Mayor DelBuono called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

2. **ROLL CALL**
   - Councilor Braverman
   - Deputy Mayor Budrejko
   - Councilor Camillo *(via zoom)*
   - Councilor Donahue
   - Councilor Manke
   - Councilor Nagel
   - Councilor Page
   - Councilor Radda
   - Mayor DelBuono
   
   Staff Attendees:
   - Keith Chapman, Town Manager *(via zoom)*
   - Janet Murphy, Director of Finance *(via zoom)*
   - Gary Fuerstenberg, Town Engineer *(via zoom)*
   - Joe Salamone, Director of Facilities Maintenance *(via zoom)*
   - Rob Hillman, Highway Department Superintendent *(via Zoom)*
   - James E. Krupienski, Town Clerk
   - Susan Gibbon, Council Clerk
   
   *Also in attendance:*
   - Dr. Maureen Brummett *(via Zoom)*
   - Dr. Bruce A. Fletcher, BOE Chair
   - Lou Jachimowicz, Chief Finance & Operations Officer
   - Stephen Foresi, Assistant Superintendent

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
   
   Motion by Councilor Manke to remove Item 17.A – Executive Session and to revise Item 11.F to read Set Tentative Town Council Budget for 2022-2023. Seconded by Councilor Radda. Motion passed 9-0.

4. **AWARDS/PROCLAMATIONS**
   
   A. Retirement – Adrienne Cerniglia, Building/Planning
   
   Introduction by Mayor DelBuono
WHEREAS, Adrienne Cerniglia has been an Administrative Secretary for the Newington Building Department the past 23 years; and

WHEREAS, Adrienne earned an Office Technician certificate from the State of Connecticut’s, Office of the State Building Inspector and the Codes and Standards Committee, on November 8, 2001.


WHEREAS, Adrienne was instrumental in implementing our online permit tracking system which has been in place since July 2010.

WHEREAS, Adrienne is the model for all Town employees for the extraordinary customer service that she provides to the taxpayers of this community by doing everything she possibly can to satisfy the issues presented to her; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Newington Town Council hereby recognizes and extends its sincere appreciation to Adrienne Cerniglia for her professional service and dedication to the Town and wishes her the best in her retirement.

Dated in Newington, Connecticut, this 22nd day of March, 2022.

Seconded by Councilor Manke. Motion passed 9-0.

- Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated 23 years to the town is quite and accomplishment. Thank her for service and wish her well.
- Councilor Donahue stated he met Adrienne while working on his son’s Eagle project and she was extraordinarily helpful, like most of our town employees. Good luck.
- Mayor DelBuono extended her sincere appreciation and congratulations to Adrienne for her 23 years of service to the town. Wish her all the best for whatever the future holds for her.

B. Proclamation – 2022 National Public Health Week

Introduction by Mayor DelBuono

A PROCLAMATION ON 2022 NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

WHEREAS, the American Public Health Association has proclaimed April 4 through April 10, 2022, as National Public Health Week.

WHEREAS, this year's theme "Public Health is Where You Are" concentrates on how the places we are physically, mentally, and societally impact our health and lives: and

WHEREAS, by building healthier, stronger, and safer places to live, the United States can be the healthiest nation in one generation: and

WHEREAS, for twenty-seven years the annual celebration of National Public Health Week reminds us of the fundamental role that our own state and local health departments play every day in the health of our communities: and

WHEREAS, the Health District, in partnership with the four towns, has been dedicated and driven to reduce morbidity and mortality from COVID-19 over the last two years: and
WHEREAS, the Town of Newington, together with its neighboring towns of Berlin, Rocky Hill, and Wethersfield, receives quality public health service through its regional health department, the Central Connecticut Health District, now in its twenty-sixth year of service.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Newington Town Council, does hereby proclaim

April 4 to April 12, 2022, as National Public Health Week

in Newington, Connecticut. We encourage all our citizens to join me in this celebration and in acknowledging the critical role of public health in prevention and in helping individuals and communities to achieve and maintain good health.

Signed this 22nd day of March, 2022

Seconded by Councilor Nagel. Motion passed 9-0.

- Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated that Charles Brown has done a wonderful job leading the Connecticut Health District. They’ve always done a good job, but under the radar. No huge crisis until COVID; brought them forefront into the community. Endorse celebrating their efforts and appreciate what they’ve done for us, continue the good work.
- Councilor Manke stated he wanted to echo Gail’s comments. Crisis bring out the best in organizations and COVID brought out the best in the Central Connecticut Health District. They’ve done an excellent job keeping us safe. Also administering flu shots and COVID vaccines; distributing text kits and masks. Thank them and good to recognize them.
- Mayor DelBuono thanked Mr. Brown. When we have our annual presentation you list all the things you provide for our community behind the scenes that people don’t know about. COVID has brought forward attention to your organization and the good work you do. You’ve been invaluable in consulting with our town manager, Ms. Manke, and helping guide us through this. So much more appreciative of you this year than ever before.
- Charles Brown stated they appreciate the proclamation. Public health week is an opportunity to bring forward the activities of public health that people don’t normally see. Public health is a prevention service. When we do our job nothing happens, nobody gets sick, nobody has to get a vaccinations, things like that. But it takes a lot of work for nothing to happen. This is a week for us to celebrate and point out all the wonderful things we do. Very lucky to have with me tonight, our health educator, Betty Murphy with us and she will explain some of the activities planned for public health week.
- Betty Murphy stated she works with the asthma program with Central Connecticut and newly added on health education as COVID has brought us together. For public health week we will be celebrating on Twitter and our website as we are coming down from COVID and hopefully not going up. We’ll be doing some behind the scene, not in person, type events and invite you to follow us, we’ll be talking about racism as a public health problem and a variety of other things.
- Mr. Brown stated that their walking competition will be starting up again in May. Want to congratulate Newington, because you won the walking competition last year. Check out our website for things coming up during public health week, the walking competition and other things. Thank you again for the recognition you’ve given us. Proud to serve each and every one of the towns that we serve.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - IN GENERAL (Via Zoom Application or Phone)
(3 MINUTE TIME LIMIT PER SPEAKER ON ITEMS IN GENERAL)
A. Public Comments

- Dennis Machol, 195 Camp Avenue, very important issue regarding narrowing of street. Lived on street for 48 years and street was 26 feet wide and for some reason the town decided to narrow the street by 4-feet. Need to widen street back to its original width; street too narrow; emergency vehicles cannot access. It’s a safety issue. Town Manager stated we don’t have enough money. Correct the mistake the town made; don’t just pave. Now there’s no parking signs on one side of the street, that’s creating a burden for people who live on the street.

- Neil Ryan, 237 Brockett Street (via zoom). Would like to discuss two issues. Troubled by town manager and town council decision to gut the BOE budget. Newington public schools are town’s best natural resource; lifeblood of town. Also discussion of Permanent Municipal Building Commission, thought that was dead, apparently I was wrong. Don’t understand need for commission; trying to fix something that isn’t broken. Appointees need to be electors for the town of Newington; nice touch but one of the people making the appointments not an elector himself. This just adds another layer of government.

- Sai Presutti, 112 Camp Avenue. Stated he would lose not much from his driveway, have three kids, and lots of other kids on street. Traffic on road is scary. In order to walk up the road you need to walk in the middle of street. Just widen the road. Safety with delivery trucks. Doesn’t make sense not to widen the road, it was like that before. Speed bumps are not something the town will do. The way it is now is horrible.

- Jean Borrup, 16 Broadview Street (via zoom). Speaking in support of fully funding BOE. Moment of crisis for our children. Either you’re uninterested or willfully ignorant; in both cases you should not be in a position of leadership to oversee the care of our community’s children. Our children need fully funded schools; not about politics. Ashamed to be part of community that gives so little to its children. Kids need and deserve more. Fund more, not less again.

- Janet Machol, 195 Camp Avenue. Have lived on Camp Avenue for 48 years. Family could easily accommodate cars in both driveways and on the street; with no issues for emergency vehicles. For some reason the street was narrowed and our problems began. Our concerns have continuously fallen on deaf ears, until most recently police and emergency vehicles were unable to access. Parking has been difficult if not challenging. Several residents have cut into their lawns to create additional parking. Need to make people aware that this street wasn’t always this narrow and need to have street restored to its original width. Parking on one side of the street has opened up another can of worms. This is your opportunity as councilor to correct mistake made by town and correct the width of Camp Avenue.

- Chris Ttofi, 207 Camp Avenue (via zoom). Have lived at my address for 66 years. Agree with previous comments. Need to restore the width of Camp Avenue and fix mistake that was made years ago by the town.

- Amy Perrotti, 175 Hillcrest Avenue. Here tonight, not as a board member, but as a taxpayer and parent of three. Request you fully fund the Newington Public Schools. Please listen to the presentation tonight; full of needs, not wants. Contractual salary obligations make up the majority of the increase this year and there is a need to make up for the zero last year. There are contractual obligations in the town’s budget as well. Proposed budget is extremely unfair to the children in our town. A mill rate decrease of 0.54 translates to just over $1.5 million, the amount cut in the BOE budget. Not in
support of lower mill rate in support of our children. Teachers and staff have done amazing things during the pandemic, but they are struggling as well. Don’t see need to fill the assistant town manager position; seems like any money we can save will be beneficial. Laying off staff in BOE, but hiring in the town, may not sit well with parents.

- Neil Robinson, 196 Camp Avenue. Here in support of widening Camp Avenue. Have lived there for 40 years. Some residents are elderly, valid point for widening and would afford these people the equal opportunity to park in front of their own homes.
- Michael Magiel, 167 Camp Avenue. Agree with widening street, will alleviate trouble with parking.
- Ann Felix, 149 Camp Avenue. Have lived in my house for about six years. Love my house, my neighbors and my street. Concerned with safety too, but also property values. One sided parking is not very desirable and not a good sell factor.
- Camille Ledoux, 57 Camp Avenue. Have all concerns voiced by my neighbors. People have not expressed that some of us have very narrow frontage and even if you wanted to park in front of your house you can’t because it’s too narrow. Not a good situation for anyone. Can’t have people come over, not enough parking. You need to right the wrong and get it back to the original width. Causing us issues and angst. It’s a safety issue.

B. Email Correspondence
- Beverly Schacko, 69 Camp Avenue. (attached hereto)

6. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
- Councilor Donahue stated he feels he’s been upgraded from a Nazi or racist to just plain ignorant tonight. Some people may say raise my taxes, but others cannot take any more taxes; understand the dilemma we are under. Regarding widening the street, I live on the corner of Cedar and Maple Hill; feel your pain, but Cedar Street is a raceway now. That’s one of the problems with widening the street; need to look at both sides of safety.
- Deputy Mayor Budrejko asked Mr. Machol if the petition he presented was everybody on the street.
- Mr. Machol stated he didn’t realize he should have a petition made up. He went to every to every neighbor’s house and asked them if they are for or against widening the street. There yesses for widening and yesses for no. Only three people I talked to were against widening the street.
- Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated Camp Avenue is a long street. What percentage do you think?
- Mr. Machol stated that there about 70 on the list. Distributed flyers to let people know the letter that was sent to us was the wrong date and needed to be corrected. There are 87 houses and I hit about 70; about 17/18 houses that didn’t respond or weren’t home or didn’t want to answer.
- Councilor Page would like to know about the rationale about the narrowing of the street and would like to see cost analysis of widening the street versus just paving so I can understand the implications. Thank you to everyone for coming out.
- Councilor Radda thanked everyone for coming out and speaking, it’s not always easy or comfortable. Thanks also to those speaking on the BOE budget. I too would like to see the cost benefit and what the difference would be if we include widening the street to the proposal for milling and paving [of Camp Avenue]. Thank you for going house to house for the petition.
Councilor Nagel stated that he spoke to some of you personally last fall during the campaign season and at that time I did share your concerns with the town manager. He did say that it is more complicated than it seems and won’t speak to the ramifications. This is an important point and if indeed something can be done. We are all frustrated in terms of this issue regarding widening it. Whatever happens under old business tonight, whether it passes or not, it doesn’t preclude a continuing process of trying to see what can be done to resolve this. Agree with my colleagues that we need to look at this more. Your voice is being heard and hopefully we can have a more pleasant talk in the future.

Mayor DelBuono stated that she too wanted to thank everyone for coming out and speaking tonight. During the agenda items, I’m sure we will discuss further some of the issues raised tonight and don’t know what will happen later this evening; we’ll have more discussion and get further information from the town manager as well. I did receive emails from people as well regarding this, although they didn’t want these included in the minutes. Mr. Ryan and Ms. Borrup mentioned cuts to the BOE and I want to make it clear that this council has not taken action on the budget yet, the budget before us is the Town Manager’s Budget that he brought forward. Indicating that we cut something, have taken action or done something is not accurate. We will be deliberating the budget over the next several weeks and will be making decisions on the budget as to additions, subtractions or whatever we feel is appropriate for the entire town over the next several meetings. It’s not a cut, it’s a cut to an increase and it may not be what everyone wants; it’s not a cut to the existing budget, it’s just not a big an increase that was requested. This council can still take action on it and this council is still in deliberation and can make changes.

7. CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS

A. Health Update – COVID-19

- Town Manager Chapman stated that there has been cases of COVID in the first floor of the town hall last week and COVID on the third floor this week. Just read that Disney World is now closed again, so COVID is coming back.
- Charles Brown stated that as of last Thursday Newington is in the yellow stage (6.7 cases per 100,000 out of a four-week rolling average. Total number of cases is 5,930 and unfortunately 136 fatalities. Vaccination rates pretty good overall. One age bracket lacking is the 5-11 years old; only at 37% which is quite low. Looking at sub-variant of the Omicron, which is expected to cause a surge in cases moving forward. This is sub-variant does not look to be more severe. Vaccination is best protection against this. Still seeing a decline. About 3-weeks behind Europe; their seeing increases of cases.
- Councilor Page thanked Mr. Brown for all the work he is doing.
- Councilor Manke asked Mr. Brown if he sees eventually that we will be getting a COVID vaccination like we get a flu shot.
- Mr. Brown stated that it may be that was as the disease becomes more endemic. Right now they’re looking at the need for a fourth shot and it will probably be targeted more towards the elder populations and those that are immunocompromised. Eventually this will be much more targeted, similar to what we do with the flu shot.
- Councilor Manke asked if they could be combined so we only get stuck in the arm once.
- Mr. Brown stated they are looking into that, but you can get the flu shot and COVID vaccine at the same time.

B. Additional Appropriation for Camp Avenue Milling & Paving
Town Manager Chapman stated that at one time Camp Avenue had a width of around 26 feet without any curbing. The town, at some point, decided to narrow the street down to 22 feet and put curbing in. It’s been that way for 20/30 years. The problem developed when our fire apparatus and emergency vehicles were having difficulty traversing Camp Avenue due to the parking on the street by the residents and visitors. I made a decision to have a study to have parking on one side and keeping the street 22 feet wide. For emergency vehicles it works well and for snow removal it works well. From a logistic standpoint there is no need to widen the street. The reason we are before you tonight is for a mill and pave. If you want a reconstruction you would lose driveway length on all of the properties and one of the problems tonight was that people don’t have enough driveway and they will be parking on the road. It’s not an easy solution no matter what you do. The cost to do the milling and paving is considerably less than widening and reconstructing a whole road.

Gary Fuerstenberg stated that the cost to widen the road will start out at least a half million dollars, and probably closer to a million, eight hundred thousand, something like that to do the full widening project. That’s just an estimate.

Mayor DelBuono asked if utilities would need to be moved and what would be involved in widening it.

Mr. Fuerstenberg stated that it has not been engineered, but would attempt to minimize moving utilities and would hope there is no need to move utility poles and it’s just widening a bit on both sides of the street. That’s the approach we would want to take.

Councilor Page asked if he five to eight hundred thousand is in addition to the paving or is that the total project.

Mr. Fuerstenberg stated that would be the total project. We either spend $125,000 to mill and overlay, the road is in dire need of some attention. I couldn’t guarantee that we could widen this next summer, it may be some time further out before that could take place due to the engineering and design and construction that would be required. It’s a major project to widen the road and it’s not something town forces would do. It would also be a major disruption to the residents on that road during the process.

Town Manager Chapman stated that those that responded to our office through email or phone; we received a total of 21 responses and of that 14 wanted to leave the road the width it is and parking the way it is. A few people did call and stated they wanted to widen the road. To be clear, there are people that did not participate in the independent survey that was done and did not come tonight but advised us there was no need for widening, just milling and paving.

Mr. Fuerstenberg stated that there are about 75 residents that live on the road, 20 people responded, so we got about a 25% response from the residents. Responses were mixed, but a majority were not in favor of widening the road.

Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated that she is struggling at this point. Don’t want to waste money with milling and paving if at some point we will be widening it. Not comfortable that a comprehensive study hasn’t been done on real costs of widening. Don’t know if there are legal issues taking land from people; don’t know if there contractors have been called. Big difference between, half million, eight hundred thousand, a million. What the safety issues area. It was indicated that it was narrowed because of speeding. Don’t want to put any more work on Gary or his crew, but would feel more comfortable with a comprehensive and fact-based issues of what exactly what it would take to widen the street. Contact with residents; costs; police and fire department weigh in. It’s a
substantial amount of money and if it needs to be done, it needs to be done and would like to know what the ramifications would be. I don't want to move ahead with milling and paving if a majority of the residents do prefer to have the street widened and we could possibly make that happen. Wish we could get more solid facts as to why it was done. Also the impact to the residents on the street. There's a lot more to be done. Know that Janet said this was being done because of money left in the budget and this was supposed to be done last year. Think most residents here would prefer to wait on milling and paving if there's a possibility to widen the street.

- Town Manager Chapman stated that he doesn't disagree with what Councilor Budrejko said. Most of the milling and paving that's done in town, we don’t have discussion like this because we're comfortable moving forward with that. This road in particular has several issues. If you decide to mill and pave it you have to fund it. If you decide not to mill and pave while further study is done that can be accommodated. We just want to do what is right for the town. Faced with funding it through special appropriation or not funding it at all, doing a study and in the next year decide what to do based on all of the facts.

- Councilor Radda stated the concerns she has is hearing the concerns of the residents of Camp Avenue have regarding safety issues, not only for the residents, but for traffic and people coming to visit with the street at the width it is now which is 4-feet less than it has been years ago. Agree that we need more research and information. Five to eight hundred thousand is a huge amount of money and would like to see more specifically what that would entail. $125,000 for milling and paving versus a substantial increase if the decision were to expand the roadway. Gathering that information is critical and will provide an opportunity to get a broader spectrum of information from the residents living on that street. Would also like to know more about the timeframe. Do not need comfortable milling and paving then going back to make other significant changes.

- Councilor Braverman asked if there were other roads in town in similar shape and maybe widen them all at the same time.

- Town Manager Chapman stated that some other roads in town are this narrow, but for whatever reason, they do not use the road as their parking area. Most people that live on narrow roads will use their driveways. We haven’t had any complaints about other roads. This came about because the way in which people were parking was preventing emergency vehicles from traversing the area.

- Mayor DelBuono asked if there was any time sensitivity to approving this expenditure this evening or is this something we could wait on.

- Ms. Murphy stated there is no time sensitivity to getting more facts.

- Rob Hillman stated that the only time sensitivity would be the fact that Tilcon is scheduled to come in April to mill and pave one round of roads with the next scheduled time in August. So if you want to get this mill and paved there is time sensitivity in scheduling.

- Mayor DelBuono stated that we could add it to the April 5 special agenda.

- Town Manager Chapman stated no. If you want a study done by our engineers...

- Mayor DelBuono stated she knows a from study will take longer than that, not sure if we wanted to bring it back for further questioning.

- Town Manager Chapman stated it's not realistic to delay it for a month. You will need to give engineering the entire summer to gear up and have this study done. Think you will miss this whole paving season if you do not act.
• Mayor DelBuono stated that her other concern is that it goes above the $975,000 figure, then it needs a referendum, based on Charter language. That's another thing for us to consider. Mr. Chapman/Mr. Fuerstenberg, if you could gather information and let us know how many streets are the same width in town because I think if we accommodate one, then we may be asked to accommodate all and may need to look at that was a whole expenditure and whether it is realistic or not and what that would look like for the town budget.

• Mr. Fuerstenberg stated that about 10% of the streets in town have a substandard width, approx. 30 roads. To reconstruct all those roads, I've looked at this number when this first came up, and that number was something like 20 to 30 million dollars to widen all the roads in town.

• Mayor DelBuono stated that we need to be careful in terms of an equity issue if there are other neighborhoods that come forward for the same accommodation. Need to be conscious of that.

• Councilor Manke made a motion to table this at this point, we don't have enough information to act tonight. Seconded by Councilor Page. Motion to table passed unanimously.

• Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated that the question the Mayor just asked regarding the other roads, if you're gathering that information, one key factor here is that the road was wider at one point and the town took the action to narrow it, whereas these other roads were always the width that it is. Not sure we would be comparing apples to apples. This road was wider and was narrowed.

• Mr. Fuerstenberg stated that is an accurate statement. Don't believe other roads had been narrowed like Camp Avenue.

C. 2022 JAG Local VCP Grant Award

Motion by Councilor Radda.

RESOLVED:

The Newington Town Council hereby authorizes the Town Manager, or his designee, to accept the 2022 JAG Local VCP Grant for the Newington Police Department, in the amount for $25,000.00. A copy of the executed grant shall be attached to this resolution.

Seconded by Councilor Braverman. Motion passed 9-0.

D. Discussion – Permanent Municipal Building Commission Creation

• Mayor DelBuono stated this is something that we as a council have been discussing for several months now. Councilor’s Page and Radda have provided additional comments to the document.

• Councilor Radda asked that this be tabled to look at the comments and possibly a re-draft.

• Mayor DelBuono suggested that a member of the majority and a member of the minority work on this off line, two members of the council, as a sub-committee to try and come to an agreement on some of the proposed language changes to bring forward to the council.

• Councilor Radda stated she will add that to the motion.

• Mayor DelBuono stated we have a motion to table this this evening. Seconded by Councilor Braverman.
• Councilor Manke stated he is ok working on draft language. This hasn’t died and gone away, for the good of the town having people with experience on the committee. Don’t want to just keep table this though. Think we need to move forward with this.
• Councilor Nagel stated he wants to emphasize the Lucy Robbins Library Board of Trustees that language agreed to is in the document and it will be looked at.
• Councilor Page stated he thinks a permanent building commission will serve our residents well. It’s a comprehensive document and we would like to review some of the language, number of committee members, and some other issues.
• Councilor Radda stated she agrees with Councilor Manke and does not want to see this drag on too long.
• Councilor Manke stated he is not opposed to talking about anything. We need to move this forward. A lot of building projects may be coming to the table and some issues in town we need to address. Should include the town clerk for him to keep notes.
• Councilor Braverman asked what other towns building committees look like.
• Mayor DelBuono stated that other towns do have building committees which we have structured this off of. There was concern about control being given to the town manager; the council has control; the only thing the town manager will be doing is reviewing resumes and making recommendations as to who he thinks has the best qualifications for the roles listed in the draft document and the council would ultimately make the final appointments. The premise behind this is to make our building committee more professional and less political. Right now they are political appointees and they may have agenda for a certain project and want to make it a more objective committee to be staffed by professionals in the construction field and have non-voting members from the referring agencies. In terms of how old committees are handled, it there is a building committee formed that has already gone to referendum we would leave that committee as is. Any other buildings committees currently formed would be disbanded and reapply and come under this commission moving forward in the future.
• Town Clerk Krupienski stated that this was brought up last summer and we do have information from about eight different towns and I’ll send those as a link to you. If you want me to look at other towns, please let me know.

E. Discussion – Canceling of April 12, 2022 Regular Meeting

• Mayor DelBuono stated that this is school vacation week and we normally cancel this meeting. Could always add items to the April 5\textsuperscript{th} special meeting agenda.
• Councilor Page asked what is happening on April 5\textsuperscript{th}.
• Mayor DelBuono stated there is public hearing that evening where I will present the council budget after we take the budget from the town manager. Later on this evening’s agenda you will see that.
• Councilor Page stated he was worried we wouldn’t have a work session.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Budrejko

RESOLVED:

The Newington Town Council hereby approves the cancellation of the Regular Town Council meeting, scheduled for April 12, 2022.

Seconded by Councilor Nagel. Motion passed 9-0.

F. Municipal Solid Waste Disposal Services RFP
Mayor DelBuono stated we discussed his at our last meeting. Was entering into process with Wethersfield and Rocky Hill at the time the RFP went out a recommendation was brought forward to us to and the intent was to enter in an agreement. The initial proposal brought forward to us was CWPM. At or last meeting Wethersfield went in another direction and went with the Murphy Road proposal. Rocky Hill has also now chosen to go with Murphy Road. One to the concerns was fixed versus variable costs. We have Jason Manafort from CWPM and Frank Antonacci from Murphy Road Recycling.

Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated that when she heard it was a joint RFP, thought we would get some sort of discount; after hearing last week’s discussion towns can choose their own vendor. What was the point of the joint RFP? Will we get some sort of discount if we all go with the same vendor?

Rob Hillman stated that they hoped to get a volume discount but as we were going through the RFP process there was concern about the towns signing their own agreement because there are different situations in other towns and we thought it would be in our best interest to sign separate agreements. So the volume discount did not come to fruition.

Deputy Mayor Budrejko asked if all three towns go with Murphy Road will we get a volume discount.

Jonathan Murray (Murphy Road Recycling) stated that our proposal has the best rates possible and we think we’re very responsive and very budget friendly for the towns. Our offer stands firm as they are.

Mr. Hillman stated Murphy Road offered a fixed rate for four years and CWPM only offered a fixed rate for the first year.

Mayor DelBuono asked Mr. Hillman to explain the ACR piece

Mr. Hillman deferred to Mr. Manafort or Mr. Murray, they can explain better than I can. It’s the average commodity rate and they take an average of the cardboards, aluminum and plastics and come up with a price for our value and based on their threshold costs of what it costs for them to process, the difference between that is what the town would have to pay or the town could actually receive a rebate if advantageous.

Mr. Murray stated that is a good explanation of ACR.

Mr. Manafort stated that we did a fixed stream recycling in the first year and then with his analysis he pushed that number up $90 per ton and we were still low bidder. As he pointed out if you budgeted the fixed number for those years it would have to be at the higher rate. With our proposal you could save some money over those additional years.

Mayor DelBuono asked Mr. Manafort if the $90 was the absolute highest or was that just an estimate at this point.

Mr. Manafort stated they agree with the way he did it, that’s the worst case scenario and our price was still cheaper. We thought it was a good analysis and conservative approach. We understand that town’s like fixed prices, but there is a chance to save money with our proposal. Cannot predict the market, it could possibly go higher than $90. Even if it does go higher, we are still cheaper and you have a chance to save money.

Councilor Manke stated he prefers fixed over variable.

Councilor Donahue stated that for peace of mind fixed is better for us.

Mayor DelBuono stated that fixed makes sense for us for budgeting.

Mr. Manafort stated that when you are talking worst case scenarios and can’t predict the future, you are talking about a catastrophic issue. Don’t want to throw money away, it’s not your trash number if that makes sense.
Motion by Councilor Manke

RESOLVED,

That the Newington Town Council hereby authorizes Keith Chapman, Town Manager to enter into a contract with Murphy Road Recycling for Municipal Solid Waste Disposal Services for the period beginning of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2026. A copy of the executed contract shall be attached to this Resolution.

Seconded by Councilor Radda. Motion passed 9-0.

8. RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS (Action May Be Taken)
   A. Resignation – Economic Development Commission

Motion by Councilor Manke

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the resignation of Maria Pane, as a member of the Economic Development Commission, in accordance with email correspondence dated March 14, 2022, and effective immediately.

Seconded by Councilor Nagel. Motion passed 9-0.

9. REFUNDS (Action Requested)
   A. Approval of March 22, 2022 Refunds for an Overpayment of Taxes

Motion by Deputy Mayor Budrejko

RESOLVED:

That property tax refunds in the amount of $2,184.92 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 Braverman. Motion passed 9-0.

10. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS
    A. March 7, 2022 Public Hearing – Voting Districts
    B. March 8, 2022 Public Hearing Town Manager’s Budget
    C. March 8, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion by Councilor Manke to accept the above meeting minutes, as amended. Second by Councilor Page. Motion passed 9-0.

Councilor Nagel stated that on the March 8, regular meeting minutes, on page 8, it should read “someone”; not “something.”

11. NEW BUSINESS (Action May Be Taken by Waiving the Rules)
    A. Discussion – Amendment to Chapter 8, Article VI, Environmental Quality Commission
       • Mayor DelBuono stated that the Patty Foley, Chairperson has requested an amendment to the membership. Believe she is asking for Industry Committee members to be removed.
       • Patty Foley stated that that when the ordinance was created smart move, reduced in 1987 including two industry people; which have never been filled. Those people are involved,
whether in staff members or other areas. Working to be environmentally friendly town. Would like to have volunteers come forward.

- Councilor Page stated just to clarify, these duties are now carried out by our fire department by our CERT team, by other folks.
- Ms. Foley stated that is correct.
- Councilor Manke stated that we are taking two members and changing their definition.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that we are considering this to the April 5th agenda and setting up a public hearing on April 26th.
- Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated that when the commission was formed in the past, a lot had to do with underground storage tanks, but once staff got involved these duties and oversights were transferred to professional staff. As the charge of the environmental quality commission changed the commission is moving toward making the town more conscious of environmental impacts. Changing these two positions will allow for more volunteers.
- Ms. Foley stated that with the last oil spill this commission wasn’t consulted.

B. FY 2023 State Historic Documents Grant Program Application

- Town Clerk Krupienski stated that we are in the process of back scanning and recreating volumes. Request is for 45 volumes, may increase number of volumes. We are scanning in house which is an added benefit. Back to 1976 we have just under one million images, with this project we will be adding another one hundred sixty thousand images. This is good for all; less wear and tear on the books. This is through Adkins, we have used them before. The ones with the “x” are the ones we propose to do. Benefit to the town.
- Councilor Page stated it seems like the scanning would be labor intensive.
- Mr. Krupienski stated it’s not, I scanned the lost project myself and it cost us under $8,000. The ability to save the money and do our own scanning is one of the cost benefits.
- Councilor Manke asked if these are being kept in the vault as the original record.
- Mr. Krupienski stated that we can have these destroyed once recreated. However, anything prior to 1900 is to be considered historical documents and those are in our locked cage area for protection.
- Councilor Radda asked if there was any interested in the later volumes.
- Mr. Krupienski stated that we have the ability to give them to other organizations.
- Councilor Braverman asked how she would find out information on Churchill Drive forty years ago.
- Mr. Krupienski stated that would be contained in the assessor’s quad maps. Most of the subdivisions were written on separate cared but we do go back to 1932.
- Councilor Braverman stated that neighborhoods might be interested in that.
- Councilor Donahue asked what the “p” stands for.
- Mr. Krupienski stated that those books have been preserved.
- Councilor Nagel stated that these records contain certain historical significance to the town and to the land itself. In effect it’s like an ancestry archive for who owned what land, but also properties of land and where and where they come to today for whatever reasons. Thank you for doing this.
- Mr. Krupienski stated we get a lot of people wanting to know what happened and when. You can bring them back in time.
C. Annual Fair Housing Month Resolution
   • Mayor DelBuono stated that this is something we do on an annual basis. We will take action on this at our next meeting.

D. High School Roof Replacement-Phase I
   • Town Manager Chapman stated that we've been talking about the roof at the high school for several years and did some work last year. Now facing opportunity to do the remainder of the roofs that need to be done. No reimbursement from state. Would like to get a portion of the roof replaced during spring break in April and the remainder during the summer months. Sought number of quotations from a number of roofers. Got a good price from Silktown and they are guaranteeing they will have the materials available now and through the summer; which have been difficult to obtain. By the end of August the high school will have a new roof that will last another 25/30 years. Superintendent Brummett agrees that this work should be done. The first phase is $950,000 and the second and third phases will occur after July 1s. Seeking bid waiver, feel comfortable Silktown provided best proposal.
   • Dr. Brummett stated that she concurs with Mr. Chapman that this is the best way to go. Have active leak now above the culinary arts center so replacing the roof versus repairing it will save unnecessary repair funds. I appreciate the collaboration on this and concur with his remarks.
   • Councilor Manke asked if the general age of the roof is the reason it's being replaced.
   • Mr. Chapman stated the roof is well over its life expectancy.
   • Mayor DelBuono asked if the first phase, the $950,000, will be coming out of the current CIP budget.
   • Mr. Chapman stated yes we have funding there that will cover this proposed cost and was identified for that use when approved last year. Ideal time for town and vendor.
   • Mayor DelBuono stated that we don't typically like to do bid waivers, but since we have used this vendor previous and they have the materials it makes sense.
   • Mr. Chapman stated if we don't do a bid waiver the job may not get done this summer.
   • Councilor Nagel stated he recognizes that it's good to have the same company do the roof because they have knowledge of it. Commend you for saving money by not going with the other approach. I also believe this phasing system help us to divide between budgets money's to be expended on it. If I'm not mistaken, it if were all asked for at one time, it would have to go through referendum. Is that true?
   • Mr. Chapman stated that is correct.
   • Councilor Nagel stated there are many reasons why this is a wise and correct thing to do, let alone safety.
   • Mr. Chapman stated that in July you will be asked to do two additional bid waivers to complete the project with two different vendors. Silktown will be working with another company to do the sheet metal work that will have to be installed.
   • Councilor Nagel stated that will continue do divide the money so we don't need to go to referendum.
   • Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated that phase one has already been budgeted in CIP; I assuming phase 2 and 3 are in the proposed CIP for next year.
   • Mr. Chapman stated that is correct.
   • Joe Salamone stated that one of the driving factors is material procurement and it will save us money in the long run.
E. Department Budget Review:
1. Board of Education
   - Dr. Brummett presented the BOE budget to the Council.
   - Steve Foresi reviewed consequences in reduction of staff and impact to teachers and administrators.
   - Dr. Brummett presented two-year budget history. BOE will reconcile budget at meeting on April 27th. By statute, certified staff notification of potential layoffs must be made by April 30th. Appreciate the opportunity this evening. We are all available to answer any questions.
   - Councilor Manke asked for a printed copy of the presentation. Can you give me a breakdown of how many staff are in each category?
   - Mr. Foresi stated that he will get to him in the morning.
   - Councilor Manke asked about town budgets. Are those pending or approved?
   - Dr. Brummett stated it is both.
   - Councilor Page asked Mr. Foresi to discuss the implications of increased class size.
   - Mr. Foresi stated that it would be in the elementary and middle school levels. Class sizes would increase to 25-28 students per class.
   - Councilor Page asked about implementing RTI or SRBI and how that’s tiered and how that relies on staffing and ratio.
   - Mr. Foresi stated that tier one is general instruction for the whole class; tier two are students who don’t achieve standard grade level (required by state statute to provide servicing); tier three is 5-10% of students require significant additional services. Implications are large. More students are falling into those categories.
   - Councilor Page asked if services aren’t available will they be pushed into special ed.
   - Mr. Foresi stated that if a child requires testing they may have to go into special education.
   - Councilor Page stated that we don’t want to see those SRBI processes hampered.
   - Mr. Foresi stated that would significantly reduce our abilities to do that at a time when students need it most.
   - Councilor Page are the implications of violating IEP at the state level as well as the office of civil rights or violating 504 requirements.
   - Mr. Foresi stated it’s a lot of litigation and our legal bills would go up significantly while trying to defend out stance. Don’t know right now what the potential implications could be, but they could be significant and serious. We wouldn’t be providing students services that are required and needed. When we are out of compliance parents have a right to request compliance.
   - Councilor Braverman asked about enrollment numbers
   - Mr. Foresi stated we are projecting the same enrollment numbers.
   - Councilor Braverman stated that there are new apartments/condos being built in town.
   - Mr. Foresi stated that we are anticipating an increase in the student population, but not until the 2023/2024 school year. We are reviewing the data and looking at the future impact.
   - Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated that we pay tuition for students to school out of town, and we have students coming into Newington, is a magnet school reimbursement higher than an open choice reimbursement? Does it even out?
Dr. Brummett stated we pay about $400,000 in magnet school tuition; and the money we get from open choice is about $800,000 plus we get back in regular ed money which we use to pay for teachers and one the special ed side we use it in our capital funding. Open choice program does help offset operating costs, but it reduced by our obligations to the magnet schools.

Councilor Manke asked Dr. Brummett what her anticipated savings are with the budget freeze.

Dr. Brummett stated we’re operating in a deficit spending model this year because we are relying on the non-lapsing fund. Hoping to spend substantially less than the $2 million in the non-lapsing fund. Right now we may need only $1.5 million of it.

Councilor Manke asked what other steps they are taking to control costs.

Dr. Brummett stated that other than the cost saving measures in the presentation, we will look at any positions that become vacant as to whether we need to replace them and will use any methods Lou can come up with for cost saving measures in some of the purchasing areas. Our biggest cost is obviously our staffing. We look for grant monies.

Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated they are looking at working with surrounding towns in purchasing, sharing staff, programs, is that allowed on the BOE side? Working cooperatively with other towns share expenses or are there state statutes prohibiting it?

Dr. Brummett stated that we did that last year, we shared some costs relating to special ed. We also belong to Farmington Valley Diagnostic Center which is a Cooperative for special education. Much cheaper than paying tuition for more costly outplacement.

Lou Jachimowicz stated that they are looking at cost savings in the specialized transportation area, everybody has the same issues of not having staff and the ability to cover runs. I asked our transportation director to look into a collaborative rapport with Wethersfield because we have common places where we’re sending students. Costs can be between $25 and $50 thousand. Challenges are time and distance; they can only be on the bus so long; lots of logistics involved.

Councilor Manke asked if there was any thought with cost sharing of supplies.

Mr. Jachimowicz stated that most school districts participate in consortium arrangements though CREC or CROG where everyone gets the same price through pre-arranged bids. We are going to smaller supply deliveries and procurements.

Mayor DelBuono stated that we are now moving busses into CIP budget and the past health savings benefit was used. We received a memo today on the health benefits coming to both the town and BOE. On the town side it was approx. $300 thousand and that will go back into the health benefits account for offsetting costs moving forward. Wondering with the $476,000 for the BOE, with the busses off the table, would the BOE consider using to offset; can’t tell you how to spend your money, but you considered that or what you plan to use the money for?

Dr. Brummett stated that they received the memo today that number can change, we can look at how that impacts our budget, and we may try to get some curricular items that were cut from the budget. That number can change drastically like it did last year.

Mr. Jachimowicz stated that last year at March 20th it was $1.6 million and in reviewing the health insurance are because we are on high deductible, the first few
months participants are paying a higher proportion of medical bills to meet the deductible; once they meet the deductible, the plan shoulders a larger burden of the ongoing costs. At the end of the fiscal year the amount was $700,000, so it went down by $900,000.

- Councilor Manke asked if there were any years where you didn’t get money back.
- Mr. Jachimowicz stated that there were three years, 2 in the 1990’s and another about 13-14 years ago when both the town and BOE had terrible years.
- Councilor Manke asked if it wouldn’t be better to use that money to pay staff than to put back programs that are already cut.
- Mr. Jachimowicz stated since it’s not a given in the budget appropriation from the town, none of us are in a position to guarantee the money will be there.
- Councilor Manke stated that he sees all towns having issues with budgets. Prices are increasing and we don’t want to raise taxes on top of that.
- Dr. Brummett stated for the two budget seasons that she’s been here, they have given money back to the town, last it was $500,000 and the year prior $1.5 million.

Understand that if the money is not utilized, it should go back to the town for general fund purposes and to be used for their discretion.

- Mayor DelBuono stated she wants to validate the concerns about issues relating to the pandemic and impacts on students as well as staff. I understand what you are talking about and I hear what you are saying. We’re are the begging of our process and after hearing your presentation we can start to dive in and look at budgets and numbers. Lots of assumptions that we somehow want staff decrease and that is absolutely not what we are looking to do and that is not want I want to see, but I can’t make any promises. Need to work together to see if we can lower any numbers or adjust anything. I do have a question on the bus lifespan, on the slide there was a column for 11 and 12 years; thought that there was a 14 year cycle. How did that number change?
- Dr. Brummett stated that since she’s been here, Dean Barnes stated that we are pushing anything above 10 [years]; 10 is what other bus companies use; we’re using 12 because we maintain our own busses.
- Mr. Jachimowicz stated that he believed that the 14 was just passing conversation a few years back. The basic practice of state bus inspectors is they look a lot closer once the bus is 10 years old and are much more willing to take a bus out of service for marginal defects and more aggressive testing and evaluation of the buses. It’s their professional commitment to provide safe school buses for kids. We typically hold buses 14, 15 years if they’re street worthy, have a good repair history and are not a problem.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that in our vehicle reserve fund, we look at a life span and then typically the vehicles we’re replacing move down into our spare fleet and then something from the spare fleet goes out to auction. Is that what you do?
- Mr. Jachimowicz stated yes.
- Councilor Page asked where the $1.5 million and $500,000 come from?
- Dr. Brummett stated that was money not utilized in the Board’s budget. Most likely during COVID we had line items not utilized, we had fewer expenses when the schools were not fully opened and some may have been health benefit credit monies as well; just a combination of residual monies. The other place the money came from is excess cost; we had estimated excess costs the previous two year and they came in
lower than expected because we were outplacing fewer students. It was us doing our due diligence; all our bills had been paid, we had excess dollars and we turned it back to the town.

- Councilor Page asked if Dr. Brummett had a committee that worked with the town on CIP issues.
- Dr. Brummett stated yes, back then there was a committee to deal with that.
- Councilor Page asked if there was a reason that stopped.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that the committee was eliminated and the CIP process was revamped. Both the town and the BOE bring their items to the table and the council deliberates it now.
- Councilor Page asked why that is being done like that now.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that it was felt there were decisions being made by the Committee and then the council could only deliberate on what was brought forward and the council wanted to have more of a say.
- Councilor Manke stated that the goal of CIP is more plan driven and we’re always looking at five years out.
- Mayor DelBuono stated we are trying to improve the CIP plan and by putting in buses in there, that makes a lot of sense, so there is money there for buses.
- Dr. Brummett stated that in 2020 and in 2021 there was money sent back and part of our due diligence. Firm believe that we return the money to the town when not utilized.
- Mayor DelBuono stated she saw the slide with the BOE request v. where the town manager came in. What’s the dollar amount needed to meet that staffing level?
- Dr. Fletcher stated it $592,113.
- Councilor Nagel stated he wanted to make a statement about CIP in its former form. There were things presented on the BOE side and also in other departments that didn’t fall under the criteria of what CIP was supposed to be for. There were also requests made by many departments that went over the $975,000 that could fall under CIP and would have to go to the other place and the requests came willy nilly. Some appropriate, many of them not. One in particular was Chromebooks and whether they should come under CIP or not and not because they aren’t worthwhile but eh nature of how the money is to be spent. It became more of a quagmire kind of thing and not just by the BOE. It got to be a political decision as to what to fund or not as opposed to what was really needed. The idea of changing it streamlined it somewhat and it ultimately comes to us and there aren’t endless meetings where we’re hearing things brought forth that either didn’t belong in the old CIP or some wonderful ideas that the committee could not approve funding it because it went way over the amount we could possibly consider funding and spreading the monies over many different areas. One was almost $975,000 and it if you didn’t have enough money you took money from somewhere else and it almost was confrontational within different departments in town and it really shouldn’t. It may not be what it was envisioned originally and the people on the committee over the year became more and more confused as to what the committee was supposed to do. At least now with the funding, the BOE and others know that there is a process to go through. CIP got to be a catch-all which wasn’t what it was intended to be.
- Mayor DelBuono thanked Dr. Brummett and anyone else involved with creating the budget and bringing it forward. It is very evident that you put a lot of thought into
bringing forward a conservative budget and we do appreciate that. I encourage
councilors to reach out to your own BOE members if you have any questions.

2. Miscellaneous programs not previously discussed
   • Ms. Murphy stated that there is nothing; you’ve been through all the departments.

F. Set Tentative Town Council Budget for 2021-2022

This item has been added to the March 22, 2022 Town Council Regular Meeting to give
Councillors the opportunity to propose and consider changes to the Town Manager’s
proposed FY 2022-2023 Budget. After deliberation by the Council on any proposed changes,
a Legal Notice of the Town Council Tentative Budget will be published, electronically on the
Town Website and in the Hartford Courant, at least five days prior to the April 5, 2022
Public Hearing. Additional changes may be made to the budget after the Public Hearing and
up to the date of adoption, scheduled for Tuesday, April 19, 2022.

• Mayor DelBuono asked if they need to make changes tonight to the budget.
• Ms. Murphy stated that if you want to make some you can, but in the past you’ve not we
  just set this as the tentative [budget] and that’s what goes in the paper.
• Mayor DelBuono stated that they are not ready to make any changes at this time.
• Minority Leader Page stated that they are not ready to make any changes at this time.
• Councilor Manke stated that there will be some changes made, that’s usually what
  happens, but not ready today to make any changes today.
• Councilor Page asked Ms. Murphy about audited budgets. Understand budgets are
  audited. How do I get that information?
• Ms. Murphy stated that you have one. It’s going to be put up onto the website later this
  week. It’s an annual audit, not just on the budget, it’s an audit of grant programs,
  everything, so it’s an audit of all your funds. The prior years are already on the website.
• Councilor Page asked where he would find federal funds, grants monies and so forth that
  Newington has received for this fiscal year and next fiscal year.
• Mr. Murphy stated that the federal funds are part of the audit; don’t get much in the way
  of federal funds, except for the COVID funds and the grants are generally from the state.
  Our auditors to a state and federal audit to make sure we are within guidelines and those
  are also online.
• Councilor Page asked for data for the past two years, and this year for all the economic
development in town.
• Ms. Murphy stated that is what you would be seeing in your Grand List. My office
doesn’t take care of that; my office makes sure you don’t go over your budgets.
• Councilor Page stated that a lot of work has been done and wasn’t sure if the town was
  keeping track of what we’ve actually realized and taken into the coffers the last two
  years.
• Ms. Murphy stated that she will check with the town manager and town assessor; know
  they have done metrics on that. Ms. Murphy stated that she sent the parties the
  spreadsheet to use for when you deliberate and do changes.

12. WRITTEN/ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER
• Town Manager Chapman stated that he did, there was a question going in town with D.O.T.
  projects.
Mr. Fuerstenberg went over a list of current CT Department of Transportation projects that are happening in town which include road resurfacing; coordinate traffic signals; replace overhead signs; renumber interchanges; fiber optics; replace traffic signals; install LED traffic signals; evaluate round-a-bout at Fenn Road and Ella Grasso Boulevard.

Councilor Page stated that data supports round-a-bouts decrease traffic.

Mr. Fuerstenberg stated that is correct; if you’ve got the right traffic volumes.

13. COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated that tomorrow night TPZ is having a couple of public hearings that the public may be interested in. One is regarding Culver Street to allow residential development in the PD zone on Culver Street. The second is to allow an open space subdivision at 359 Church Street/321 Tremont Street. First heard about that in Conservation Commission meeting where they requested a change in the wetlands mapping. The Conservation Commission will be having public hearing on this on April 19th. We need to have a comprehensive overview of development activities in town and we need it sooner rather than later.

Councilor Nagel stated he attended the Library Board meeting on the 19th. The library is opened, no masks required; gradually extending and expanding back to normal. Friends of the Library will be holding a book sale at the senior center on April 30th and May 1st. Thanks to the Friends of the Library, the shed that holds books and other things behind the library is going to be replaced by a more attractive looking pod sometime in May. There are still some open positions on the Library board. There is a CROG meeting tomorrow at noon, and I will be attending via zoom.

Councilor Radda that the big shipping container behind the library will be gone. The Friends, in collaboration with the library, is purchasing a shed with approx. the same square footage, nicer looking, for book storage and sorting. Very happy about this, it’s been in the works for a couple of years now.

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

Pat Mahoney, 119 Goodale Drive. Member of the General Federation of Women’s Clubs, an international volunteer non-profit service organization. One of our many programs is to help families with school-aged children to eliminated food insecurity in town. We collaborate with human services and Food Share where we get most of our non-perishable food. Once a month we provide fresh fruit through the generosity of Stew Leonard’s. This program is funded through grants with information provided by human services on households with school aged children. Collaboration is vital. When demolition of the town hall began, we were faced with a logistical nightmare and challenge as to where we could store supplemental foods for weekly pickups. As the month’s passed we encountered more obstacles and challenges. Our lives changed completely with COVID. Dr. Brummett asked us, along with others, to meet with her in her office. Students and staff of the transition academy staged and packed using the menus we prepared with superintendent’s direction and the food was delivered once a month using a small school bus. This situation was a win-win for everyone. We continued to collaborate with human services, Food Share and are grateful that the new transition academy has enough space for us to store our food as students can stage, pack and deliver. Approx. 31.4% of families with students k-12 qualify for free and reduced meals here in Newington. Our program gives families a little extra to get them
through the month. We are presently servicing 43 families, with 172 members in the household; 87 of them children. The interaction of students, coaches and families have some real life benefits. Please consider our program and how well the students and staff have helped us, it’s been a teaching tool for the students. Hope you restore staffing money to the BOE budget so programs like this may continue.

- Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive. I may have misunderstood Councilor Nagel and the statements he made regarding projects in CIP over $975,000 which were approved that should have gone to referendum. There were a lot of projects put through CIP that were over that limit but they were under a five-year period. That should be looked at in the future, many projects spread over five years, but as a total could go over that threshold. Hope as you look at CIP budget this year, look line by line, and any big tickets items like roof replacement, it lists what is going to be replaced. Over the years have seen CIP change, as town manager’s changed. Hope we can get it back to what it was intended to be.

15. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS
- None.

16. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS
   A. Unmask the Stash
      - Mayor DelBuono stated that this is program being held on March 30th at 7:00 p.m. It will be hybrid format. In person space is limited. It’s being put on by Culture of Change and hosted by Newington Department of Human Services – Newington, Rocky Hill, Berlin and Wethersfield.

   B. Mayoral Appointments to the Youth-Adult Council
      - Mayor DelBuono stated she worked in collaboration with Carol LeBrecque from Human Services, she made some recommendations and I then appointed them to the Youth-Adult Council with terms expiring on November 30, 2023.

      - Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated that on March 30th there is the State of the Town at 8 o’clock at Indian Hill Country Club. Cost is $25.00 for breakfast with fascinating updates by our town manager, mayor and state representatives. Tickets can be purchased at the Chamber of Commerce.

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION
- Cancelled

18. ADJOURNMENT
   Motion to adjourn the meeting by Councilor Manke. Seconded by Councilor Braverman. The meeting adjourned at 11:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Susan Gibbon
Council Clerk