



John L. Salomone
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

MAYOR JEFF WRIGHT

MINUTES

NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

June 9, 2009

Mayor Wright called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the Helen Nelson Room of the Newington Town Hall.

I PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II ROLL CALL

Councilors Present

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

Councilors Absent

Councilor Banach
Councilor Lenares

Staff Present

Town Manager Salomone
Lori Verreault, Exec. Assistant

III PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL

Vincent Sabotini, 1 Market Square (Business address): Mr. Sabotini indicated that he is an attorney representing Justina Davella. He explained that Ms. Davella had an in-ground pool installed by a contractor on her Rocky Hill property and a small portion of the pool intrudes on the Town of Newington's property. He stated that he is working with the property owner and the pool contractor to find an alternative to having the pool demolished and rebuilt as having to do so would be costly and problematic. Mr. Sabotini noted that a surveyor has determined that approximately 1,600 in Town land would be required in order to maintain a fifteen-foot side yard and stated that this could be accomplished by the Town either selling the 1,600 square feet of land or the Town granting an easement to Ms. Davella to maintain the pool with the Town owning the fee in the property. He stated that before the Town can sell or encumber property it must be sent to the TPZ for a recommendation and requested that the Council consider sending the issue to the TPZ for consideration. He reiterated that it would be very costly to have the pool removed and reconstructed – possibly upwards of \$100,000. He remarked that it is an unusual request but noted that the land in question is Town's open space. He indicated that he understands the Town's position on open space, but stated that there are always exceptions and requested a chance to make a case on this issue. He again requested that the Council send the issue to the TPZ and then place the item on the Council agenda for consideration. He stated that appropriate fees and costs of a sale or easement would be passed on to the property owner and/or the pool contractor.

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IV CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS

A Appointment of Auditor

Councilor Bottalico moved the following:

RESOLVED:

Per Section 610 of the Newington Town Charter, the firm of Blum Shapiro is hereby appointed as auditor for the Town of Newington for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009; said firm agrees to file a complete report on or before December 15, 2009.

Motion seconded by Councilor Bowen. Motion passed 7-0 (Councilors Banach and Lenares absent.)

B Actions Concerning Revenue Collection
1 Transfer to Suspense Tax List

Councilor Bottalico moved the following:

RESOLVED:

The Newington Town Council hereby authorizes transfers in the amount of \$87,886.03 to the Suspense Tax Book for the years 2006-2007 through 2007-2008. This action is being taken upon the recommendation of the Revenue Collector and as shown in a report dated May 20, 2009.

Motion seconded by Councilor Nagel. Motion passed 7-0 (Councilors Banach and Lenares absent.)

2 Removal of the Outstanding Balance from the 2003 List

Councilor Bottalico moved the following:

RESOLVED:

The Newington Town Council hereby authorizes the outstanding balance from the 1993 Grand List in the amount of \$6,996.61 be removed from the Town’s receivable assets as of June 30, 2009 as per the recommendation of the Revenue Collector.

Motion seconded by Councilor Nasinnyk. Motion passed 7-0 (Councilors Banach and Lenares absent.)

C H1N1 Flu Update

Paul Hutcheon, Director of the Central Connecticut Health District, provided the Council with an update on the status of the H1N1 Flu outbreak (data current as of June 9, 2009). Mr. Hutcheon stated that the CCHD is involved with monitoring the outbreak in conjunction with the State Department of Health.

H1N1 Update

- 73 countries have reported 25,288 confirmed cases, including 139 deaths.
- Over 13,217 probable and confirmed cases indentified in 52 states (includes Washington DC and Puerto Rico) with 27 deaths reported. Many additional cases go unreported.
- Symptoms are similar to seasonal flu and H1N1 is spread though coughing, sneezing and touching contaminated surfaces.
- Vaccine production is in process, but it remains to be seen whether a H1N1 vaccine will be available this fall. Seasonal flu vaccinations will be available as planned.
- CT Department of Public Health Summary:
 - 480 confirmed cases in 7 counties (76 towns)
 - Age range 2 months – 79 years old with an average age of 18 years old. 52% male and 48% female
 - Six have been reported as needing hospitalization
 - One death has been reported in New Haven County – a resident over the age of 50 who had underlying risk factors that put this person at a higher risk for complications of influenza. The individual died after a short hospitalization.

- Four confirmed cases reported within the CCHD. One in each member town (Berlin, Newington, Rocky Hill and Wethersfield)
- School Closures: At this time, schools across the country continue to close as a result of novel H1N1 flu activity based on local considerations.
- Prevention – everyone should take everyday steps to protect your health and lessen the spread of this new virus:
 - Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
 - Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough and sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.
 - Try to avoid close contact with sick people
 - Stay home if you are sick for seven days after your symptoms began or until you have been symptom-free for 24 hours, whichever is longer. This is to keep from infecting others and spreading the virus further.

For more information or for the latest updates visit <http://www.ccthd.org> or dial 211.

Comments and question and answer session followed. Councilor Nasinnyk stated that she appreciates the presentation and noted the deaths that have occurred have been in people with serious underlying health problems. She expressed appreciation of the regular updates. Councilor Bowen inquired whether the update could be added to the website. Mayor Wright recommended placing a link from the Town's site directly to the CCHD's site. Councilor Bowen inquired whether the H1N1 virus spreads more slowly than the seasonal flu. Mr. Hutcheon replied that it is not the typical flu season and therefore the spread is different. He elaborated that the typical flu season is during the colder months in which people spend most of their time indoors with closed windows and doors. He stated that the H1N1 flu will stay in the population for some time and it remains to be seen what will happen during the regular flu season. Councilor Bowen inquired whether the treatment is the same as it is for seasonal flu: bed rest, fluids, etc. Mr. Hutcheon replied in the affirmative. Councilor Nagel inquired whether this flu is similar to seasonal flu in that it will become more prevalent during flu season. Mr. Hutcheon replied that it the H1N1 flu is a derivative of pigs, and has existed for some times. He noted that it is had not been easily transmitted but a mutation in the virus has allowed it to be more easily transmitted from swine to human and from human to human, and it is not a seasonal occurrence. Councilor Nasinnyk noted that this is a high priority at the local, State and national level. Mayor Wright thanked Mr. Hutcheon for the presentation.

V CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS

A. Historic Preservation Grant – Town Clerk

Town Manager Salomone stated that the Town is eligible for the \$10,000 Historic Preservation grant funding, however the funds may be delayed or eliminated. He explained that this might put a strain on the land records re-indexing project but noted that the Town Clerk has been in correspondence with the project consultant and will keep on top of the situation.

B. Appointment of Building Committee – High School Gym Floor Replacement

Councilor Bottalico moved to waive the rules to vote on the two resolutions related to the high school gym floor replacement project. Motion seconded by Councilor Nagel.

Councilor Bowen noted that that the project was placed in the budget several months ago and noted that the Council does not have much information in their packet regarding the project. He inquired whether it is an urgent matter that must be voted on in the current meeting. Town Manager Salomone replied that the item was added to the agenda as a courtesy to Dr. Perlini. Mayor Wright indicated that he had a conversation with Board of Education Chairman Carson who had requested that the Council move on the item as soon as possible due to the tight timeframe of the project for getting it completed by the upcoming basketball season. He noted that the timeframe is tight even if the Council moves on the item at the current meeting but stated that not putting it off until the next meeting would at least give the project a fighting chance of being completed on schedule. Mayor Wright noted that the funding has been set for the project and spoke in favor of appointing the Committee at the current meeting. Councilor Bowen noted that there are many other sports that use the gym other than just basketball. He inquired as to why the Chair of the Board of Education brought this project forward at such a late date. Mayor Wright replied

that he did not know the answer to Councilor Bowen's question and stated that he is trying to work with the Board to move the project forward. Councilor Bottalico inquired about the timeframe of the project, and expressed concern with the lack of information available to the Council. Mayor Wright stated that the goal is to finish the project on time. Town Manager Salomone noted that the goal is to have the project complete by the start of basketball season, which begins in late October or early November. Councilor Nasinnyk noted that while the item was approved in the budget she would have liked someone from the Board available to answer the Council's questions prior to voting on the item.

Motion to waive the rules passed 7-0 (Councilors Banach and Lenares absent.)

Councilor Bottalico remarked that he would have liked more information regarding the project prior to appointing a Committee. Councilor Bowen agreed and stated that he had not had a chance to consider whom the Democrats would like to appoint to the Committee.

Councilor Bottalico moved the following:

RESOLVED:

In accordance with Article X, Section 8-39 et seq., Project Building Committees, of the Newington Code of Ordinances, the Newington Town Council hereby establishes a High School Gymnasium Floor Replacement Building Committee.

Said committee is charged to work with the Town Manager (and/or his/her designee), Superintendent of Schools, and any other appropriate Town staff in the oversight of the gymnasium floor replacement. Such improvements shall comply with the appropriate sections of the Fire Code, Health Code, Building Code and OSHA regulations, regulations of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and any other health and/or safety code regulations currently in force.

The Town Manager is authorized to obtain the services of a Clerk of the Works or to utilize Town staff in overseeing improvements as they are finally determined.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the High School Gymnasium Floor Replacement Building Committee shall be comprised of five (5) members, of which three (3) shall be representatives of the Town Council and two (2) shall be from the Board of Education.

Motion seconded by Councilor Nagel. Motion passed 7-0 (Councilors Banach and Lenares absent.)

Councilor Bottalico moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby appoints the following to the High School Gymnasium Floor Replacement Building Committee:

Name	Address	Party	Term
Town Council Rep.: Jay Bottalico	37 Valley View Drive	R	Council Term
Town Council Rep.: Tony Boni	160 Harding Avenue	R	Council Term
Town Council Rep.: Myra Cohen	42 Jeffrey Lane	D	Council Term
Bd. of Education Rep.: Dan Carson	223 Little Brook Drive	R	Board of Ed Term
Bd. of Education Rep.: Steve Woods	94 New Britain Avenue	D	Board of Ed Term

Motion seconded by Councilor Boni. Motion passed 7-0 (Councilors Banach and Lenares absent.)

VI RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS

- A Development Commission
1 Acknowledge Resignation of Manny Paolucci

Councilor Bottalico moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the resignation of Manny Paolucci from the Development Commission, in accordance with a communication dated May 20, 2009.

Motion seconded by Councilor Nagel. Motion passed 7-0 (Councilors Banach and Lenares absent.)

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

- A. Town Manager Reports

Town Manager Salomone announced that Jaime Trevethan, the current Clerk of the Council, has been appointed to succeed Lori Verreault in the position of Executive Assistant to the Town Manager.

Town Manager Salomone announced that he has been elected President of the Connecticut City and Town Managers' Association, effective June 2009 through May 2010.

X COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Cohen reported on a recent meeting of the Commission on Aging:

- Discussed the evening use of the Senior and Disabled Center. The Director has recommended eliminating the use of the building by groups other than non-profit groups due to the need to cut back on custodian hours. No decision has been made at this time whether or not to keep the building open to all public use. Concerns include funding and use of the kitchen.
- Discussed concerns about losing State funding for an inter-town ride services for residents with out of Town doctor appointments.

Councilor Nagel reported on a recent meeting of CROCG:

- The proposed Town busway was discussed, which CROCG supports
- A proposed busway was also discussed for New Britain, with plans and drawings distributed.
- Capitol Workforce Partners gave a presentation regarding unemployment in the State, which has started to reach into the healthcare and hospitality fields.

IX PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL

Sharon Braverman, 39 Churchill Way, Board of Education Liaison to the Council: Mrs. Braverman suggested that the Council and the Board strengthen the liaison system in order to improve communication and information between the two groups. She also commented that Dr. Perlini's retirement dinner the previous evening went very well.

X REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

Councilor Nasinnyk stated that Dr. Perlini's retirement dinner was a proper tribute to his remarkable career. She also agreed with Mrs. Braverman's comments regarding the liaison system. Councilor Cohen stated that the problem with the gym floor project had nothing to do with the liaisons since the Council was not aware that the item would be on the current meeting's agenda.

Mayor Wright congratulated Dr. Perlini and stated that his retirement dinner went very well.

XIV EXECUTIVE SESSION RE: ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY

Councilor Nasinnyk moved to go into Executive Session at 8:01pm. Motion seconded by Councilor Boni. Motion passed 7-0 (Councilors Banach and Lenares absent). All Councilors in attendance at the regular meeting and Town Manager Salomone were present.

Councilor Bowen moved to adjourn from Executive Session at 8:15pm. Motion seconded by Councilor Bottalico. Motion passed 7-0 (Councilors Banach and Lenares absent).

XV ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Bowen moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm. Motion seconded by Councilor Bottalico. Motion passed 7-0 (Councilors Banach and Lenares absent).

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. Jaime Trevethan
Clerk of the Council