



John L. Salomone
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

MAYOR MICHAEL LENARES

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Minutes – Newington Town Council
Special Meeting

Mayor Lenares called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall

I PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II ROLL CALL

Councilors Present:

Councilor Banach
Councilor Bottalico
Councilor Casasanta
Councilor Cohen
Councilor Klett
Councilor McBride
Councilor Nagel
Councilor Nasinnyk
Mayor Lenares

Staff Present

John Salomone, Town Manager
Jaime Trevethan, Exec. Asst. to the Town Manager

III PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mady Kenny, 53 Crestview Drive noted for the next meeting, you have Public Participation 7 to 8 and then You deliberate for the final budget, she wonders what the point is.

Marie Fox, 1901 Main Street – Democratic Registrar said she was not informed when the budget was being presented to you on March 21 unless the last minute and was not fully prepared to comment, she wanted to give more details on the unofficial checkers on the November elections. The number of unofficial checkers are determined by the Registrar of Voters based on the election year odd or even. Voter turnout for that type of election depends on the number of places used. Each party has the right to have unofficial checkers. Based on voter history there will be 18 unofficial checkers needed for this November. The amount that she requested \$3240. The Unofficial checkers are the key to the democratic process. She thanked the Council for their continued support and hopes that you will consider adding this.

Peter Arburr – requested copies of the materials considered by the Council.

IV CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS

A. Set Tentative Budget

Councilor Banach moved the following adjustments to the Town Manager's proposed budget:

NOTE: All line item adjustment motions are attached.

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

RESOLVED: That the Newington Town Council makes the following adjustments to the Town Manager's 2011 – 2012.

Account 10644 decrease part time elderly worker, Account 10644 increase full time elderly worker and Account 10940 increase employee benefits for the addition of an elderly worker position.

Councilor Casasanta asked Councilor Banach on what basis are we increasing the addition of a full time elderly worker position with benefits. Councilor Banach said that it's based on the need as presented at the budgetary meetings in terms of the growing demographics senior population in Newington, with a strong surge coming they are in need of this position. Councilor Cohen said that this is not just a projected increase, this is an increase that's needed right now, they are hard up for more help and it's needed immediately. Councilor Nasinnyk said that she agrees with the need that the population will be growing and this person will be able to direct people to all the services are offered. Councilor Klett said that she that there has been a big push and is becoming increasingly more competitive and in keeping the elderly out of nursing homes and at home, and given that increase in funding the expectation should be in the work load at the Senior Center will certainly increase. Councilor Casasanta said that some of the services that Councilor Nasinnyk described overlap the Senior services and if that's the case we have to be sure this person is qualified to make those types of decision for the seniors. Councilor Nasinnyk said that this part time person that in this position now is very well qualified to do that. Councilor Nagel asked if there was ever an official request for this to be done. Mr. Salomone said that yes it was in the requested budget by the Senior & Disabled Center.

MOTION BY: Councilor Banach
SECONDED BY: Councilor Nasinnyk
ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 yes – 1 no
Councilor Banach yes
Councilor Bottalico yes
Councilor Casasanta no
Councilor Cohen yes
Councilor Klett yes
Councilor McBride yes
Councilor Nagel yes
Councilor Nasinnyk yes
Mayor Lenares yes

Councilor Banach moved on Account 14000 Increase Board of Education Budget – to put back \$540,823. Seconded by Councilor Cohen.

Councilor Casasanta asked Councilor Banach if he is adding another \$42,000 to the Manager's proposed increase. Mr. Banach said that they're adding \$540,000, he said that this was his cut and we're restoring it and it will be explained in the next item. He said working with the Board of Education, with good leadership of Chairman Woods and a point of contention has been the Board of Ed Health Benefit funding and at the end of the year they sometimes end up with a credit. Now what Chairman Woods has proposed that of any return this year the Board of Ed would retain the first \$300,000 and the rest would be returned to the Town's budget. He said the trending looks good, with a considerable amount to be refunded so we expect excess money over the \$300,000 which may in fact cover more than restored to the Board's budget. Councilor Casasanta asked if this is a one time thing, and Councilor Banach said that yes, that there is progress to be made and Chairman Woods said that they will look at this agreement of sixteen years ago with us in terms of reformulating it. Councilor Casasanta commended Chairman Woods in coming to the table on this, it's a beginning of future compromise however the increase they're expecting from the Health Benefits is a projection right now so there is no solid number right now. She doesn't want to make promises that are not fulfilled in the future. Councilor Nasinnyk said historically whenever there has been a credit coming back to the Health Benefit fund the Board of Education would keep that money and final dollar amount comes in around September and what this does is that the Board of Education won't have to make the draft, the cut in the personnel and it is a win for the Town. Councilor Nagel asked would the proposal that Mr. Woods is making be passed before we're done with the budget. Councilor Nasinnyk said that yes the Board of Education will be having a special meeting to vote on this before we set the final budget. Councilor Cohen said that the cuts made by the Town Manager would be devastating to the Board of Education and she feels that it's absolutely important to restore the cuts made but definitely the fact that the Board has come before us and made this concession which they didn't have to do. Councilor Klett said looking at last year's budget, suggested a cut to the Board of Ed based on what would be projected for the Health Benefit account and now we have the opportunity to limit the amount of money the Board of Ed takes when we all know they don't have to give us anything back, and she thought you folks were trying to reduce the Board of Ed budget last year

by an amount based on the projection. Councilor Nagel said it is his understanding that all the money that will be taken out adding up to the \$540,832 will they go back into those funds being cut. Councilor Nasinnyk said that it is understood that the money will be going back into the general fund. Mr. Salomone said that it will be a line item that will be designated as described here. Councilor Bottalico said that if we take all the items here we will get the \$540,832 back plus \$56,142 is that correct? Mr. Salomone said yes. Councilor Banach said that it looks like we have a new, good relationship with the Board of Education and Town Council to work together to resolve any differences we have. Councilor Cohen said that this agreement is based on the projection this year however they also are based on in addition to this we will be sitting together and coming up with an entirely new agreement which will affect future budgets.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

MOTION BY: Councilor Banach

SECONDED BY: Councilor Cohen

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 yes – 1 no Motion passes

Councilor Banach yes

Councilor Bottalico yes

Councilor Casasanta no

Councilor Cohen yes

Councilor Klett yes

Councilor McBride yes

Councilor Nagel yes

Councilor Nasinnyk yes

Mayor Lenares yes

Councilor Banach moved on Account 10151 – Increase Miscellaneous Revenue for remainder of BOE HBF Credit - \$382,000. Seconded by Councilor Nasinnyk.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

MOTION BY: Councilor Banach

SECONDED BY: Councilor Nasinnyk

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 yes – 1 no

Councilor Banach yes

Councilor Bottalico yes

Councilor Casasanta no

Councilor Cohen yes

Councilor Klett yes

Councilor McBride yes

Councilor Nagel yes

Councilor Nasinnyk yes

Mayor Lenares yes

Councilor Banach moved on Account 10151 Increase School Building Grants for OCR Compliance Project - \$ 119,000. Seconded by Councilor Nasinnyk.

Councilor Bottalico asked Councilor Banach to explain the OCR Compliance Project. Councilor Banach said this is a certain percentage from the State that's refunded. Councilor Casasanta said that she understood that there was an ordinance that this transfer couldn't happen. She said this is very confusing and would like an explanation to be sure we're transferring money that we can transfer. Councilor Cohen said that there's a line item and this has been going on for years, the refunds coming back from the State goes into our general fund under that line item, these are reimbursements from the State. Mr. Salomone said looking at revenue items you'll see school building grants with an initial proposal of \$489,000 and when discussed it was an estimate based on the cash flow that would come back from the State. The Town receives 55% and it's always an estimate based on project completion. What we're doing is increasing that \$489,000 by another \$119,000 to get the new number. Councilor Bottalico said projected for next year on the Capital project we should be getting back on the 55% return \$907,303.10. Ann Harter said that this year she expect to get 50% with the rest of the money to be spent between (Inaudible) She said that this is revenue line item in the budget. Councilor Casasanta said it seems like we're trying to find ways to approve that increase and she's not comfortable with this. Councilor Cohen said that our entire budget is a projected, and we're projecting what will happen 18 months from now so all this is based on experience, knowledge and a very conservative projection.

ROLL CALL VOTE:
MOTION BY: Councilor Banach
SECONDED BY: Councilor Nasinnyk
ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 yes – 1 no
Councilor Banach yes
Councilor Bottalico yes
Councilor Casasanta no
Councilor Cohen yes
Councilor Klett yes
Councilor McBride yes
Councilor Nagel yes
Councilor Nasinnyk yes
Mayor Lenares yes

Councilor Banach moved on Account 10141 Increase Transfer from Public Building Fund for balance of School Rood - \$ 50,496. Seconded by Council Nasinnyk.

Councilor Bottalico asked again he was told that it's an ordinance that can't be used for the budget. He said he's confused on this ordinance. Mr. Salomone explained the way the ordinance works, when a project is closed the money has to go back to the general fund. So this project is not closed but he doesn't anticipate that the committee would have any problem closing the account because the project has been completed for a number of years. So once the committee meets these funds would be going back into the general funds. Councilor Cohen said that this is a project that goes back to 2006 and has been completed. Mr. Salomone said yes that's correct.

ROLL CALL VOTE:
MOTION BY: Councilor Banach
SECONDED BY: Councilor Nasinnyk
ROLL CALL VOTE: 9 – 0 Vote passes
Councilor Banach yes
Councilor Bottalico yes
Councilor Casasanta yes
Councilor Cohen yes
Councilor Klett yes
Councilor McBride yes
Councilor Nagel yes
Councilor Nasinnyk yes
Mayor Lenares yes

Councilor Banach moved on Account 10820 Reduce Transfer to Recreation Fund \$25,000.

He said that this will put money back into the budget that has been used in the past and has used for a shortfall and it appears that the funds are stable so this does not need to be used.

Seconded by Councilor Nasinnyk.

Councilor Nasinnyk said that this is why the programs in the Parks & Rec are actually being self sustaining because of a better tracking system. Mr. Salomone gave credit to the Finance Department, the Park & Rec board and Bruce Till for getting a good handle on cost versus program revenue and we have a good handle on the cost of each program, and also credit to Councilor Bottalico for asking for another look at the report and it was agreed that's a fair reduction.

ROLL CALL VOTE:
MOTION BY: Councilor Banach
SECONDED BY: Councilor Nasinnyk
ROLL CALL VOTE: 9 – 0 Vote passes
Councilor Banach yes
Councilor Bottalico yes
Councilor Casasanta yes
Councilor Cohen yes
Councilor Klett yes

Councilor McBride yes
Councilor Nagel yes
Councilor Nasinnyk yes
Mayor Lenares yes

**Councilor Banach moved on Account 10962 - Reduce Town Council Contingency - \$ 40,000
Seconded by Councilor Nasinnyk.**

Councilor Casasanta asked Councilor Banach why it should be reduced by \$40,000. Councilor Banach said yes, that he was advised by the Town Manager. He said that during the budgetary process, and in order to make this and come in with the lowest possible increases for all people he said that Ann Harter and Mr. Salomone have worked diligently and scrutinized the budget from top to bottom. Councilor Nasinnyk added that this Town Council fund is for anything else needed but not in the budget and generally it should be ½ of 1 percent of the operating budget and to let the public know we do have the ½ of 1 percent in the contingency fund and this \$40,000 is just extra, so we're not reducing the contingency fund. Councilor Cohen said that was an additional amount from what we usually put in to cover salary increases and possibly by refiguring increases that \$40,000 may not be needed. Mr. Salomone said that the salary contingency is still there, the \$40,000 is above that. He thinks we have a better handle on these numbers now. Councilor Bottalico asked Mr. Salomone if we vote this does it mean that mean the next two line items are cancelled. Mr. Salomone said that these can be adjusted.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

MOTION BY: Councilor Banach
SECONDED BY: Councilor Nasinnyk
ROLL CALL VOTE: 9 – 0 Vote passes
Councilor Banach yes
Councilor Bottalico yes
Councilor Casasanta yes
Councilor Cohen yes
Councilor Klett yes
Councilor McBride yes
Councilor Nagel yes
Councilor Nasinnyk yes
Mayor Lenares yes

Mayor Lenares called for a five minute recess at 7:52 p.m. Meeting back in session at 7:58 p.m.

Councilor Bottalico moved the following:

RESOLVED: That the Town Council hereby makes the following adjustments to the Town Manager's 2011 – 2012 budget.on Account 10110 Decrease Town Council Dues and Subscriptions - \$2,000

Seconded by Councilor Casasanta.

Councilor Nasinnyk asked what this \$2,000 cut entails. Councilor Bottalico said it's dues and subscriptions, the Manager's proposed budget was \$19,724. Mr. Salomone disagrees with this cut respectfully. He said that the dues are for the Council CRCOG which is \$18,499 and the other is the Council of Small Town (Cost) of \$1,225. which means we'd have to eliminate either CRCOG or COST, and he believes that neither of these should be eliminated. Councilor Casasanta asked if we ever see any number in our packets about these committees. Mr. Salomone said that we get literature all the time and it's a very important body that we belong to. Councilor Nagel agreed with CRCOG and is there other information available provided to us through other sources. Mr. Salomone said that usually COST emails him with alerts. Councilor Klett said that if we had been receiving information it wouldn't be on the list to cut. Mr. Salomone said Noted.

MOTION BY: Councilor Bottalico
SECONDED BY: Councilor Casasanta
ROLL CALL VOTE: 9 no - Vote fails
Councilor Banach no
Councilor Bottalico no
Councilor Casasanta no

Councilor Cohen no
Councilor Klett no
Councilor McBride no
Councilor Nagel no
Councilor Nasinnyk no
Mayor Lenares no

Councilor Bottalico moved on Accounts 10120 Decrease Town Manager Dues & Subscriptions - \$349.00 and Account 10152 Decrease Assessor's Dues and Subscriptions - \$599. Seconded by Councilor Casasanta.

Councilor Bottalico moved to withdraw the request on Accounts 10120 and 10152. Seconded by Councilor Casasanta. Vote 9 – 0 Vote passes.

Councilor Bottalico moved on Account 10180 – Decrease Personnel Public Notification for Positions Advertisements - \$770. Seconded by Councilor Nagel.

Mr. Salomone said that he could live with this cut depending if we have a big turn over. He said we use this for ads for professional positions which are expensive. Councilor Nasinnyk asked how this figure was decided on. Councilor Cohen asked if there are any projections coming up that would require this kind of advertising. Mr. Salomone said that we'll probably have two major recruitments next year.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

MOTION BY: Councilor Bottalico
SECONDED BY: Councilor Nagel
ROLL CALL VOTE: 9 – 0 Vote passes
Councilor Banach yes
Councilor Bottalico yes
Councilor Casasanta yes
Councilor Cohen yes
Councilor Klett yes
Councilor McBride yes
Councilor Nagel yes
Councilor Nasinnyk yes
Mayor Lenares yes

Councilor Bottalico moved on Account 10191 - Decrease Facilities Maintenance - \$ 20,000 Seconded by Councilor Klett.

Councilor Nasinnyk said that she is uncomfortable with this cut, the work done is an awesome responsibility and she has concerns about this cut. Mr. Salomone said that this is maintaining all the buildings and necessary services from electrical and ventilation to concrete etc anything part of the building. Some additional items not included are cleaning contract \$7,500, the Town Hall roof and the Town Center for \$6,000, all the additional lighting when Market Square is completed, all the parking lot lights. This was not budgeted anywhere and adding these up it comes to \$20,000 additional.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

MOTION BY: Councilor Bottalico
SECONDED BY: Councilor Klett
ROLL CALL VOTE: 6 yes – 3 no Vote passes
Councilor Banach no
Councilor Bottalico yes
Councilor Casasanta yes
Councilor Cohen no
Councilor Klett yes
Councilor McBride yes
Councilor Nagel yes
Councilor Nasinnyk no
Mayor Lenares yes

Councilor Bottalico moved on Account 10195 – Decrease Central Services Postage and Shipping - \$2,000. Seconded by Councilor Nagel.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

MOTION BY: Councilor Bottalico

SECONDED BY: Councilor Nagel

ROLL CALL VOTE: 6 yes – 3 no Vote passes

Councilor Banach no

Councilor Bottalico yes

Councilor Casasanta yes

Councilor Cohen no

Councilor Klett yes

Councilor McBride yes

Councilor Nagel yes

Councilor Nasinnyk no

Mayor Lenares yes

Councilor Bottalico moved on Account 10210 Decrease Police Clothing Allowance - \$ 4,650 Seconded by Councilor Klett.

Councilor Bottalico said that he said that 48 officers get \$650. Each year adding up to \$ 31,200 with new officers which means another \$6,000 there bringing it up to \$37,000 or \$38,000. He thinks this cut is doable.

Adding Account 10218 – Decrease Police Support Svcs Uniform Rental/Cleaning – \$2,000

Mr. Salomone said he's most concerned about the cleaning part, Councilor Bottalico's analysis on the uniform allowance is pretty close, he only part he would differ on is that when we hire a new officer and we have to completely outfit them, and that's a little over \$2,000 per officer so in addition to the mandated uniform allowance the additional funds would fully outfit the new officers, that's where our number is a little different. Councilor Klett said that at the budget hearing she asked about a physical, and by contract each officer had to have a physical over and above what is paid by insurance at a cost of \$220 and when further inquiring about that she was told that only one officer was paid for. She suggested that the money come from that account for physicals that have not been done.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

MOTION BY: Councilor Bottalico

SECONDED BY: Councilor Klett

ROLL CALL VOTE: 9 – 0 Vote passes

Councilor Banach yes

Councilor Bottalico yes

Councilor Casasanta yes

Councilor Cohen yes

Councilor Klett yes

Councilor McBride yes

Councilor Nagel yes

Councilor Nasinnyk yes

Mayor Lenares yes

Councilor Bottalico moved on Account 10210 Decrease Police Overtime - \$ 22,359. Seconded by Councilor Casasanta.

Councilor Nasinnyk said that the overtime has decreased over the past years. Mr. Salomone said that we've reduced a lot overtime over the last years. Councilor Banach asked if there has been a year to year decrease. Mr. Salomone said over the last three yes. He would not recommend this reduction.

Councilor Klett asked if our projection is wrong and we cut this by \$22,350 what do we do. Mr. Salomone said it would have to come from contingency.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

MOTION BY: Councilor Bottalico

SECONDED BY: Councilor Casasanta

ROLL CALL VOTE: 2 yes – 7 no - Vote fails

Councilor Banach no
Councilor Bottalico yes
Councilor Casasanta no
Councilor Cohen no
Councilor Klett no
Councilor McBride no
Councilor Nagel no
Councilor Nasinnyk no
Mayor Lenares yes

**Councilor Bottalico moved on Account 10340 Eliminate Part Time Building Inspector - \$ 24,242
Seconded by Councilor Nagel.**

Mr. Salomone said there are two part time inspectors and one full time, and recommends not doing this. He thinks to go below this staffing level would be inappropriate for the Town.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

MOTION BY: Councilor Bottalico

SECONDED BY: Councilor Nagel

ROLL CALL VOTE: 1 yes – 8 no Vote fails

Councilor Banach no
Councilor Bottalico yes
Councilor Casasanta no
Councilor Cohen no
Councilor Klett no
Councilor McBride no
Councilor Nagel no
Councilor Nasinnyk no
Mayor Lenares no

**Councilor Bottalico moved on Account 10710 Decrease Library Overtime - \$ 8,914.
Seconded by Councilor Casasanta.**

Councilor Nasinnyk asked if this was just a random number. Councilor Bottalico answered no, he said we have 24.7 employees why do we have overtime. Councilor Nasinnyk said that probably because of sickness, etc. Mr. Salomone said it's mostly Sunday opening and Saturday opening that necessitate the overtime. If this was cut we'd have to look at closing on Sunday and some weekend. We do supplement this by part time which does not get overtime which requires some professional staff there. Councilor Klett asked if we have the ability to use non-union employees. Mr. Salomone said we do that when we can. Some of the part timers are non union but to fully staff the library professional staff is needed. He said he would be very uncomfortable tampering with this. Councilor Banach said that there is a great return for the use of tax dollars of the library facilities. Councilor Klett said she was concerned that we're paying overtime and great for Newington but we have to look at how to do things smarter. Mr. Salomone said utilizing seasonal help when we can, these are our peak seasons. We actually use the seasonal for cutting grass etc. Seasonal is a good bargain and we get 40 hours of work from them with no benefits.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

MOTION BY: Councilor Bottalico

SECONDED BY: Councilor Casasanta

ROLL CALL VOTE: 3 yes – 6 no Vote fails

Councilor Banach no
Councilor Bottalico yes
Councilor Casasanta no
Councilor Cohen no
Councilor Klett yes
Councilor McBride no
Councilor Nagel no
Councilor Nasinnyk no
Mayor Lenares yes

Councilor Bottalico moved to withdraw his motion on Account 10710 – 8102.

**Seconded by Councilor Casasanta.
Vote 9 – 0 Vote passes.**

**Councilor Bottalico moved on account 10831 - 8306 Decrease Park & Public Grounds Constr. & Maintenance Materials - \$1,000.
Seconded by Councilor Klett.**

ROLL CALL VOTE:
MOTION BY: Councilor Bottalico
SECONDED BY: Councilor Klett
ROLL CALL VOTE: Vote 9 – 0 Vote passes
Councilor Banach yes
Councilor Bottalico yes
Councilor Casasanta yes
Councilor Cohen yes
Councilor Klett yes
Councilor McBride yes
Councilor Nagel yes
Councilor Nasinnyk yes
Mayor Lenares yes

Councilor Bottalico moved on Acct 10834 Decrease Tree Maintenance Consultants Special Contractor - \$3,000. Seconded by Councilor Klett.

Councilor Nasinnyk asked what this does for us. Mr. Salomone said that a part of this money is sometimes needed for an arborist or a specialist and we do not have a licensed arborist on staff, so when we need to decide about the health of a tree we need to bring in a specialist. We only pay for what we use.
Councilor Banach asked how much of the \$25,000, what's the break out with Wethersfield. Mr. Salomone said that the contractual agreement with Wethersfield is based on need.

ROLL CALL VOTE:
MOTION BY: Councilor Bottalico
SECONDED BY: Councilor Klett
ROLL CALL VOTE: 4 yes – 5 no Motion fails.
Councilor Banach no
Councilor Bottalico yes
Councilor Casasanta yes
Councilor Cohen no
Councilor Klett yes
Councilor McBride no
Councilor Nagel yes
Councilor Nasinnyk no
Mayor Lenares no

**Councilor Bottalico moved on Account 10961 - Decrease Manager's Contingency - \$3,691.
Councilor Klett seconded.**

Councilor Nasinnyk said that some of the other cuts tonight, can we go back into the contingency. Mr. Salomone said he would put his argument more in the next contingency account item.
Councilor Cohen said that this is based on the percentage of our budget is this a statute or a rule of thumb kind of thing. Mr. Salomone said there is no rule of thumb, it's the only account that he has any flexibility about filling in when he has a shortfall.

ROLL CALL VOTE:
MOTION BY: Councilor Bottalico
SECONDED BY: Councilor Klett
ROLL CALL VOTE: 6 yes – 3 no Motion passes
Councilor Banach yes
Councilor Bottalico yes
Councilor Casasanta yes

Councilor Cohen no
Councilor Klett no
Councilor McBride yes
Councilor Nagel yes
Councilor Nasinnyk no
Mayor Lenares yes

Councilor Bottalico moved on Acct. 10962 Decrease Special Contingency \$ 64,240.

Councilor Nasinnyk said that the cut done earlier was justified by the fact that ½ of 1 % is already in there and that \$40,000 was extra so by cutting by another \$64,240 will bring it below what the recommended amount is. She said she cannot support this. Mr. Salomone said this has a contingency of about \$60,000 or 2% for all non organized employees unaffiliated. He said he strongly urged to keep that in for flexibility to make the increase if necessary. Councilor Nasinnyk asked for the public, what this contingency fund is. Mr. Salomone said that this is the only reserve that the Town has in their operating budget. This would be used if we could not make transfers in the departments for any reason. This is also available to the Board of Education if needed. It's a very low contingency.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

MOTION BY: Councilor Bottalico

SECONDED BY: Councilor Nasinnyk

ROLL CALL VOTE: 2 yes – 7 no Motion fails

Councilor Banach no

Councilor Bottalico yes

Councilor Casasanta no

Councilor Cohen no

Councilor Klett no

Councilor McBride no

Councilor Nagel no

Councilor Nasinnyk no

Mayor Lenares yes

Councilor Nasinnyk thanked Councilor Bottalico for the work he put into this matter, and hopes he understands why all these questions were put forth.

Councilor Klett said looking at the Planning and Development budget, Line 8, code 0420, under the 2009-2010 budget for consultant/specialist was \$1,200, last year was \$1,000 spent, the request was for \$1,000 and the Manager proposal is zero. She presumed that this is where Town Planning and Zoning would go to if they need to hire an expert. Mr. Salomone said yes, the planner would utilize that if he needed some special expertise.

Councilor Klett moved to increase 10420 Consultant/Specialist Contractor by \$2000.00 so that Mr. Meehan and our TPZ would have some money to avail themselves of in the event it is required.

Councilor Cohen seconded.

Councilor Bottalico said that this had been discussed in the Open Space and were told without the owner's consent we can't go there and do anything. Councilor Klett said that's not what she's suggesting. She suggesting that the funding is available in the event that it's needed.

Councilor Casasanta said that if we don't fund the TPZ needs to, can they come to us and ask for assistance. Mr. Salomone said yes and yes. Normally that would come out of contingency if we had it. He doesn't disagree with Councilor Klett's suggestion for a possible need for assistance by the Planning Department to analyze a complex application. Councilor Nasinnyk agrees that we do need permission; however she hopes that a potential development comes through the TPZ that would be granted. Mr. Salomone said if the Town Planner had a need, we would definitely find the funds somewhere.

Councilor Bottalico asked Mr. Salomone is there not an Open Space account right now. Mr. Salomone said we have a land acquisition fund. Councilor Bottalico said that the money might be taken from there. Mr. Salomone said that he'd have to look at the restrictions.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

MOTION BY: Councilor Klett
SECONDED BY: Councilor Cohen
ROLL CALL VOTE: 6 yes – 3 no Motion passes
Councilor Banach yes
Councilor Bottalico yes
Councilor Casasanta no
Councilor Cohen yes
Councilor Klett yes
Councilor McBride yes
Councilor Nagel no
Councilor Nasinnyk yes
Mayor Lenares no

Councilor Nagel said that there is no place he could find during the budget for the Kellogg Eddy House and it's recommendation that it be closed for the winter months. He has spoken with members as regards to the museum and it is used consistently and he has other details that might affect how this Council might feel about that proposal. There are a great many antiques in this particular house that are beyond appraisal value that specifically apply to the Town of Newington and can never be replaced. The appraisal value of the antiques in both houses is well over \$300,000 since more rooms are recreated at the Kellogg Eddy House it's safe to say from \$200,000 to \$250,000 of all different kinds of fragile antiques. He's been told of the proposal to drain the plumbing and to shut off the heat is a major concern. Antiques cannot be replaced and what happens in under 50 degree weather for extended periods of time, and President Late spoke to this and quoted the Smithsonian Institute that antiques and more fragile things like documents and clocks in cold weather over long periods of time will deteriorate. Furniture will crack when it's left under 50 degree temperature over long periods of time. He said there is one clock, a standing clock, is valued at over \$6,000 and it's not just amount the something related to this Town of great historical value and can never be replaced. He said that all these documents and all the furniture and some of the structure of the house would be put in jeopardy and cannot be replaced or repaired if the house is without some form of heat over those winter months. Be it six months, three months, or one month. He said that he doesn't have definite figures involved and can't give a definite fund recommendation if this Council so chooses to keep this open, and if agreed that these valuable materials will not be lost. Granted they are owned by the Historical Society but the Town owns the building and the outside of the building, but if the Town doesn't live up to its part it destroys a good part of the history and culture of this Town.

Mayor Lenares asked if we have a plan to close down the Kellogg Eddy House and is it possible to have Bob Korpak take a look at this again. Mr. Salomone said the number is \$14,820. To heat the building, it's in the general services and facilities and management and we had discussed it. We also put half of that savings back into the new account for capitol outlay for building improvements for \$7,500. So if the Council desires we can take out the \$7,500. for capitol improvements and restore the \$14,000 and he will still try to keep the heat at a minimum and only raise it when there's a meeting etc. He said he would be adding back the \$14,000 but would be trying to economize the heat, eliminate the \$7500 as a new item, so the net is about \$7500. and hopefully he can get those savings by economizing during the winter to preserve the artifacts.

Councilor Casasanta moved increase 10191, heating fuel for historical houses by \$14,820 and decrease 10191, building improvements for historical houses by \$7,500.

Mr. Salomone said that what we would be doing is to eliminating line item 8408 for \$7500 and reinstating \$14,820 in the heating account and with the hope that he could get it below that \$14,000 with economy and working with the Historical Society so it be an increasing of net \$7,000.

Councilor Bottalico asked regarding the Kelsey House, if the Historical Society pays for the electricity and the heating there? Mr. Salomone said yes they do, which started when the building was moved there and it was the agreement to save the building. Councilor Nagel said that he knows that the Kelsey House is a smaller house and part of it has been modernized so that the sizes and structure of the two it would be difficult to compare one to the other. Councilor Banach said he would like to defer to the budget meeting on April 12th and would it be possible to get more information from Bob. Mr. Salomone said that the heat will be reduced substantially except when there's a special event. **Councilor McBride seconded.**

ROLL CALL VOTE:
MOTION BY: Councilor Casasanta
SECONDED BY: Councilor McBride

ROLL CALL VOTE: 9 yes Motion passes
Councilor Banach yes
Councilor Bottalico yes
Councilor Casasanta yes
Councilor Cohen yes
Councilor Klett yes
Councilor McBride yes
Councilor Nagel yes
Councilor Nasinnyk yes
Mayor Lenares yes

V PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Steve Woods, Chairman of the Board of Education – thanked the Council for reinstating the \$540,000 back to the Board's budget, this will go a long way in putting positions back into the district. He realizes as does the Council how important this Town cherishes its education system, and acknowledged all the experienced people who help working this through.

Dr. Marc Finklestein, Candlewood Drive, Vice Chairman of Board of Education said he also wanted to thank the Council for being so receptive in restoring the money back to our budget. He would be remiss if he didn't give great kudos to the Chairman Mr. Woods who really drove this bus. The Council and also the Town should appreciate his insights and drive to get to this point. He also wanted to speak to the people in the community, that the money has been restored but we will still see cuts in services and teachers and there should be great concern in this community about a allow erosion of excellence in the school system. He said, yes we have a budget that has met the needs but there only basic needs, and unless we have the foresight to go forward and provide excellent services and be a system that people in surrounding areas would say 'I'd like to be in Newington because they offer expertise and offer above and beyond the next school system" for us to be known a that kind of community we have to put the resources in.

Mady Kenny, 53 Crestview Drive said thanks everyone for the budget season, but it's been good and thanks for the money for the Board of Education - it does prove that voices of reason can prevail. Also she said she's pleased with the results for the Library and she does request that there be another look at the money that was cut from the facilities maintenance budget, and the Town Hall steps, they're really a mess as well as the ramp.

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive said she respectfully requests that none of the Councilors respond to any of her comments because she believes it's the practice of the Council to have a dialogue with the public and she finds people are responding to her comments but only the ones directed at them and most times are just general comments. She would like to say that she's happy to see that the differences are worked out with the Board of Education, prior to this meeting and she didn't have to hear on the 6 o'clock news what your opinions were, she likes seeing the transparency that's been presented tonight. She also thanked those who voted to increase the part time elderly position to a full time position with benefits. She said that she was amazed her that there was one vote against this worker, for the elderly have made it what it is, but this is a nice service to provide for those of us who are trying to maintain our homes and pay our taxes and stay in the Town that we grew up in. In closing she said that maybe the Town Manager can live with the \$1,000 cut from materials from the Park and Rec Department but for the past five years she's been asking Parks & Rec to fix the ditch at the end of her street that caused by the plows and now there's poles down.

VI REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

Councilor Klett thanked the public who have turned out to share your opinions, it's important to remember that democracy is such that we don't always have to agree but there's no doubt that all are trying to do right by the Town of Newington and thanked the Council for all the time put into this process and Town Manager and his staff.

Councilor Cohen thanked the Board of Education for coming in with what was a very conservative budget that recognized the economy and did not really address your full needs but came in with a budget they could live with and she's glad what has been cut has been restored. She singled out the Chairman, Mr. Woods, not only for communicating with us on an ongoing basis but for initiating the Health Benefit fund which she never liked but is very happy to hear that it will be looked at.

Councilor Nasinnyk said that it was the idea of Chairman Woods who came up with this idea and spent hours and hours on the phone communicating with a variety of members bringing it to fruition which it did tonight and thanked Mr. Salomone, Ann Harter and Lisa Rydecki who also made it work and realizing that it was a win win situation for the Town. She thanked everyone who came out to be involved in the decisions because what happens around this table affects the Town people.

Councilor Banach said that it was gratifying to work with Chairman Steve Woods in hammering out this agreement, and he thanked Councilor Nasinnyk with the Board of Education who has worked with Mr. Woods and kept us informed. He believes we've the beginning of a new era of cooperation. Lastly he said that people notice the bipartisan effort tonight was completely different, and it was a pleasure to go through the budget. Again he thanked John and Ann who also worked diligently to get us to where we are.

Councilor Bottalico thanked Chairman Woods and said hopefully we can have a great contract next year on this Health Benefits, and he certainly did start this initiative. He hopes that the screaming between the Board of Education and the Council, he thinks that changed. He thanked John, Ann Harter and Lisa for the aggravation he gave them, but they did a heck of a job.

Councilor Nagel thanked everyone who had patience with us in going through this project and realizes that everyone had to buckle up and save a little bit, and some of us on the Council had disagreements he believes that we have come to a resolution beneficial to many. He thanked everyone involved and hopefully the public has a better understanding of how the budget is formed and how we can all work in a by partisan fashion. Councilor Casasanta thanked her fellow Councilors for the hard work, and she grateful that the Health Benefits issue has been addressed. She thanked the public for watching and those who are here tonight.

Mayor Lenares thanked everyone, Chairman Woods and the entire Board of Education who put a tremendous amount of effort into this project and their concern and guidance when we accomplish what we needed to accomplish. Also thanked John and his staff, and it's amazing what can happen when the tone of politics changes, with a greater flow of information and it's been a pleasure. He also thanked his wife for her understanding who supported him during this time consuming period.

Councilor Cohen thanked Jaime Trevethan, who has done a lot of extra work this process.

Mayor Lenares thanked everyone, John and Ann and the Board of Education, and hopefully things will be going a little easier and smoother. He said that when he became Mayor my first line item was to make sure everyone got along with open lines of communication, and he hopes he did that. He said the budget was tough and it could have gone either way, but under the economy we're in this is what we have to deal with. He said it was a tough month, and he appreciates everyone's input and hopefully we can continue moving forward in the same tone.

VII ADJOURNMENT 10:30 PM

Councilor McBride moved to adjourn
Councilor Banach seconded
Vote 9 – 0 Motion passes

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Richard
Council Clerk