Mayor DelBuono called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ROLL CALL

   Councilor Braverman
   Deputy Mayor Budrejko
   Councilor Camillo
   Councilor Donahue
   Councilor Manke
   Councilor Nagel
   Councilor Page
   Councilor Radda
   Mayor DelBuono

   Also present:
   Keith Chapman, Town Manager
   Therese Avey, Registrar of Voters
   Marie Fox, Registrar of Voters
   Tom Lapierre, Assistant Fire Chief
   James Krupienski, Town Clerk

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

   Motion by Councilor Page to add agenda items under new business – Interlocal Agreement – Multi-Town Equipment Cooperative and Discussion – Newington Train Station Project. Seconded by Councilor Manke. Motion passed.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL (Via Zoom Application or Phone)

   (4 MINUTE TIME LIMIT PER SPEAKER ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

   A. Public Comments

      • Neil Ryan, 237 Brockett Street. Wanted to speak regarding Old Business, Item C - Ordinance Amendment, Chapter 121, Voting Districts. It looks like we are discussing two matters under that, seven voting districts with seven voting locations; moving voters from one location to another; not sure why, recommend the registrar of voters have a strong outreach program to let people know of change; proposal for change in location for stand-alone referendum votes in one location at District 1, the town hall. Use of justification other towns use this process. Newington has 20,000 active registered voters. Fail to see justification. This proposal applies to stand-alone referendum only; in the past referendum has taken place on Election Day with best voter turnout. Glad Mitch was able to add the discussion of train station. This was resolved three years by the council with a 9-0 vote in favor of a train station at Cedar Street; went to TPZ, held public hearings. Why are we discussing this matter again? A certain member of the council owns property in Newington Junction.

      • Patricia Lang, 27 Decosta Drive. As a senior citizen in Newington, feel all standalone referendums warrant more than one polling location. Polling locations affect senior and disabled
citizens at a much greater degree than more able-bodied citizens. Cost can be more than offset by volunteers. Most of us walk to Anna Reynolds School to vote. Thank you for your time.

- Gia Pascarelli. Commented last time about polling places. Appreciate that you heard the public comments and decided not to reduce the number of polling places. Lots of high density housing developments in the works. Understand that need to move certain people to different polling places and notification in works. Having one location for stand-alone referendums is a huge mistake; too congested; really unfair. Proud of our community, need to support everybody. Try to have referendums only during regular voting times.

- Robert Colapie [sp?], 62 Welles Drive North. Agree that the best possible solution for referendum should be held only on Election Day. Anything that causes confusion is a negative thing.

B. Email Correspondence
- Correspondence received, but not requested that it be read into the record.

V. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
- Councilor Page stated he doesn't think Councilor Nagel was involved with that vote, wasn’t on the council at that time.
- Mayor DelBuono stated she doesn’t have that information in front of her, can’t answer that question.

VI. CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS
A. Health Update – COVID-19
- Town Manager Chapman stated that COVID incidents in town are reducing by approx. 50% weekly. Have eliminated tracing program and greeter at the town hall; asking people to wear a mask and continue social distancing. In the right direction and back to normal within a month or so.
- Councilor Page thanked Meghan Manke for all of her hard work.

B. Anna Reynolds School PBC – Authorization to Bid
- Mamie Liska, Owner’s Project Manager stated that at the last meeting Steve Woods provided a recap of the project; have Newfield Construction complete a final estimate before going out to bid. It is within budget. At this point it’s a formality of the council to approve the project to go out to bid which is a requirement of the state.

Motion by Councilor Radda
RESOLVED:

Pursuant to Chapter 8, Article X, Section 8-45, Project Building Committees, of the Newington Code of Ordinances; and upon the recommendation of the Anna Reynolds School Project Building Committee, at their meeting of January 20, 2022; the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the plans, specifications, and cost estimates for renovations at Anna Reynolds Elementary School and authorizes Keith Chapman, Town Manager or his designee to send the project out to bid.

Seconded by Councilor Camillo. Motion passed 9-0.

C. Ordinance Amendment, Chapter 121, Voting Districts
1. Review Revised Proposal Information
- Ms. Avey stated the census has been completed and based on that information the town has been redistricted by a reapportionment committee with an equal number of republicans and democrats and will have only the 20th and the 27th state assembly districts. Will remain in the 9th state senate district. Everything outlined in red is the current districts; color are proposed districts. Do have to change a portion of district 1 in district 6 that consists of 830 voters; this needs to be done per state reapportionment need to be in the 20th assembly district. In district
5, 919 voters will be going from district 5 to district 6, will also be in 20th assembly district. A portion of district 1 will go into district 2. Also moving 885 voters from district 2 to district 1. Also proposing one polling place for stand-alone referendums and any town committee primaries. Since 2000 we have had 3 stand-alone referendums. We will be notifying voters by mail per statute; utilize Facebook page and website to voters to know. We can use P&R events to notify voters of new voting districts and we can put up sign on school grounds prior to election; we will also have a booth at the Waterfall Festival.

- Ms. Fox stated that every voter will be notified of the redistricting and we did due diligence in accordance with eh state redistricting plan. When the legislators held their press conference they put Newington in a bad light and quite embarrassed by that. Have redistricted three times before but this has been the most difficult. Take pride in my work. Our elections have always run smoothly and efficiently. We listened to both suggestions and criticisms and came up with a plan that should make everyone happy. The graph and charts tell the story. Every voter will be able to vote as they always have. Polls may close at 8 p.m., but we and the workers do not go home until all the numbers of all districts are accurate and everyone’s vote is counted. Nobody realizes what it takes to run an election and redistrict. A stand-alone referendum does not occur every years, but the price is not worth the amount having the whole town open. Thank you everyone for your cooperation. This is the best plan for our town.

- Mayor DelBuono thanked Theresa and Marie for the many hours they’ve put in over the past weeks. Have listened to all of the suggestions and comments from the public. Have both the needs from the reapportionment and what you feel is needed. Appreciate all you have done.

- Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated she wanted to thank the registrars for listening to the public. Initial proposal started us all, trying to streamline process. Never any intent from anyone in town to deliberately suppress voters. Newington has a sterling reputation; never any issues. On your own you would have listed to the public and came up with a workable plan and proposal. Intentions were always honorable and I’m sorry that you got caught up in some pretty nasty and horrible accusations. Thank you for your work on this.

- Councilor Page stated he wanted to thank the registrars for all their hard work on this. Great idea to have greeters at the schools directing people and the public should appreciate this. I shared concerns about the stand-alone referendum having only one spot. While other towns do it, I think we need to that thoroughly. Not sure what juvenile crime has do to with this discussion, think that was editorial and not appropriate.

- Councilor Radda thanked the registrars and their assistants for their hard work and coming up with this fourth iteration of the plan. Thank you for listening to what the public had to say. I would like clarification that we are talking about two different proposals. One is the redistricting and the other is to provide one polling place for stand-alone referendum.

- Ms. Avey stated that her understanding is that it’s one proposal.

- Mr. Krupienski stated the Ordinance is under the purview of the council and adopting it. The choice for registrars to choose one voting location is statutory, does not apply to voting districts themselves and they have the ability to determine that they will only use one polling location should we have a stand-alone referendum or a town committee primary.

- Councilor Radda stated that we will further look into having stand-alone referendum at one site.

- Mr. Krupienski stated no. If a referendum were to take place, the registrars have the ability under the statue to determine if it’s held at one location or all districts. They notify my office and I create the ballots based upon that recommendation. For a standard election that takes place in November, we are required to utilize all districts polling locations.

- Councilor Radda stated that the town council does not vote on that.

- Mr. Krupienski stated no, all you do is determine whether something goes to referendum.
Councilor Manke stated just to clarify. The registrar of voters have always had the power to determine one location for a stand-alone referendum. We can make recommendations, but they’ve always had that power under state statute.

Mr. Krupienski stated that is correct.

Councilor Manke stated that the only primaries at the one location would be democratic and republican town committee primaries. All other primaries would still be at the seven locations.

Mr. Krupienski stated that is correct. We are required to use the same locations utilized in November.

Councilor Manke stated he too wanted to thank the registers for all their efforts and for listening to all of our suggestions.

Mayor DelBuono stated we usually hold public hearings prior to council meetings, but because this is a big issue, we are going to hold it on Monday, March 7th at 7:00 p.m.

2. Schedule Public Hearing

INTRODUCTION,

I hereby introduce for the Town Council’s consideration the proposed ordinance amendment to Chapter 121, Voting Districts, a copy of which has been filed with the Clerk of the Council.

Introduced by: Councilor Manke

RESOLVED,

That the Newington Town Council hereby schedules a Public Hearing on March 7, 2022 at 7:00 PM to consider the proposed ordinance amendment, Chapter 121, Voting Districts, a copy of which is attached to this resolution.

Seconded by Councilor Nagel. Motion passed 9-0.

D. Initiate Charter Revision Process

1. Create Charter Revision Commission

Motion by Councilor Manke

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby establishes the 2022 Charter Revision Commission, which shall consist of five members;

2022 Charter Revision Commission

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joe Harpie</td>
<td>36 Baldwin Court</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>2/22/2022-12/31/2050</td>
<td>Terms will terminate upon filing and acceptance of the final report with the Town Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthony Gonsalves</td>
<td>26 Baldwin Court</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>2/22/2022-12/31/2050</td>
<td>Terms will terminate upon filing and acceptance of the final report with the Town Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nancy Cappello</td>
<td>66 Pepper Bush Lane</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>2/22/2022-12/31/2050</td>
<td>Terms will terminate upon filing and acceptance of the final report with the Town Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Miner</td>
<td>119 Revere Drive</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>2/22/2022-12/31/2050</td>
<td>Terms will terminate upon filing and acceptance of the final report with the Town Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin Borrup</td>
<td>16 Broadview Street</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>2/22/2022-12/31/2050</td>
<td>Terms will terminate upon filing and acceptance of the final report with the Town Council</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Seconded by Councilor Donahue. Motion passed 9-0.
• Councilor Manke stated for just a point of order, Kevin Borrup is currently serving as a de facto member of the Health District, and he has to resign before being officially accepted to the Commission. He needs to notify us by Friday that he's resigned from the health district.
• Town Clerk Krupienski stated if we don’t receive a resignation by then the council can move to replace.
• Mayor DelBuono stated she wanted to thank those for putting their names forward. This process can be long and arduous and difficult. It's a very serious process, it’s basically the constitution of our town.
• Town Clerk Krupienski stated that Mr. Borrup just tendered his resignation.
• Town Clerk Krupienski stated those listed are from the parties; did receive a couple from department heads – recommendation regarding town attorney and
  • Review language in C-410. Right of Referendum Ordinances, to ensure that the existing language and timeline is properly outlined; and
  • Review language in C-609, Auditor, to include by referenced the Audit Committee, currently created under Resolution 2021-58. Recommend approval of Code language to outline duties of the Audit Committee.
• Councilor Manke stated that regarding C-603, Library Trustees. We don’t want to change the process, we just want clarify it.
• Town Clerk Krupienski provided a 2022 Charter Revision Commission Timeline [A lengthy discussion was held regarding same.]
• Town Clerk Krupienski stated that the council needs to provide funds to the Committee to complete their work.

2. Charge Charter Revision Commission

Motion by Deputy Mayor Budrejko

RESOLVED:

WHEREAS, the Town of Newington, as a municipal corporation, has the power, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 7-190 to appoint a Commission for the purpose of amending the Town of Newington Charter;

WHEREAS, the Newington Town Council has approved the initiation of action for the amendment and revision of the Newington Town Charter pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 7-188 by way of Resolution Number 2022-18, dated January 25, 2022; and appointed members to that Commission, by action taken prior to this Resolution, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 7-188;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That said Commission is hereby charged with reviewing the current Town of Newington Charter for any inconsistencies with current standards in the State of Connecticut and for any inconsistencies that may currently exist with the State of Connecticut Constitution and /or with any Connecticut General Statutes. The Commission is further charged to consider the following additional revisions:

1. Include a mandated review of the charter every ten years. Set up committee make up and time frame for review.
2. Review and update referendum limits to bring them in line with current expenditure amounts C-408, page 9. Define Special Appropriation.
3. Review Article VI and look at the number of members, specifically Parks and Rec (11 members) page 13-15
4. Review the document for ambiguous terms like shall and may and make them clearer
5. Review and clarify Article IX Personnel. Specify who has control over BOE personnel. C-903, page 24
6. Change time on Council Organizational meeting to 7:00 p.m. C-403, page 8

Newington Town Council Meeting Minutes (2/22/2022)
7. Specify how Commission and Board members can be removed if they do not attend meetings or we are unable to contact them or conduct unbecoming a Board of Commission member.

8. Review the language for C-603 Library Trustees. “Selected by Town”? Page 14

9. Look at all numbers in the charter related to amount required for referenda, bidding requirements and determine if appropriate.

10. Review staggered terms for council and board of education and other town boards

11. Review residency requirements for Town Planner, Police Chief

12. Review language in C-410, Right of Referendum Ordinances, to ensure that the existing language and timeline is properly outlined.

13. Review language in C-609, Auditor, to include by referenced the Audit Committee, currently created under Resolution 2021-58. Recommend approval of Code language to outline duties of the Audit Committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:
The Commission is hereby charged to hold at least two public hearings on proposed amendments and revisions to the Town of Newington Charter, one of said public hearings will be held at the beginning of the process, prior to any substantive work of said Commission. A second public hearing is to be held after a draft report has been completed but not submitted to the Newington Town Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:
The Commission is hereby charged to prepare and provide to the Newington Town Council a Draft Report of recommended amendments and revisions to the Town of Newington Charter on or before July 5, 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:
The Commission, should it receive recommendations for changes to its draft report from the Newington Town Council, shall provide to the Newington Town Council a Final Report within thirty days after receiving said recommendations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:
The Commission shall terminate upon either acceptance or rejection of the final report by the Newington Town Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:
The Commission, in carrying out its duties, shall follow the procedures and requirements as set forth in Connecticut General Statutes Sections 7-187 through 7-193.

Seconded by Councilor Camillo. Motion passed 9-0.

E. Recommended Changes to the Town Council Rules of Procedure

- Councilor Manke stated that for section 6, Placement of Items on Agenda. I proposed we leave the first two sentences as they are and add the following two sentences:
  - Items brought forward will be considered at agenda setting meetings by council members present.
  - Items will be included by a consensus of council members present at the agenda setting based on the appropriateness, relevance and priority.
- Councilor Manke stated that when we meet for agenda setting we have to sometimes put stuff off for a bit because we may have weighty agenda and don’t want meetings to go too long.
Motion by Councilor Page

RESOLVED:

WHEREAS, the Newington Town Council amends its Rules of Procedure on an as-needed basis; and
WHEREAS, the Town Council Rules of Procedure document was last amended on February 11, 2020.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Newington Town Council hereby amends its Rules of Procedure as indicated on the attached document.

Seconded by Councilor Radda. Motion passed 9-0.

- Councilor Manke thanked Councilors Donahue and Page who served on this committee. Appreciate their efforts to get this accomplished.

VII. NEW BUSINESS (Action May Be Taken by Waiving the Rules)

A. Firehouse Subs Foundation Grant Award
- Mayor DelBuono stated that with assistance from our grant writer (Sonic), the Newington Fire Department has been awarded a Firehouse Sub Grant in the amount of $47,155 that they are planning on using for extrication tools.
- Assistant Chief Lapierre stated that these are for e-hydraulic tools by Hearst. We currently have one set, but wanted to upgrade. So with the assistance of our grant writer, she was able to procure this grant for us. The presentation of the award will be sometime after March 12th. Town does not need to put in matching grants. We are looking at (2) other grants for the radio tower and sign.
- Town Clerk Krupienski stated that this will be on the agenda for March 8th.

B. Municipal Solid Waste Disposal Services RFP
- Town Manager Chapman stated that the three towns got together and felt a regional approach for an RFP would be beneficial. We will be interviewing tomorrow six candidates tomorrow for consideration. Each town will have (2) representatives interviewing tomorrow.
- Councilor Manke asked if this will change who picks up our garbage.
- Councilor Nagel thanked the town manager for going out to bid in this way. Many municipalities are going to be in a bind unless they find another solution. Truly appreciate and understand how difficult this process can be.
- Councilor Page thanked the town manager for doing this. Want to know if there is any impact to our recycling efforts and costs.
- Town Manager Chapman stated they will learn more about that tomorrow. There are some questions we have regarding recycling and need to get answers. This is going to an ongoing problem going forward. The state has to step up to the plate. Not going away.
- Councilor Radda asked if there has been any discussion on composting whether as a town or regionally. Know that other communities have done this. It’s a way to be responsible and environmentally sound.
- Town Manager Chapman stated that in the 90s we were composting over at Main Street by Churchill Park. One negative to composting in the odor. We talked briefly about composting in the future. A lot of work needs to be done.
C. Draft Job Description – Deputy Assessor (A-7)

- Town Manager Chapman stated that this position has been vacant for over a year. We’ve taken the old job description and created a new job description; trying to update with today’s standards. Want this in place before going out. The pay scale remains constant at A-7.

D. Interlocal Agreement – Multi-Town Equipment Cooperative

- Town Manager Chapman stated that with cooperative efforts with Rocky Hill at the public works level and town manager level identified the opportunity using COVID funds. A big issue in Newington is that our waterway systems need to have more enhanced clearing and treatment. It will help take down excessive growth in our brooks. Negligent in this for many years. This piece of equipment will help us accomplish that, only half of what it would cost, approx. $90,000. We will actually own it and it will be housed primarily in Newington. We can use it when we want it. All details and costs of maintenance have been worked out. You’ll be getting a copy of the agreement for your next meeting.
- Councilor Manke stated that this will mow the banks that are uneven.
- Town Manager Chapman stated that it is called an Alamo boom mower and that’s the attachment that will be going onto the John Deere mower that we’ll be purchasing and it will be able to reach out into growth in the waterways to keep it under control.
- Deputy Mayor Budrejko asked if there was any other equipment we share with other towns.
- Town Manager Chapman stated that other than the tree trucks he doesn’t know of any other equipment we share. Used to do a lot more of that years ago. Going in right direction now. Recognize we need to share, can’t afford to buy these things on our own.
- Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated this is a great opportunity.

E. Discussion – Newington Train Station Project

- Councilor Page thanked everyone for allowing him to give this brief presentation. Thank you to town manager and town assessor for speaking about this in January. I want to thank the council that voted on this in June 2019 and in August of that year, TPZ commissioners voted in favor of this. In response to the Hartford Line in 2018. Think that these are exciting time looking at mass transit transportation options. I’ve shared the CROG study with leadership. I’ve had fun learning about our trolley and train systems in Newington. Our train station at Newington junction is from the 1850s. We have 33 trains that pass through Newington every day and if they would just stop we could get on them and go to other places. In June 2019 you did some important work and committed to the TVDD development along Cedar Street. Newington Junction did not have the neighborhood support or practical capabilities drive economic development as does Cedar Street. Once the pandemic hit, things slowed down. The economic benefits of having a train stop that goes through our town 33 times a day is remarkable and it’s an exciting opportunity. It can improve our quality of life and get some cars off the road. We need to think about 30 years down the road, our kids and their grandkids. What is the future or our region; what’s the future of our town; vis-à-vis public transportation. If you look at the studies across the country, any communities, large or small, that have gotten involved with rail passenger for commuting, they expand, they grow, they draw folks who want to live in the area for convenience. We need to try to reduce our carbon footprint. I’d like the council and TPZ to get together and recommit to working with state and federal authorities and make this thing a reality. I think there’s money out there from the Biden administration that we can take advantage of by working with state and federal legislators. Thank you again for giving me this time tonight and I welcome any feedback.
- Mayor DelBuono stated she appreciates your passion for this project. Think there is a misconception that the council is not committed to a train station, that’s not the case. And the vote taken years ago was based on the TVDD and not approving a certain location for the train itself, but the state made it clear they wanted to add Cedar and the vote that happened was based on TVDD. We did have the planner reach out to the state and the responses we got are on the
Responses are, in part: “The DOT does not have the funding for the design or construction of a CTrail station in Newington”...“Given there is no funding, opening up these discussions again at this time is premature and speculative.” Know that you have a passion that you bring forward to the council, understand that completely, but the state has made it clear that there really isn’t an opportunity to do much until they have the funding or availability and ability to design the station. Not sure there’s any council action we can take at this time until we hear something different from the state.

- Councilor Page stated he’s looking for other councilors to come out with their position on this. Towns would kill to have his opportunity; it’s an amazing opportunity economically and for all the reasons I’ve stated. I’m just asking for councilors to come out with a definitive statement that they endorse this, they think it’s great and let’s continue with the bipartisan ways other councils have done, that we’re sending a message to the state that when you do get the funding together that we are ready to roll and we’re all on board with this; we’re excited and we want to make this happen. That’s all I’m asking for.

- Mayor DelBiondo stated that economic development is a really driving force around these stations and we have a lot of economic development going on in that area of Cedar Street.

- Councilor Camillo stated a train station would be nice, but be careful what you ask for. After the state finishes they turn it over to the town and we’re responsible for it. It will cost us more than the money it will bring in.

- Councilor Donahue stated we can all say we are for it, but it may be 10 years down the road. It’s going to be a different council, the town’s going to be different. Think we need to temper our enthusiasm with what the state’s telling us.

VIII. RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS (Action May Be Taken)

A. Appointments – Various Boards

Motion by Councilor Page

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

Development Commission

<table>
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<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Party</th>
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<td>Hyman Braverman</td>
<td>39 Churchill Way</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>2/22/2022 – 11/30/2023</td>
<td>Vacancy, Resignation of R Rioux</td>
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Town Plan & Zoning Commission

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Stew Drozd</td>
<td>74 Glenview Drive</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>2/22/2022 – 11/30/2023</td>
<td>Vacancy, Resignation of B Haggerty</td>
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Parks and Recreation Board

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Party</th>
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<th>Replaces</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eileen Francolino</td>
<td>116 Lydall Road</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>2/22/2022 – 11/30/2025</td>
<td>Reappointment – DeFacto Term</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edward Marchion</td>
<td>891 Willard Avenue</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>2/22/2022 – 11/30/2025</td>
<td>Reappointment – DeFacto Term</td>
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Seconded by Councilor Manke. Motion passed 9-0.

- Councilor Manke stated that he and Councilor Page worked this out. One of these appointments is our appointment but have arranged for the good of the order to and parks and recreation commission to seed them one. It’s a good chance for us to work together to get something accomplished.
- Councilor Page stated that party max should be 7.
- Town Clerk Krupienski stated he will correct that in the permanent record.

IX. REFUNDS (Action Requested)

A. Approval of February 22, 2022 Refunds for an Overpayment of Taxes

Motion by Deputy Mayor Budrejko

RESOLVED

That property tax refunds in the amount of $31,768.06 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.

Seconded by Councilor Nagel. Motion passed 9-0.

X. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A. February 8, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion by Councilor Braverman to accept the minutes; seconded by Councilor Manke. Motion passed 9-0.

XI. WRITTEN/ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

- Town Manager Chapman stated that the budget has come to a conclusion and you will be getting the Town Manager’s proposed budget over the next several weeks. Tried to be fair to all departments; looking for a reduction in the mill rate as promised.

XII. COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated that she and Councilor Radda attended the Conservation and Wetlands Committee meeting and as liaisons were requested to bring information to you regarding the Culver Street application and its approval. There were irregularities in the public hearing process. After the public hearing closed, the applicant was allowed to provide additional comments and testimony and the rules are that once a hearing is closed, the applicant isn’t allowed to provide further testimony or comment because the commission has to deliberate solely on the information it has on record. The applicant shouldn’t have been allowed to comments because the public didn’t have a chance for rebuttal. The chair and the commissioners admitted freely that this did occur, it was an error and several stated that their vote was not impacted by the additional comments of the applicant. During that meeting, three members of the public spoke and they were the ones that asked Councilor Radda and I to bring this information back to the council to make you aware of what is going on and if in the future there is any kind of intervention. Additionally the members of the public asked that they consider postponing signing of the wetlands permit and rescinding their decision until further review of the matter, process and procedures. The commission and town planner don’t believe it’s allowed
for them to rescind their decision, and it's not allowed under state statute, particularly since there was no appeal made of the decision. Further discussion by the commission led to the town planner charge the matter to the town attorney and refer to him for legal opinion on whether the commission has authority to rescind a decision or delay signing a permit on a decision that hadn't been appealed on the decision process and how the decision was made could or would be able to negate the action on the approval. The town planner has written to the town attorney for an opinion on the matter.

• Councilor Radda stated the thought was we felt that is need to go to the town attorney for consideration is the question of the appeal period had passed and one thought the next step would be to appeal through a court decision, rather than appeal to the commission. I'm interested to hear what our town attorney has to say about this. We heard of this for a while and wasn't surprised it came before the conservation commission, but right now we are in a holding pattern and waiting to hear response from the town attorney.

• Councilor Budrejko stated that one other thing that came up in a general way that Councilor Radda and I hear and we're somewhat in agreement on, is that there were some broader statements made alleging possible inconsistencies in application rules and regulations by some of the land use commission. Land use commissions are very highly regulated by state and local statutes and regulations and serving as a member on one of the land use commission is, first of all they are volunteers, but it requires a lot of knowledge and study and detailed expertise on the rules and regulations. In addition to land use regs, these commissioners also have to be astute and aware of mundane things such as Roberts Rules of Order, particularly in terms of public hearings, deadline, etc. A few of the commissioners stated that there is no training for new commissioners for any of the land use committees. Maybe some kind of training could be created so that on a yearly basis, new members to any regulatory commissions can get training on important and problematic areas to look out for. A few commissioners stated something like that would be helpful. Maybe a video each new commissioner has to review and they sign off once reviewed. Provide more professional training to these volunteer individuals who have some very important roles in town.

• Councilor Page stated that he and Councilor Manke attend the Board of Fire Commissioners meeting. Please to hear that the new emergency radio system will be put on a state site being a much better and more comprehensive system of coverage and needs to our first responders.

• Town Manager Chapman stated that the public radio system has been studied for about a year with our IT Director heading up the study. The objective is to make sure that we have communications at all time. This will be presented to you at the CIP review because it will require funding. Have all three public safety departments on board. It's been a long process, probably will end up with the state, but nothing confirmed as of yet.

• Councilor Nagel stated that he the Library Board meeting on the 14th, they are concerned about two positions that have not been filled. Mr. Chapman can you provide me with that information. Believe this goes back to before you came onboard. Would like to give them facts as to what the situation was. They are going through the process of a feasibility study that the library board is funding, in terms of their desire to renovate the library and bring it up to date. Are aware of centralized facilities committee. They are discussing a putting a plan together to have it go to referendum in November 2022. They are aware that there are changes to the way buildings are being renovated. We are all aware of the need for the library to be renovated and the independent survey put the library near the top of the list of things of major concern.

XIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL (Via Zoom Application or Phone)
(3 MINUTE TIME LIMIT PER SPEAKER ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

• Mayor DelBuono stated that Forest Helvie did send in a letter for the record.

• David Horrigan, 30 Candlewyck Drive. Very happy to hear that town hall COVID restrictions are being mostly lifted. With that knowledge, I respectfully request that future town meetings and public hearings be reopened to in-person, public attendance.
• Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive. Originally thought about speaking earlier about the time limit change for public participation to leave it at four minutes; but after listening to public participation, I'm in favor of three minutes. The comments by Councilor Budrejko regarding training of persons new to commission is something we have discussed before. I've attended a lot of meetings; it's difficult to rehash things that occurred prior to them coming on board. Know it's very hard to get volunteers, but I think that people who get appointed should have some sort of background, especially on the land use commissions. Regarding the Charter Revision Commission, The town is going to have to live with what they come up with for 10 years, if the recommendation pass. Think about when appointing people to commissions, they give some sort of background of their expertise or interests. Have sat through 2 charter revisions. Disappointed that neither side has found it necessary to have the town attorney go out to bid rather than being a political appointment. I will be attending the meeting and suggesting they review that. Maybe they will listen to suggestions to people of the town. Thank everybody that volunteers for these positions.

XIV. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS
• Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated she wanted to give a shout out to the Newington Police department. They recently publicized that they raised enough funds to implement project lifesaver which is a town wide emergency response system capable of finding adults or children who have some cognitive impairments who wander or become lost. The person would get a bracelet and if a client goes missing trained personnel are immediately dispatched to activate the equipment and begin searching. Project lifesaver is a nationwide program. In Connecticut, there's 13 police departments who participate. Happy and proud that Newington had the desire and made the efforts to participate in this program. It's also important to recognize the individuals and businesses who helped make this happen - the major donors were Massage Envy, Connecticut Bail Bond Group, William and Susan Sondstram, Jill Price, Elizabeth Long and Vincent Howen.

XV. ADJOURNMENT
Motion to adjourn by Councilor Donahue. Seconded by Councilor Page. Motion passed 9-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Gibbon
Council Clerk