed a flat amount.

Councilor Klett and many Councilors attended the Ed Meehan tribute which was well attended. Councilor Klett indicated the committee was moving forward in hiring his replacement. The top nine applicants will be interviewed and cut down to five which will be reviewed by the committee and cut down to three. The three candidates will be brought forward to the entire Council. She also indicated that Officer Lavery's sister requested that she mention there will be a 5k run/walk planned on June 9 at the Young Farm starting at 8:30 a.m. and tickets were on sale at www.active.com.

Deputy Mayor McBride mentioned that he had attended the dinner for Ed Meehan. There were former mayors, state representatives, his family and a great turnout for a man who spent a lot of time shaping the Town. He stated that the Fire Department tour was a great event and was very appreciative of the firemen's work in Town. He mentioned the St. Patrick's Day parade would be upcoming with the Fire Department, Police Department, Ambulance, Town and State officials and youth groups marching. This event will be on TV and many residents go to Hartford to watch the parade. He stated there was a cost for the Town to participate in the parade. In the past there had been a committee of 60-70 individuals who raised money and coordinated the event. Deputy Mayor McBride said that the committee is down to one individual and he is looking to build the committee back up. There will be two fund raisers; one on February 23 at the Brickyard and the other is scheduled for March 2 at the Knights of Columbus. He asked that the Town in the future do a better job of supporting the parade because it was a great day for the Hartford Region and a great way to appreciate the Police, Fire and Ambulance departments. Deputy Mayor McBride asked that people pass the word about the parade on Facebook, Twitter and to go to the fund raisers to raise money for this event.

Deputy Mayor McBride explained that Mayor Woods was absent but was due back for the next meeting.

XIII EXECUTIVE SESSION RE: PROPERTY ACQUISITION

Councilor Klett moved to go into Executive Session regarding Real Estate at 9:48 p.m. Motion seconded by Councilor DelBuono. Motion passed 8-0 (Mayor Woods - absent).

In attendance were all Councilors in attendance at the regular meeting, TM Salomone and Town Attorney Peter Boorman.

Councilor Klett moved to adjourn from Executive Session at 11:05 p.m. The motion seconded by Councilor Bottalico. Motion passed 8-0. (Mayor Woods - absent)

XIV ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Bottalico moved to adjourn from regular meeting at 11:06 p.m. Motion seconded by Councilor Nagel. Motion passed 8-0. (Mayor Woods - absent)

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Irish-Simpson (LIS)

Linda Irish-Simpson
Clerk of the Council



Update on Activities

Prepared by:
Judith Sartucci, Board Chairperson
Paul Hutcheon, Director of Health
January, 2012

General Information

- > We are the local health department serving the towns of Berlin, Newington, Rocky Hill and Wethersfield with a combined population of just under 97,000
- > Overseen by a 11 member Board of Health appointed by the Town Councils (1 Board member per 10,000 population or part thereof)
- > 8 FT employees and 4 PT employees with offices in each town hall and in the Newington Senior and Disabled Center
- > We celebrated our 15 year anniversary in June 2011
- > Web site- www.ccthd.org

OUR VISION

Healthy People in Healthy Communities

OUR MISSION

We are committed to improving the quality of life in our communities through the prevention of disease, the fostering of a healthy environment, and the promotion of the health of our residents.

OUR CORE VALUES

We strive for excellence and as an agency value teamwork, integrity, accountability, transparency, social justice and diversity, science, innovation, and professional development.

Our Responsibilities As a Public Health Agency

- Prevent epidemics and the spread of disease
- Protect against environmental hazards
- Prevent injuries
- Promote and encourage healthy behaviors
- Respond to disasters and assist communities in recovery
- Assure the quality and accessibility of health services.

Essential Public Health Services The Public Should Expect:

- Monitor health status
- Diagnose and investigate
- Inform, educate, and empower
- Mobilize community partnerships
- Develop policies and plans
- Enforce laws and regulations
- Link people to services
- Assure a competent workforce
- Evaluate health services
- Research

Our Strategic Goals 2011-2014

1. Promote healthy environments
2. Good health at every age
3. Response to public health threats and emergencies
4. Quality of service provided
5. Support our agency infrastructure (fiscal, technology, workforce, work space)

Recognizing our health district for quality service....

National Accreditation for Public Health Agencies
Launched in 2011

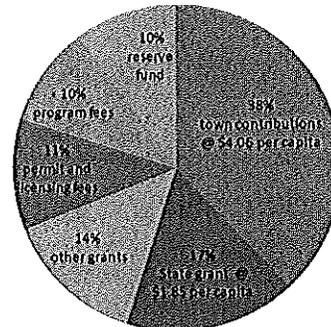


What is "quality" in public health?

It's the degree to which everything we do as a public health agency helps people be healthy or influences the conditions in which they can be healthy.

Financial

Projected current year expenditures \$924,000



Environmental Health Services

- Regulated over 800 licensed facilities including food establishments, public pools, motels, salons & day care centers and conducted over 2,000 inspections.
- Investigated over 300 public health complaints (e.g. food borne outbreaks, substandard rental housing, rodent/insect infestations, air/water pollution etc.).
- Investigate reports of elevated blood lead levels in children.
- Regulate and inspect private wells and septic systems (both new and repairs).



Clinics and Screenings

- Influenza & pneumonia clinics (3,000 flu and 53 pneumonia doses at 9 clinics, 15 homebound)
- Senior dental cleanings (100 residents served)
- Coordinate foot care clinic appointments
- Prescription drug counseling



Health Education Programs

- Diabetes: Taking Charge
- Putting on Airm (asthma home assessment)
- Woman to Woman (breast cancer education & screening)
- Live Well Program (chronic disease management classes)
- Mature Driver Safety
- Senior Fall Prevention



Succes\$\$ with Grants

- Over \$212,000 in new grant funding received in the past three years to support District programs.
- These grants have allowed us to offer a variety of programs to address:
 - Obesity
 - Asthma
 - Dental Cleanings
 - Safe Driving
 - Healthy Eating
 - Heart Disease
 - Stroke Screening
 - Breast Cancer

Putting On Airs

- This is a grant funded regional asthma home assessment program. The Health District coordinates the program with 18 participating towns.
- The program is designed to target the reduction of environmental asthma triggers in the home.
- With referrals from health care providers and others, trained inspectors will visit the home, conduct an inspection and provide information on how to minimize asthma triggers (32 home visits to date)
- There is no charge to the resident.



ACHIEVE Grant

- Working with community partners to create environmental and systems policies addressing healthy lifestyles with a focus on healthy eating, tobacco, physical activity and obesity.
- Formed a "Community Health Action Resource Team" leadership team, completed a community assessment and developed an action plan.
- Implementation of the action plan to come.
- Grant ends June 30, 2013.

Community Health Assessment

- The Center for Research and Public Policy completed a community health assessment using a telephone survey format containing 87 questions.
- The findings from the 400 completed surveys are posted on our web site.
- Issues included:
 - Consumption of fruits and vegetables below FDA recommendation
 - 16% do no moderate physical activity in a usual week
 - 9.5% were told they have diabetes



Emergency Preparedness

- Public Health Emergency Response Plan addresses all hazards.
- We remain an active member of the CREPC and the regional response efforts.
- Responded to Hurricane Irene and Storm Alfred. Primary focus on food establishments without power and ensuring safe shelter operations.
- We have over 400 volunteers signed-up to help in an emergency. They participate in various activities including flu clinics and trainings.

Please contact us if you are interested in volunteering!



Thank you!

To learn more please visit our website

www.ccthd.org