



John L. Salomone
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

MAYOR JEFF WRIGHT

August 24, 2010

Executive Session RE: Personnel held at 6:30 PM

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Wright called Executive Session to order at 6:30 p.m. All members of the Council except for Councilor Lenares were present. Also present were Town Manager Salomone and Police Chief Mulhall (exited meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Councilor Banach moved to go out of Executive Session at 7:13 p.m. Motion seconded by Councilor Nasinnyk. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Lenares absent)

REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Wright called the regular meeting to order at 7:19 p.m. in the Helen Nelson Room of the Newington Town Hall.

I PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II ROLL CALL

Councilors Present:

Councilor Banach
Councilor Casasanta
Councilor Cohen
Councilor Klett
Councilor McBride
Councilor Nagel
Councilor Nasinnyk
Mayor Wright
Councilor Lenares absent

Staff Present

John Salomone, Town Manager
Jaime Trevethan, Exec. Asst. to the Town Manager
Mary Richard, Council Clerk

III PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive - stated that she is a tax payer who took to heart the failing grade given to residents by Mayor Mortensen in a past budget process. She was actively involved during the Charter Revision and publicly stated that she was not qualified to review the Town's budget to make an informed decision as to whether to vote yes or no, should the budget exceed 3% and had to go to referendum. She said also that she did not understand the educational circuit breaker and trusted the elected officials to make the correct decisions. She said that she was publicly ridiculed for making these remarks and was told it was easy for anyone to understand the budget and that the educational circuit breaker was simple math. She went on to say that on March 17, 2010 she attended a special meeting of this Council at which time Mr. Salomone noted that the AFCSME employees took a zero percent increase last year and indicated that the Town was in negotiations with both AFCSME and IBPO at this time. She said that at the July 13, 2010 Town Council meeting, there was an Executive Session meeting to

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discuss the AFCSME wages and voted on that. She noted that tonight there was an Executive Session meeting prior to this meeting to discuss raises for the IBPO and Administrative Staff. She said that what she would like from this Council and the Town Manager tonight is the transparency in Government so often spoken about and she knows there was no dialogue between the public and the Council, and suggested that before the vote the Council could discuss how the decisions were reached. She would like to know the percentage given to AFSCME, IBPO and the Administrative Staff if approved, how much it is and what the bottom line is. She stated that she is not against any raises for anyone as long as the Town can afford it. She also said she would like to know how you approve a budget with a zero percent increase and then give raises after the budget is passed. She asked for an explanation as to how this works, if not verbally than in a written response.

IV. CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS

A. Sale of State Owned Land: Maple Hill Avenue and Robbins Avenue

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation has placed a 0.489 acre parcel of State-owned land located on the corner of Maple Hill Avenue and Robbins Avenue for sale; and WHEREAS, the Town of Newington has first right of refusal for purchase of State-owned land located within the Town; and WHEREAS, pursuant to State statutes an 8-24 report is required to be completed by the Town Plan and Zoning Commission in order to move forward with the purchase process; and WHEREAS, on August 3, 2010, the Town Council voted against referring the purchase of the land to the Town Plan and Zoning Commission for an 8-24 report (resolution number 2010-82, failed in a 4-3 vote);
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Newington Town Council hereby rejects the offer to purchase said land located at the corner of Maple Hill Avenue and Robbins Avenue from the State of Connecticut.

**MOTION BY: Councilor Casasanta
SECONDED BY: Councilor Klett
VOTE: 8 – 0 Councilor Lenares absent**

Councilor Cohen said that we don't want to spend this money at this point in time. She doesn't think that the Town had interest in a piece of land that the Town has no use for. It was a matter of referring it to the TPZ as a courtesy to them.

V. CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposed Revised Job Description: Library Director

Mr. Salomone said that the President of the Library Board could not be here tonight but we've been working closely with them on revising the job description to make sure we're in conformance with current standards and format. He noted that we did advertise the position a week and a half ago and the position is open for another two weeks and this job description upgrade doesn't change the salary.

B. Waverly Drive Street Acceptance

Mayor Wright noted that this is a process in which the developer has turned over the public road to the Town and the next step would be to go to an 8 – 24 Referral to TPZ. He explained where Waverly Drive is located. Mr. Salomone said that once the street has been accepted by the Town, then the street would be formerly under the Town's jurisdiction for maintenance and insurance liabilities.

C. Mill Pond Park Improvement – State of Connecticut DEP Grant

Mayor Wright said that a couple of meetings ago this was discussed that there was some action to get a grant in which Mr. Salomone spoke with Senator Doyle regarding some money for Mill Pond Park. Mr. Salomone said yes, and Senator Doyle said there might be some possibilities of some monies, of about \$150,000 but he wasn't sure and wanted some suggestions, something pretty straight forward and not too complicated. Mr. Salomone

told Senator Doyle that we have a lot of straight forward projects that might be of interest and in consultation with the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation we came up with four projects within Mill Pond Park, some of which have been in the Capitol budget but have been cut back a bit over the last year or so, some have been temporarily fixed, others would be in the future Capitol budgets. One being the replacement of playground safety matting. He said that we may or may not replace the whole thing, but some parts. Another is the replacement of the stairway next to the falls, some work has been done on it but we would like to permanently fix it and make it attractive and comply with all the safety regulations. The next is the repairs to the walkway surrounding the pond, there are a few areas that have eroded, other parts are cracking it needs a resurfacing. He said that it's about a little less than a half mile long but it's a small road. He said that finally, the Walkway bridge, not the bridge where the waterfall is, but the other bridge that connects the pond area with the wetlands area. He said that the spillway has cracked and needs to be replaced. Mr. Salomone estimates somewhat less than \$150,000 and depending on what each comes in at, it would be plus or minus. Councilor Cohen asked if this would take care of these projects with Town funds added. Mr. Salomone said that these are within the budget of \$150,000. Councilor Klett asked if the Parks & Rec Board was involved in the project determination. Mr. Salomone said that they were careful in the beginning because the Senator wasn't sure about the funding and did talk to the Park & Recreation Board. Councilor McBride asked how old is the safety matting. Mr. Salomone said that it's about ten years old and that's a typical life. He said that parts are in pretty good shape but other parts are in need of repair, and the reason for the safety matting is that this is accessible to handicapped so this is the most desirable. Councilor McBride asked that the technology used ten years ago, would this replacement material be the same. Mr. Salomone said that it's similar. Councilor Nasinnyk said that to her that these four items are pretty ambitious and to get that all done for \$150,000 seems like a lot of work to get that all done for that amount of money, which is very good. She asked if maybe there would be some freeing up of money on the Park & Rec side to clean up the pond itself. Mr. Salomone said that this is next on the agenda and we've been very successful in treating the pond at Churchill, and even though we've had a very hot summer we will be doing a certain treatment on Mill Pond this year. He said that this is not being done on the grant.

**Councilor Banach moved to waive the rules on Agenda Item V.C. Seconded by Councilor Cohen.
Vote 8 – 0 Councilor Lenares absent.**

RESOLVED:

That John L. Salomone, Town Manager of the Town of Newington, is hereby authorized to execute on behalf of the Town of Newington a Personal Services Agreement (PSA) with the State of Connecticut for financial assistance for Mill Pond Park Improvements – CSAP 2011-02.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

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

MOTION BY: Councilor Nagel

SECONDED BY: Councilor Cohen

VOTE: 8 – 0 Councilor Lenares absent

Mayor Wright asked for Public input at this time.

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive – she said she was saddened that we had to go to the State to get \$150,000 but is happy that the work will be done. She added that she addressed the same issue at the Park & Rec meeting recently, and the people on the Board that night didn't seem surprised that this was being done and seemed pleased that it was being done, she didn't know if they formally voted on it but heard no opposition to it.

Mayor Wright said in response to the public, the past years he has been here, more money has been spent on Capitol projects than the previous year and in addition we've spent significantly more in the last years on Park and Recreation projects. He said looking at the plan drawn up about three and a half years ago about our long term plan, there are a lot of big projects, number one being the Turf Field, and to Mill Pond and Churchill Park and the pools. He said that there's a lot of capitol over a long period of time that will be needed, it's an ongoing process.

D. CONSIDERATION OF PERSONNEL MATTERS

1. Collective Bargaining Agreement IBPO 2010 through 2013

Mayor Wright said that in Executive Session prior to this meeting the Council was presented with a memorandum of understanding between the Town and the IBPO union. He said that there was a discussion between Mr. Salomone and the IBPO and the tentative agreement was voted on in a positive fashion. Mr. Salomone said yes and the duration of the contract would be for three years and that the wage increase would be 0% from 2010 to 2011. Year 2 would be 0% for July 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011 and 2% for January 1, 2012 thru June 30, 2012 then for the third year 2012 and 2013 would be 2%. The increase would be 1.35% over the three years with zero percent for the first year and a half of the contract. The other two items of substance, one would allow us to even out staffing requirements in the event that we had the need to move staff around from one shift to another, he said that this will help with overtime when and if we have injuries or leaves that would be more than three days. He said that as the Council recalls we had agreement with the retirees at that point would be after a retiree leaves and took a new job and that new job had health benefits, the primary carrier would be the new position which would save us a considerable amount of money. Finally he said that we have changed the increase the insurance provision, whereas if the employee declines the insurance, they would currently receive an incentive of \$1000 per year. We have increased that to \$2000, which might be an incentive for some to go to another form of insurance.

Mayor Wright said that basically, it's a three year contract with the first year of 0% increase, the second year and a half would be a 2% increase, it also includes steps along the way. He said that the Town Council will be taking action at the first meeting in September. He said that any of the public who might have comments on this matter should reach out to their Town Councilor.

2. Salary Increases – Administrative Group Employees

Mr. Salomone said in good and bad times the Administrators should mirror what the AFSCME employees get, and in good time they get the salary increase and in bad times they don't and he suggested that this year we should allow the Administrative employees to receive a 2% increase since the AFSCME union received a 2% increase.

Mayor Wright said from his position which is very consistent, he truly believes that the Administrative staff and Police Officers do a fantastic job, and in this environment where some of the private sector has not received any increase in wages, with lots of people losing their jobs or having hours cut back. He said that he will not support either increase, with no reflection on the respect he has for these people.

E. Councilor/Board of Education Communication

Mayor Wright asked Councilor Cohen for her comments regarding the request made by Councilor Casasanta made of Dr. Collins.

Councilor Cohen stated that the request was made by an individual Councilor rather than by the Council. She said that this request would require a lot of time and effort on the part of staff, she would like to know exactly what Councilor Casasanta is looking for and suggested an easier way to get the answers she's looking for. Mayor Wright asked if individual Councilors should not request information. Councilor Cohen said that there might be an easier way to accomplish results, and just to say "give me everything" she thinks....

Mayor Wright stated that any individual Councilor has the right to request any information, and even the public has the right to request this information. Councilor Cohen said that there should be an easier way that won't be so costly to the Town, and a timely request in taking staff off what they should be doing to spend time on this special request. Councilor Klett suggested that there might be others who would like to comment on this matter.

Councilor McBride said that he doesn't understand what the request is actually for, and one concern he has is the cost of searching for this information, when he still doesn't know the purpose. Mayor Wright repeated that as a member of the Town Council, Councilor Casasanta has the right to request any information she wants. Councilor McBride said that we pay a lot of money to a firm to audit our money in all departments and to spend \$10,000 roughly search this information is out of line. Councilor Klett agreed that any Council member has the right to request information, but she thinks that this request is for 11,000 pages of information and if Councilor

Casasanta wants 11,000 pages, Councilor Klett also wants 11,000 pages, but when talking about the cost factor there are two issues here, one is that Councilor Casasanta thinks there was a \$10,000,000 error and 85% of the Board's budget is salaries, secondly that would be 13% of the budget and believes it's impossible that this can't be explained through dialogue. She asked if the Board of Education had been consulted regarding this \$10,000,000 error. She said that when a single Council member asked for specific information, and whatever one person gets, then nine people should get. She believes that this can be responded to by the Board of Education, and doesn't think that 11,000 pages which will be costly because some of that information requested, purchase orders and checks etc. it would have to be redacted into information that is confidential information and thinks it a little bit over the top. Councilor Banach suggested that the public listening tonight has no idea what we're referencing.

Councilor Casasanta said that the basis for her request to the Board of Education was from the June 2nd memorandum from Ann Harter, Director of Finance, which referenced that there was an available budget balance of \$10,000,000. She said that her curiosity got the best of her and asked some questions, asked for copies of purchase order, checks related to those purchase order, nothing more, nothing less. No personnel information was ever mentioned in that request. She said that the 11,000 pages and \$10,000 was deceiving. She said that she had not received any feedback regarding a document quantity or a document cost. Bottom line is that she requested it and has not received it. And she said as far as going to my constituents on the Board of Education, with all due respect to them, she is not required to do that. Councilor Klett asked if Councilor Casasanta thinks there's a \$10,000,000 error. Councilor Casasanta stated that she didn't say there was an error but that there was "an available budget balance". Councilor Klett referred to what Councilor McBride mentioned, and perhaps the Town Manager could explain what the audit practice is, is it the same auditor, is the audit done at the same time and when will it be finished. Councilor Cohen said in business that they order some merchandise, let some bills come in and decide what to pay. The town cannot do that. When the Town issues a Purchase Order that money is put aside no matter when we expect that shipment to come in. That money will not carry over to the new fiscal year, (inaudible) waiting to the end of the fiscal year because you never know what problems might occur, holding the money will not show check for June and will not show up in July because July is a new fiscal year.

Mayor Wright said that he would also like to see this information it being ironic that there's never a surplus from the Board of Education each year, and last year the Town Council ended with almost a two and a half million dollar surplus, this year it looks like it will be over two million dollars again and we haven't seen this information and he'd like to see it too. Councilor Casasanta said that she hasn't had any conversation about cost or quantity. She doesn't know if she will receive what she has requested but the bottom line is that she did submit the request. Councilor Nasinnyk believes that this was a helpful discussion but might be a fishing expedition to find out something maybe there or maybe not there. She also was concerned that the request came from Councilor Casasanta and yet it's been the Mayor doing all the talking on that subject and in the view that both of them will be running for State office maybe this may be coming from a different standpoint that the Board of Education is not doing what it should be doing, and those questions should be made to the Board of Education specifically, the Town Council does not look at how the Board of Education spends the money and if there is a \$10,000,000 surplus at the end of June. Mayor Wright commented that it's not fair that Councilor Nasinnyk would state that because we're running for State office that somehow there are politics involved. Councilor Klett stated that if Councilor Casasanta can find \$10,000,000 than she believes she, Councilor Casasanta, should be running for State Treasurer. Councilor Klett said that spending years on the Board of Education, and if a Board member came to us and asked for all the purchase orders for the Police Department etc. she thinks that the Board would not be taking that kind of request very happily. She said the Council's only charge is to determine that the final dollar figure that we decide to give them and that the conversation should be with Councilor Casasanta's counterparts on the board of Education and feels that whatever is requested should be provided to all nine Council members but it's outrageous to ask for 11,000 pages, which she, Councilor Klett, found out by making a phone call. She believes that this could be resolved with conversation.

Councilor Casasanta said that she's tired of the wall put between the Board of Ed and the Council. She said that if she has a request she will ask for answers and not need to run to my counterparts on both sides for permission. She said that yes she is running for State Representative she has no political agenda, and if she did she would have put it on the Agenda, not Councilor Cohen and she is deeply offended by that comment. Councilor Klett said that in the 25 years that she has been sitting around this table she has never seen anyone ask for 11,000 documents. Mayor Wright said that as we move forward we will have more and more access to public information on a regular basis. He said that Sunlight.org website they've put up all State expenditures, State contracts, all cable and people who work for the State. They have Newington to be up sometime in the fall, so people at home can see the same information which is a fantastic service to the public. He said that he

has requested specific information during the budget thing because he wanted to understand that, he requested of Dr. Collins and to Lou Jachimowicz to send him the Excel spreadsheet version so the information wouldn't have to be re-put into the system. They refused to do that and we had to have staff members take that data and re-enter it into an Excel spreadsheet so the numbers could be analyzed.

Councilor Cohen said that the problem is what is an incumbent balance as of June 30th at the Board of Education of \$10,000,000 plus, that is the basis of the request and if that request can be forwarded to the Board that could be answered without a million copies, and could be explained. Councilor Nagel said that he agrees that the Council has the right to gain information that we need and what Councilor Cohen talked about is another version of what Councilor Casasanta has requested. It comes down to that amount of money and where it's going to or encumbered. Mayor Wright said that Councilor Casasanta would accept email copies of the documents, and not necessarily printed pages. Councilor Banach said that no one disagrees with any Councilors request for information, but believes we're duty bound to be judicious, but the problem seems to be that it's an unfocused request and seems to be a very broad scale request for all these purchase orders, checks etc. which asks what Councilor Casasanta is hoping to find or the specific purpose of acquiring all this information, is there something awry or why make such a broad request for information.

Councilor Casasanta said that there is no drama, no other motivation other than my question. She said that her requested was for May and June 2010. Councilor Banach asked if Councilor Casasanta may have further questions, and if so have they been asked of anyone in the Board of Education and didn't get an answer. Councilor Casasanta said yes she has asked questions and got some answers but these answers weren't sufficient for me. Councilor Klett asked if Councilor Casasanta could be more specific on what information that would warrant 11,000 documents. Mayor Wright stated that Councilor Casasanta doesn't owe an answer to this, and most of this information can be electronically submitted. He said that Councilor Casasanta has not requested printed copies of this information.

Councilor Klett asked if Mr. Salomone could explain the audit procedures. Mr. Salomone said that yes it's the same audit, a combined audit. He said that it primarily starts before closing of the fiscal year and in earnest begins again in late summer and concludes in October, November or December. It's in the process now. Mayor Wright asked if the audit provide information on the purchase orders, and invoices for the months of May and June. Mr. Salomone said they normally do sampling and don't check each purchase order but give us sampling to satisfy themselves, they may request more invoices or purchase order or financial transactions but they have a separate plan for that. Councilor Cohen there are produced \$10, (inaudible) worth of purchase order and no invoices to cover most of those yet. What's the next step. Councilor Klett said that there is a better way to achieve what she's trying to achieve, less costly. Councilor McBride suggested that maybe someone could come in and talk and help narrow the search and help with what Councilor Casasanta is looking for, but if someone offers a hand to help it should be accepted, especially when it's something so convoluted and confusing as what this is.

VII TAX REFUNDS

RESOLVED:

That property tax refunds in the amount of \$6,551.47 are hereby approved in the individual amounts and for those named on the "Requests for Refund of an Overpayment of Taxes," certified by the Revenue Collector, a list of which is attached to this resolution.

MOTION BY: Councilor Nagel

SECONDED BY: Councilor Nasinnyk

VOTE: 8 – 0 Councilor Lenares absent

VIII MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Councilor Nagel moved to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting on May 25, 2010
Councilor Banach seconded. Vote 8 – 0 Councilor Lenares absent

Councilor Nagel moved to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting on June 22, 2010
Councilor Nasinnyk seconded . Vote 8 – 0 Councilor Lenares absent

Councilor Nagel moved to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting on July 13, 2010
Councilor Nasinnyk seconded. Vote 8 – 0 Councilor Lenares absent

Councilor Nasinnyk moved to accept the minutes of the Special Meeting on August 3, 2010
Councilor Nagel seconded. Vote 6 – 0 Councilor Lenares absent, Councilors Klett and McBride abstained

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

A. Town Manager's Report

Mayor Wright stated that for the Town we're running almost a \$200,000 surplus based on the estimate verses what actual claims were. The Board of Education is running about \$550,000 surplus in Medical account. He stated that any surplus in the Town side for the Medical account, stays in that account and any surplus for the Board of Education stays. He complimented Mr. Salomone and his staff on tightening the belt on the expenditures side.

X COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Cohen reported that the West Meadow Cemetery Committee is having a dedication of their new area on Wednesday, September 15th at 6 PM, with rain date of September 29th at 6 PM.

XI PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive said that earlier she had said that she had gone to a Park & Rec meeting and ask them who the Liaison was for Park and Rec so perhaps they could bring back some information to the Council about what is going on with the Parks & Recreation. As to the issue of asking questions of the Board of Education, as a member of the public she believes that the Council members have a right to get answers to any question, however it should be clear and concise so that they can be answered and should be shared with the fellow Councilors, and not going through the previous discussion. She said that the public doesn't know what's going on, all we hear is "he said, she said" and there should be some transparency and all on the table and why the question is being asked and what is the bottom line. She said that for two and a half years she has asked many questions and asked that they be answered in writing. As of this date, she said that no question she has asked has been addressed in writing to me. She said with all due respect to the Mayor, he has chosen to pick and choose the questions you answered based on whether you feel you need to defend yourself. She asked the Mayor to explain who made the Turf field a priority over the repair and renovations to Mill Pond Park. Once again, she asked that all her questions be answered and not just the ones you choose to answer.

Sue Mazzaccoli, Harris Drive said that last night was the first time she heard about Councilor Casasanta's request but having been a Board of Education herself, and one thing she remembers is that the Board couldn't spend all this money because they couldn't ask for more at the end of the budget year. She understands why the Councilor would like to see that that money is spent properly. She said that the FOI Act says that once you send a letter to a public agency you are to expect an answer within four days that they are paying attention to your request and that they will respond promptly. The word 'promptly' could mean anything from two hours to two years, depending on the request. She hopes that if "promptly" in this situation means, if it's true, that 11,000 documents are needed that time will be taken away from the normal working hours, that they dedicate maybe half an hour to taking care of this issue, that's what she has to do and that they do keep it a priority. But she said that if that 'promptly' means November 3rd verses November 2nd she hopes that this information is just as important.

XII REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

Councilor Klett said in response to Ms. Lyons comments, she doesn't feel it's fair to blame the Mayor for placing the Turf Field as a priority over the Mill Pond improvements, and she would like take some of that responsibility too, but in all fairness it was a responsible decision for the people of Newington not to lose that grant. Secondly, she said that on two occasions she has asked that a Committee be put together to discuss any changes and has yet to hear any feedback on that. Mayor Wright said that the Committee was appointed at the last meeting when Councilor Klett was not present, and she Councilor Klett was appointed as a member along with Councilor Casasanta and Councilor Cohen.

Councilor Cohen said to Mr. Salomone that there were a couple of elderly women wondering around looking for where to vote in District 1. Mr. Salomone said that there is a sign saying "Vote Here" and perhaps there could be more direction offered for people not familiar with the area.

Councilor Klett asked the Council and the Town Manager if it's only Veterans who have served in active duty that are afforded that tax break. She asked if that is a State Statutes, that one has to be a war time veteran. She was asked by a member of the public if a Veteran did not serve in active duty, does he not receive a benefit. Mr. Salomone said that he can get a copy of the State Law.

Councilor Cohen said that this Sunday, August 29th the Kiwanis Flea Market will be back again for their fall season and this Monday, August 30th the Kiwanis will be holding a meeting at Paradise Pizza, with a guest speaker speaking on the topic of rheumatoid arthritis.

Councilor Nagel stated that he attended a meet and greet at the new P C Richards store and they informed me that they own the store and it would be great if businesses came in and used the facilities that are already there.

Councilor Casasanta responded to Ms. Mazzoccoli's comments in that she was right, that there is a definite learning curve and in her learning curve when you ask questions you should get answers. She said again that there is no political motivation on her part other than to get answers to benefit this Town and the member of this community from the Board of Education.

Mayor Wright said that we never know what might happen with the Board of Ed, absolutely but if they come up with a deficit situation the Town tax payers pay for it. If there's a surplus the Board keeps the surplus. He said looking at the Board of Education it's about 62% of our total budget and for several years we've been told by the Board of Ed that they can't get by with a penny less, and it's a process of understanding, and he believes that Councilor Casasanta would be happy if the documents could be electronically submitted and save a few trees. He continued on a positive note, speaking of the week-end activities the annual Beer Fest if coming up on Friday at 4 PM, on Saturday from 4 to 10 PM and it goes from noon to evening on Sunday. He said it's a fantastic event with great food and entertainment and encouraged everyone to go, and it gives a lot of money back to Newington.

XIII ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Klett moved to adjourn at 9 PM

Seconded by Councilor Nasinnyk

Vote 8 – 0 Councilor Lenares absent

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Richard
Council Clerk