Mayor Zartarian called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ROLL CALL
Councilor Anest - Yes
Councilor Arace - Yes
Councilor Budrejko - Yes
Councilor DelBuono – Yes
Councilor Manke - Yes
Councilor Marocchini - Yes
Councilor Miner - Yes
Councilor Serra - Yes
Mayor Zartarian – Yes

Staff Attendees:
Tanya D. Lane, Town Manager
Janet Murphy, Finance Director
Benjamin Ancona, Town Attorney
James E. Krupienski, Town Clerk

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Councilor Manke, seconded by Councilor Anest made a motion to approve the agenda as published. Council Anest moved to amend the agenda to allow action on Item VIII. Resignations/Appointments be moved after Item V. Remarks by Councilors, seconded by Councilor Manke. Amendment to the agenda carried unanimously. Motion on the adoption of the Agenda, as amended, carried unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – ON AGENDA (In Person/Via Telephone: 860-665-8736)
(3 MINUTE TIME LIMIT PER SPEAKER ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)
- Carol Grem, 58 Theodore Street – Supports Gym with bleachers in the Town Hall & Community Center. Proud of revised Skate Park.
- Eileen Francolino, 116 Lydall Road – Parks & rec Board supports a complete Community Center with the gyms. Spoke about handicap accessibly with the SmartBus. Referenced Town Hall PBC referral to the Town Council
• Jonathan Repel, Administrator at Emmanuel Christian Academy, 21 Greenlawn Avenue – thankful for improvements around Town. Utilize gyms in town for sports activities and requested inclusion of the bleacher bump out.

• Phil Knowlton, 44 Cinnamon Road; Keith Ruzzack, 31 Webster Court – Keith won the State of Connecticut Youth Recreational Girls Soccer Coach of the Year award. Program is seeing increasing players, but limited facilities for winter play. Requesting 2 complete gyms with appropriate seating.

• Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive – asked that the proposed seating be clarified for the bleachers. Read email/social media post regarding support for the Community Center gyms and seating.

• Michael J. Fox, 1901 Main Street – Looking forward to the project beginning to limit future cost increases. Spoke that the approval of the Bonding amount of $28.8 million dollars but did not expect to project to come in at that cost.

• Mady Kenny, 53 Crestview Drive – Is the project proposed to exceed the adopted bond amount and where would the funds come from?

• Stephen Silvia, 45 Basswood Street – Pleased with the initial fiscal constraint on the project. Good conclusion to the project. Asking the Town Council to review the appropriate choices with the Town Charter to allow for the completion of the building. Need transparency with project costs.

• Harrison King, 21 Trout Brook Circle – Supports two full-size courts & seating for family and friends allowing for safety during gameplay.

• Donald King, 21 Trout Brook Circle – Loves the Town and supports the two proposed gyms with the inclusion of the necessary bleacher seating. Spoke about possible programs the gyms could be utilized for.

• Elizabeth Brown, 24 Trout Brook Circle – Supports the two gyms and the need for additional bleacher seating. Need to be looking to the future.

• Dana Havens, 113 Stoddard Avenue – Vote for the project was as a whole project not specific sections and should be part of the decision to move forward or redesign.

• Eric Feldlum, 149 Brentwood Road – Improved gyms assist in funding efforts and need to make sure to build for the future and it is never cheaper to add improvements later.

• Maggie Kelly, 25 Trout Brook Drive – Councilor Marocchini read email correspondence into the record (attached).

• Eric Madel, 32 Wilson Lane – Councilor Miner read email correspondence into the record (attached).

• Amy Alexander, 36 Brentwood Road – Councilor Serra read email correspondence into the record (attached).

• John Pizzoferato, 166 Glenview Drive – Councilor Arace read email correspondence into the record (attached).

• Michael Johnson, 23 Welles Drive North – Councilor Anest read email correspondence into the record (attached).
• John Bachand, 56 Maple Hill Avenue – Mayor Zartarian read email correspondence into the record (attached).
• Michael Conners, 85 Harold Drive – Councilor Manke read email correspondence into the record (attached).
• Joseph Kutniewski, 132 Stage Coach Lane – Councilor Manke read email correspondence into the record (attached).
• BJ Clinton, 20 Lincoln Road – Councilor Budrejko read email correspondence into the record (attached).
• Jennifer Pigott, 46 Adam Drive – Councilor Marocchini read email correspondence into the record (attached).
• Timothy Demarco, 66 Johnson Street – Councilor Miner read email correspondence into the record (attached).
• William DeBlasio, 68 Harold Drive – Councilor Anest read email correspondence into the record (attached).
• Ryan Puliot, Candlewood Drive – Councilor DelBuono read email correspondence into the record (attached).
• Carly ??, 314 Walsh Avenue - Councilor Budrejko read email correspondence into the record (attached).

V. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

• Councilor Marocchini responded to Ms. Lyons regarding the bleacher seating indicating the seating total is 90 seats, 45 per each side.

VIII. RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS

A. Resignation – Parks & Recreation Board

Motion by Councilor Manke

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the resignation of Jennifer Crowley as a member of the Board of Parks & Recreation, in accordance with correspondence dated February 5, 2019.

Seconded by Councilor Serra, Motion carried unanimously 9-0

B. Appointments – Central CT Health Board & Vehicles Appeals Board

Motion by Councilor Anest

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council here by makes the following appointment(s):

Central CT Health District Board of Directors

4 members, 4 year term
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Replaces</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>David Wemett</td>
<td>42 Vivian Street</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Immed. – 6/30/2021</td>
<td>Replaces vacancy due to expiration of J Nagel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Vehicle Appeals Board**

3 Members – 2 year term  
2 Alternates – 2 year term  
Members Max: 2  
Alternate Max: 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Replaces</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clarke Castelle,</td>
<td>167 Connecticut Avenue</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Immed-11/30/2019</td>
<td>Resignation of Ellen L. Connery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternate</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Seconded by Councilor Serra. Motion carried unanimously 9-0

**VI. CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS**

A. Public School CIP Funds Transfer

Tanya D. Lane, Town Manager reviewed the previous history regarding the use of funds for the diesel spill and the reimbursement from the State. Board of Education has requested be applied for student transportation purposes.

Motion by Councilor DelBuono

**RESOLVED:**

CERTIFICATION: In accordance with Section 808 of the Town Charter, I hereby certify that there exists, free from encumbrances, in the Public School Capital Improvement Projects Reserve Fund Balance $641,994.

Janet Murphy, Director of Finance

**RESOLVED:**

That the Newington Board of Education is proposing to transfer the above certified funds in the Public School Capital Improvement Projects Reserve Fund to the following account in the Town CNRE Fund:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account Number</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>88625</td>
<td>School Bus Program</td>
<td>$641,994</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Newington Town Council, as fiscal authority for the Town hereby appropriate $641,994 from the Public School Capital Improvement Projects Reserve Fund to the expense accounts listed above.

Seconded by Councilor Anest

Motion carried unanimously.

**VII. CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS (Action May Be Taken by Waiving the Rules)**
A. Discussion - Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for the Town Hall Community Center Building Project (Action Requested)

- Joseph Harpie, Town Hall PBC Chairman; Tom Arcari,
  - Discussed design and budget process to determine facility needs.
  - Spoke about Community center space needs request. Indicated that High School utilizes for practices as well.
  - Estimate overage in add-alternates of $2.5 million.
  - Discussed building re-facing of Police Dept. after project completion
  - Reviewed need to alternates for building record storage basement; Police Department façade and gymnasium bleacher bump-out.
  - Demo of building estimated between $2.5 - $2.8 million based on scope review.
  - Saved costs by utilizing current building during construction of the new structure.
  - Project has completed a full scope review.
  - Bids received for the project are 90 day and would expire on April 3, 2019.
  - Need to begin preparations to mobilize the site by March to prepare office space for the trades.
  - Late April, early May would see selective demo on the transition academy wing.
  - Requesting the Town Council to act on the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) or direct the PBC in what to do going forward.
- Councilor Budrejko requested clarification of the amount of bleacher seating. Mr. Arcari indicated that the seating was based on spacing for 45 seat spaces for a total of 90 seats. Spoke to the proposed expansion for additional seat and its possible layout.
- Tom Romanoli, Downes Construction:
  - Reviewed proposed project figures that were presented to the Town Hall Renovations PBC.
    - Construction GMP $25,371,168
    - Construction Based Bid $25,580,229 in addition to Basement Expansion for Storage $768,831; Parks & Rec Commercial Kitchen $171,176;
    - Value management exercise reduced the overall cost by $1,149,075 to meet total to the Construction GMP amount.
    - Several items were carved out that are essential to the project:
      - Police Dept restoration work $503,233;
      - Contaminated Soil & Jr. High Foundation $270,294;
      - Temp Heat/Winter Allowance $146,976;
      - Addendum # 5 Allowance for item discovery during scope review for $157,484.
    - Total essential Alternates listed above total $1,077,987.
    - Remaining Alternates Include:
      - Gym Expansion for $413,422;
      - Generator for $231,471;
      - Kitchenettes throughout the building $138,158;
      - Spray Foam Insulation $120,409;
      - Additional Gym Equipment $174,325;
      - Roof Screen $388,509.
• Councilor DelBuono questioned if the GMP was approved at $28,818,358 the council would need to approve Alternates 9-12, PD, Cont. Soil, Temp/winter Allowance & Addendum 5.

• Mr. Romanoli indicated that Councilor DelBuono was correct and the GMP would be in the amount of $25,371,168 in addition to the items listed. $28,818,358 would be the complete project cost.

• Tanya D. Lane, Town Manager indicated that Alternates 11 & 12 are necessary for a complete GMP. Indicated that the amounts have been reduced to $75,000 each. The four specific Alternate Costs would be funded through the current CIP budget in the amount of $923,527.

• Councilor Budrejko questioned if the $28.8 million does not include Alternates 9-12. I was indicated they were not but were required for the project.

• Tanya D. Lane, Town Manager reviewed the revised project numbers (attached).

• Joe Harpie indicated they are guaranteeing the cost to work, not the total construction costs. Construction Manager is working to attempt to reduce the cost.

• Councilor Budrejko asked if the contingencies are expected to be spent. Mr. Harpie indicated that they could be spent at any time during the project. Discussion took place regarding use of the contingencies as the project progresses.

• Councilor Anest questioned whose contingency would be utilized first. Mr. Romanoli indicated that it would depend on each situation to utilize the Owner or Manager contingency.

• Mayor Zartarian questioned the comfort level with contaminated soil removal estimates and when would the expenditure for the Police Department be needed.

• Mr. Romanoli indicated that the Police Dept. is at the end of the project during the last six months, once the deconstruction of the existing building commences. Contaminated soil estimates were anyone’s guess.

• Mayor Zartarian questioned the costs involved with the Park & Recreation kitchen.

• Mr. Romanoli indicated that it was being designed as a commercial kitchen & equipment to meet Health Department requirements. Mr. Arcari indicated that the kitchen is designed for the life of the building.

• Mr. Romanoli indicated that the Police Dept. is at the end of the project during the last six months, once the deconstruction of the existing building commences. Contaminated soil estimates were anyone’s guess.

• Mayor Zartarian questioned the costs involved with the Park & Recreation kitchen.

• Mr. Romanoli indicated that it was being designed as a commercial kitchen & equipment to meet Health Department requirements. Mr. Arcari indicated that the kitchen is designed for the life of the building.

• Councilor Budrejko questioned the costs to remove the existing building after construction.

• Mr. Romanoli indicated that the costs were part of the base number and not included as an alternate for the project.

• Councilor Budrejko questioned the kitchenettes proposed within the office spaces.

• Mr. Arcari indicated that they could be reconfigured if necessary. Discussion took place regarding changing or reducing the quantity of kitchenettes.

• Councilor DelBuono spoke to the monetary difference between the presented cost of construction and the adopted Referendum amount.

• Councilor Manke questioned where the funding to complete the project would come from.
• Tanya D. Lane, Town Manager discussed the amount of funds expended to-date totaling just over $2.2 million.
• Councilor Miner suggested utilizing CIP over the next budget years to make up the gap and move the project along.
• Councilor Budrejko discussed the adopted Referendum amount and the issue based on expending more than stipulated amount.
• Councilor Manke was concerned with utilizing CIP to complete that project while limiting other projects from being completed.
• Councilor Marocchini felt the project should move forward utilizing budgeted funds to complete the project.
• Councilor DelBuono requested a specific determination of where any additional funding would come from to complete the project.
• Mayor Zartarian referenced a Legal Opinion by the Town Attorney (attached).
• Town Attorney, Benjamin Ancona reviewed the Newington Town Charter provision Section C-408 and CGS 9-369, for referendum language requirements.
• Tanya D. Lane, Town Manager read from a Bond Counsel Legal Opinion. “I agree with a lot of what Attorney Ancona states in his opinion, including his assertion that the voters, by vote, at Referendum limited the amount that could be spent on the Town Hall Renovation Project. There is however another method by which the Town may appropriate additional monies for the project which does not require a Referendum vote. This method is contained in Charter Section 805, which permits the Town to seek an additional appropriation through its annual Town budget process. This all assumes that no additional bonds or notes will be issued to fund such additional appropriation.”
• Discussion took place regarding the use of an additional Referendum for the exceeded costs for the project.
• Councilor Budrejko suggested reviewing separate alternates for an additional referendum vote.
• Mr. Arcari indicated that the project as presented could not be reduced further and still meet the needs for the offices and the community, while building a quality building.
• Councilor DelBuono requested clarification of where additional funding for the project would come from.
• Tanya D. Lane, Town Manager indicated that the base bid amount and the four (4) alternates would come from Bonds funds and current CIP funds totaling $923,527 for a total of $26,294,695. Additional Alternates 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 8 would be covered by CIP funds for Budget year 2019-2020 and upon passage of the budget.
• Town Council took a recess at 9:33 PM
• Meeting reconvened at 9:54 PM
• Motion by Councilor DelBuono

RESOLVED:
The Newington Town Council hereby waives the Rules to allow for action on items after 10:30 PM.
Seconded by Councilor Manke. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Councilor Marocchini

RESOLVED:

The Newington Town Council, in accordance with Section 12 of the Town Council, Rules of Procedure, adopted May 10, 2016, hereby moves to allow action on Agenda Item VII.A, to accept the Guaranteed Maximum Price Proposal of Downes Construction Company for the Town Hall/Community Center Project.

Seconded by Councilor Anest

Roll Call Vote

Councilor Anest - Yes
Councilor Arace - Yes
Councilor Budrejko - Yes
Councilor DelBuono – Yes
Councilor Manke - Yes
Councilor Marocchini - Yes
Councilor Miner - Yes
Councilor Serra - Yes
Mayor Zartarian – Yes

Motion carried 9-0 by Roll Call Vote.

Motion by Councilor Marocchini

RESOLVED:

The Newington Town Council hereby accepts the Guaranteed Maximum Price proposal of Downes Construction Company of New Britain, CT for the amount of $25,371,168.00, and dated February 6, 2019, including the alternate pricing for Alternates #9-12, inclusive for an additional $923,527.00 and authorizes the Town Manager, Tanya D. Lane to execute the Guaranteed Maximum Price Proposal Agreement and/or issue a Notice to Proceed contingent upon passage of the Town Council adopted budget for 2019-2020 and further negotiations for the construction of the new Town Hall and Community Center Project.

The Guaranteed Maximum Price Proposal, including Alternates 9-12 comes to a combined total of $26,294,695.00. The Alternate pricing for Alternates 9-12 inclusive is: Alternate #9-Police Department, $503,233.00; Alternate #10-Remove Cont. Soil and Jr. Foundation, $270,294.00; Alternate #11-Temp Heat/Winter Conditions/Enclosures, $75,000.00; Alternate #12-Addendum #5 (allowance), $75,000.00. The Newington Town Council hereby further accepts the Alternate pricing that was presented along with the Guaranteed Maximum Price Proposal of Downes Construction Company of New Britain, CT, and dated February 6, 2019, also contingent upon passage of the Town Council adopted budget of 2019-2020 and further negotiations, these include the following listed Alternates:
Alternate #1-Gym Expansion..........................$413,422.00
Alternate #3-Generator ................................$231,471.00
Alternate #4-Kitchenettes.............................$138,158.00
Alternate #5-Spray Foam Insulation Exterior Wall....$120,409.00
Alternate #6-Gymnasium Equipment..................$174,325.00
Alternate #8-Roof Screen................................$388,509.00

Should all items above be accepted, the total cost of construction would be $31,208,179.00

Seconded by Councilor Anest

- Councilor DeBuono not able to approve based on Town Attorney opinion and possible alternates that could be removed.
- Councilor Budrejko supports the project but can’t approve based on the integrity of the referendum question and the Town Attorney opinion.
- Mayor Zartarian supports the project but cannot vote for the project based upon the Town Attorney opinion.

Public Comment:
- John Bachand, 56 Maple Hill Avenue – suggests a follow-up meeting to get the public on-board. Appreciates the strict interpretation by the Town Attorney. Need to simplify the process and the numbers based on the cost for the project.
- Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive – suggested to the PBC to ask for additional funds now at the end and are short.
- Mady Kenny, 53 Crestview Drive – Was confused by terms and abbreviations utilized during discussions. Why was a proposed bump-out not addressed earlier?
- Michael J. Fox, 1901 Main Street – Do not envy the decision that needs to be made. Did not expect the project to cost the adopted bonding amount, and CIP should cover the rest of the project.
- Steven Silvia, 45 Basswood Street – Town Attorney opinion should be followed and should limit the costs to the approved referendum amount.
- Dawn Olivera, 18 Tunxis Road – Should not violate the Town Charter now and in the future.
- Joe Harpie, 36 Baldwin Court – PBC Chairman – Asked for an opportunity to review the Alternates before cancelling the project.
- Dana Havens, 113 Stoddard Avenue – Council should take more time to receive additional Legal Opinions regarding the referendum wording.

- Councilor Anest requested Mr. Harpie to elaborate on his comments regarding review of the alternates.
- Joe Harpie stated that the project is currently over by $2.5 million based on the Alternates, but could be found elsewhere within the project. Would like to continue to review the alternates, work with the Design Team and Downes to eliminate the alternates so as to not jeopardize the project based on the Town Attorney opinion.
- Councilor Budrejko stated that she hoped the committee would work to bring the project in-line with the referendum language for the project. Mr. Harpie indicated that they would.
• Town Council took a recess at 10:23 PM
• Meeting reconvened at 10:26 PM

Roll Call Vote

Councilor Anest - Yes  
Councilor Arace - Yes  
Councilor Budrejko - No  
Councilor DelBuono - No  
Councilor Manke - Yes  
Councilor Marocchini - Yes  
Councilor Miner - Yes  
Councilor Serra - Yes  
Mayor Zartarian - No  

Motion carried 6-3 by Roll Call Vote.

VIII. RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS (Action May Be Taken)

A. Resignation – Parks & Recreation Board  
B. Appointments – Central CT Health Board & Vehicles Appeals Board

Action on this item was moved prior to Item VI, Consideration of Old Business

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – ON AGENDA (In Person/Via Telephone: 860-665-8736)  
(3 MINUTE TIME LIMIT PER SPEAKER ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

• None

X. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

• Councilor Budrejko stated that she supported the project but could not vote to approve it.
• Councilor Miner requested information from Bond Counsel regarding projects that have had funding overruns and how they were handled.
• Councilor Budrejko requested that the information be clarified by situation.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

• Councilor Marocchini, seconded by Councilor Anest moved a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously 9-0. Meeting adjourned at 10:30 P.M.

[Signature]
James E. Kupienski  
Acting Recording Secretary
Dear Mayor and Town Council,

My name is Megan Kelley and I live at 25 Trout Brook Circle in Newington. My family fully supports the full gymnasiums and full seating. We are completely against limiting the size of the gymnasiums and reducing the seating capacity of the two gymnasiums.

For many years my family, especially my children have actively used the community center gymnasium for parks and rec basketball, travel basketball, sports clinic, and school sponsored events. My oldest is now in high school and my other two boys are in middle school and we have been utilizing these facilities for many years. As a family we have always been supportive of the new community center as we see it as a huge plus for our town. Being a spectator through the years at many different facilities I can tell you firsthand how important it is to have a gym with adequate space around the gym floor as well as adequate seating. Travel basketball alone most times will have more than 100 spectators at a game, by limiting seating you will now force people to stand or not come to support our children. Without adequate spacing around the gym floor you are limiting space for spectators both abled and handicapped from moving in a safe environment. The players/athletes are more at risk for injury as well when there is not enough space around the court/gym floor. My concerns are genuine and as a result of seeing what can happen when these items are limited. I realize many people are concerned with the cost, however this project was approved almost 2½ years ago and while there is a process that must be followed, people cannot honestly think that the price would not go up. Every year that goes by costs will increase. It is unfortunate but it is a fact of life. There are so many opportunities that a facility of this kind can provide not only in the sense of community but also financially. With a new, bigger and improved facility so much more can be offered, tournaments for sports, rentals for parties, more offerings to the community. I cannot imagine that in the grand scheme of this project that reducing and removing a 12 foot bump out is going to have that much of a cost savings. My fear is that by approving the limited size of the gym and reducing the size of the seating will inhibit the use and functionality of the gym.

My husband and I picked Newington, 20 years ago to live and raise our family because of what it had to offer, good education and community, that is what drew us to Newington and will continue to draw people to
Newington. I realize that we have an older population in this town however it is the younger families that are the future of Newington, to continue to attract new families to Newington we have to continue to offer opportunities and amenities that people are looking for when making the decisions to move to Newington and stay in Newington.

Sincerely,
Megan Kelley

Sent from my iPhone
Dear Mayor and Town Council:

My name is Eric Madel and I live at 32 Willow Lane in Newington. My family fully support the two full gymnasiums with full seating and are against limiting the size of the two gymnasiums as well as limiting the seating capacity of the two gymnasiums. The Town is struggling with space and availability of facilities to support all of Newington athletic programs and clubs to begin with. This would be a serious misstep by the town council to eliminate.

Thank You,
Eric Madel
Ms. Lane,
My name is Amy Alexander and I live at 16 Brentwood Rd in Newington. Please read this letter at the public portion of the Town Council meeting on February 19th as I am unable to attend.

I am writing to the Town Council to express my opinion regarding the proposal to reduce the size and the seating capacity of the new double gym that will be built as part of the community center/Town Hall complex. I currently serve as the Vice President of Newington Travel Basketball and one of my duties in this position is to schedule practices and help with scheduling games for the 9 teams that comprise Newington Travel Basketball. I work closely with our board as well as Newington Parks and Recreation with the allotted times we are given each week to schedule our teams in this program. Our gyms in town are over scheduled due to increasing sports and recreation activities and often our kids are playing later into the night than they should due to the busy schedules that our wonderful Parks and Recreation department and sports programs offer. More programs are being offered as well as more kids are participating then they did even a few years ago. Our current gym space is no longer sufficient. We are in need of more gym space especially gyms that would support larger crowds and full-size basketball or sports courts with adequate seating. By cutting the size of the gyms and seating capacity, the smaller gyms become dangerous if there is not space between the lines of the court and the wall. If you have teenager-sized kids or adults who play with vigor and force they are at a much higher risk of injury regardless if there are padded walls.

In my capacity on the Basketball Board, I attend many games in other towns and when there is insufficient seating, families and friends are forced to squish into doorways and stand too close to the court which also becomes a safety hazard. We need to make these courts full size with adequate seating as well as space outside the courts to help keep our kids safe and make the gyms usable. Don’t make the mistake of cutting a few dollars off only to regret it in the long run when this space doesn’t serve the needs of the citizens of Newington.

Thank you for listening,

Amy Alexander

Sent from my iPhone

The information contained in this electronic message may be confidential and/or privileged. If you received this in error, please inform the sender and remove any record of this message. Please note that messages to or from the Town of Newington may be subject to Freedom of Information statutes and regulations.
Dear Town Council Members,

I was born and raised right here in Newington and I still live here today. In my 64 years here, I have seen the Town leadership drag their feet on numerous projects, most notably, the Town Hall and Community Center project. I am writing to you today to show my support for the 12 foot bump out for the new Community Center, which will allow for a double gym with seats on three sides. The current building is 70 years old and crumbling. For all these years, leaders in this town have elected to put band-aids on things. How much money has been spent on repairs, evaluations to determine whether to repair or rebuild, and on old technology and energy costs including lighting, heating, and air conditioning? How many more repairs will we have to pay for in the future? The cost of construction increases every year and this project will have to get done eventually. The longer we put it off, the more money we will end up spending. This is undoubtedly a necessary project that will need to be done one way or another. You have the people’s support, you have the votes to get it done, now you just need to have the perseverance to see this project through to the end. Please vote ‘yes’ tonight and help represent the residents for whom you speak.

With faith that you will make the right decision,

John Pizzoferrato
166 Glenview Drive
Newington Town Council Members,

Michael Johnson, 23 Welles Drive North. I appreciate you taking the time to read this letter during the meeting. I apologize that I cannot be in attendance, but I am cheering on our NHS Indians girls basketball team in the CCC semifinals. I am heavily involved in Newington Travel Basketball and have been for the last nine years, six of those as President. I am writing on behalf of a number of families in town who are involved in the community and would like to communicate our support for the additional space – 12 foot bump – required to give additional space for the two basketball courts and bleachers. The need for this space is obvious and should be a no-brainer for various reasons:

1. Ability to have fans at games – we currently play our travel basketball games at MCC, Wallace, and NHS. For those that are not aware, all grades play on the same day resulting in four consecutive games. I would encourage you to attend a game and see for yourselves. We regularly get well over 100 people in attendance especially during overlap times (one game finishing while next two teams arriving). With two gyms, we could potentially have two games going on simultaneously and would have a significant number of people there. Without the additional space, it would be a nightmare for spectators.

2. Safety reasons for players – my understanding is that without the 12 foot bump, there would be minimal space from the out of bounds line to the bleachers. With players running and diving for balls, the lack of space could easily become a safety hazard.

3. Handicap accessibility – because of the limited amount of space without the bump out, a wheelchair could not travel across the baseline without being on the courts. As someone with a mother who is in a wheelchair, I can say that this set up and restriction is just not right. Today, my mother often cannot attend her grandkids sporting events b/c they are not handicap accessible. For example, look at the NHS soccer fields. You cannot get to them in a wheelchair without going through the grass. You may say the new community center design meets ADA compliance based on entrances and bathrooms, but if you cannot easily get to the bleachers without being on the court of play, you are just checking a box and not really assessing what it means to be handicap friendly.

4. Opportunity to Make Money – with two full gyms and adequate bleachers, Newington will have an opportunity to host tournaments and make money. AAU Basketball, Travel Basketball, Futsal, Volleyball are all opportunities that would go to waste without the additional space.

5. Increase in Participation – Over the last five to seven years, we have seen a significant increase in the number of players interested in travel basketball. Our tryout numbers continue to climb, especially on the girls' side. In the past, we were lucky to have 8 girls come to tryouts. Now, we regularly get 15-18 for each grade. The result is that we are building a program that Newington can and should be proud of. With the increase in players comes more people involved and more spectators, so having a new facility with two basketball courts and the appropriate and necessary space and bleachers is incredibly important.

6. Do It Right - If we are going to develop an awesome, vibrant, new community center and town hall, do it right. This facility is an investment and although we cannot have every bell and whistle, there are some obvious things we must have. If you look at other facilities in the area – e.g., Wallingford's New Parks & Rec facility - there is very little spectator space and it is awkward, unappealing, and uncomfortable to watch games. You are making an investment in the future and you do not want to look back and say, “yeah, we should have added those 12 feet”.

In summary, adding the 12 feet for the additional space for courts and bleachers should be a slam dunk. Please make it happen. It will be a decision that you will not regret.
Thank you.

1. Mike Johnson - 23 Welles Drive North
2. Jennifer Win-Johnson, Cooper, Gunnar, Maya, and Ava Johnson - 23 Welles Drive North
3. Paul & Theresa Vumback - 11 Hickory Hill Lane
4. Jason & Johanna Webster - 129 Adrian Ave
5. Roland & Judy Johnson - 205 Brookside Rd
6. Keith & Cathy Whitehouse - 56 Barnard Dr
7. Kami & Aaron Astorino - 154 Harding Ave
8. Carol Sanchez - 74 Audubon Ave
9. Joan & John Poulin - 95 Whitewood Rd
10. Nancy & Bob Stair - 20 Meadowview CT
11. Joanne & Len Errera - 7 Edward St
12. Jody & Ed Hopping - 127 Chestnut Rd
13. Brian Casey - 36 Welles Dr
14. Emily & Joe Guion - 20 Kirkham St
15. Ann Marie & Dave Stolfi - 62 Rosewood Dr
16. Colleen & Wayne Corriveau - 303 Walsh Ave
17. Chris & Michelle Jackson - 196 Reservoir Rd
18. Carol Pakutka - 210 Dix Ave
19. Colleen & Steve Cultrera - 38 Carriage Hill Dr
20. Chris & Daniela James - 68 Pickens Dr
21. John DeGirolamo - 8 Welles Dr North
22. Amy & Chris Lynch - 70 Cambria Ave
23. Michele & Jeff Devanney - 80 Jeffery Lane
24. Kim & Tim Demarco - 66 Johnson St
25. Cindy & Ken Barron - 190 Kimberly Rd
26. Michael & Allyson Parker - 63 Walnut St
27. Sandi & Lenny Ogando - 122 Hunters Lane
28. Jessica Vasile - 26 Commonwealth Ave
29. Joseph Romano - 34 Ledgecrest Drive
30. Taryn & Joe Kuttnewski - 132 Stage Coach Ln
31. Kathy & Sebastian Zocco - 46 Church St
32. Tommy Tolisano - 61 Cornish Dr
33. Craig Cacase - 121 Fox Run Court
34. Carol & Joe Duggan - 17 Dover Rd
35. Chris & Lynn Aldrich - 88 Welles Dr
36. Kathy Gonzalez - 44 Basswood St
37. Tammy & Mike Maslanskas - 192 Dix Ave
38. Karen Falvey - 103 Barkledge Dr
39. Violet & Wes Christowski - 10 Cinnamon Rd
To; Newington Town Council

From; John Bachand, 56 Maple Hill Ave

Please read into the record during the first round of public participation at the February 19, 2019 TC meeting.

Dear town council members,

Well the zero hour has finally arrived, it is time to make decisions that will have more serious long-term implications for the town than likely any you have made before or will ever again. I am of course referring to the decisions you will have to make regarding the new town hall construction project. I don’t want to get into the technical, logistical, financial or legal issues, the time for the public’s involvement in those areas is past. Obviously, those factors yet weigh heavy on your shoulders, and the reason I can sincerely say I do not envy the position you are in. It’s times like these when the pros and cons of all the technical, logical, and practical questions may blur into one, it often comes down to intuition. Since your upcoming decisions are potentially irreversible, I strongly suggest you take a recess before voting and reflect on the subject. I would encourage you to take a walk alone in the halls of the current building forgetting everything you have been told about the building, and let your intuition guide you.

I am not saying you’ll experience some spiritual epiphany LOL. A moment of reflection like that is not unreasonable though, and probably something we would do in our personal lives if faced with a similar situation. Of course, you could, and should take that reflection tour on your own before the council meeting. I think however, doing it during a meeting recess would be so much more poignant. I honestly do not have any other suggestions on how you should conduct yourselves at this juncture, especially in terms of the influence of your votes. I would just say that you should understand that if you went with the nuclear option, in the literal sense, and blew the plans for the project up, as impractical as that seems...that is actually a reversible action. You could literally bring the same or improved plan back and approve it at a future date. Yes, we would lose money scrapping the current plan, but know If you choose the plan proposed before you, there is no going back, that is a final decision. Therefore you must be as certain as is reasonably possible that it is truly in the best interest of the town’s future generations, of which we may never meet....Haha, no pressure here...... right?

In closing, I wish you all good luck.

Regards

John Bachand
To be read into the minutes of the Tuesday, February 19th meeting during public participation.

Dear Mayor and Town Council:

My name is Jennifer Pigott and I live at 46 Adam Drive in Newington. My family and I fully support the two full gymnasiums with full seating and are against limiting the size of the two gymnasiums as well as limiting the seating capacity of the two gymnasiums. To maximize the investment in both the physical property and our town programs, two properly sized gymnasiums with the proper seating capacity are a necessity.

Thank you.
Dear Town Manager,
Please enter this letter to be read into the minutes of the Tuesday, February 19th meeting, during public participation.

Dear Mayor and Town Council:
My name is Timothy DeMarco and I live at 66 Johnson St. in Newington. My family and I fully support the two full gymnasiums with full seating and are against limiting the size of the two gymnasiums as well as limiting the seating capacity of the two gymnasiums. This town should not be short sighted and should do the right things by our children and community. If we are going to do this project it needs to be done right, not half-way.
Thank you.
Timothy DeMarco
Dear Town Council Members:

I am writing as an active parent of three children that have grown up for over two decades using the community center here in Newington. My children have used MCC to participate in preseason high school baseball practices, attend middle school dances, enjoy exercise classes and, of course, played basketball from kindergarten through college. All three have volunteered and worked for P & R. You all have an opportunity tonight to vote ‘yes’ to add the extra funding to this project to make it complete. My family and I, along with many of my neighbors totally support making the MCC gymnasium twelve feet longer in order to have two FULL SIZE high school gyms with adequate accessible seating. We all voted for it and now we want it. If you vote ‘yes,’ you will be representing our residents the correct way. The vote was overwhelming to pass this referendum and we need to get this project started right away. If you vote ‘yes,’ it will show that you know your constituents here in Newington. You will know what they wanted, what they voted for and what they want to see built and use it for the next fifty years. Please don’t make a mistake tonight. I hope you all vote unanimously in a bi-partisan fashion and work together to make this community stronger.

Optimistically,

William DeBlasio

68 Harold Drive