Mayor Zartarian called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in Room L-101

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ROLL CALL
Councilor Anest
Councilor Arace
Councilor Budrejko
Councilor DelBuono
Councilor Marocchini
Councilor Miner
Councilor Serra
Mayor Zartarian

Staff Attendees:
Tanya Lane, Town Manager
Jeffrey Trommer, Deputy Fire Chief
James E. Krupienski, Town Clerk
Susan Gibbon, Council Clerk

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda, as amended, by Councilor DelBuono seconded by Councilor Marocchini. Motion passed 8-0 (Councillor Manke absent).

Councilor DelBuono stated that they want to remove Item IV.A; move Item VIII.A to before Item VII.A; and remove Item IV.B. Seconded by Councilor Marocchini.

IV. AWARDS/PROCLAMATIONS

B. Proclamation-Retirement of Pamela Muraca

Motion by Councilor DelBuono

WHEREAS, Ms. Pamela Muraca, prior to joining the Town of Newington Public Schools, served the Towns of East Berlin and Middletown for 26 years as an elementary and junior high school teacher, Instructional Consultant and Principal; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Muraca was hired by the Town of Newington on July 19, 1999 as Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction for Grades K-4; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Muraca was promoted to Director of Curriculum and Instruction on July 1, 2007; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Muraca was appointed as Assistant Superintendent of Schools for Curriculum and Instruction on May 15, 2008; and
WHEREAS, Ms. Muraca was appointed as Deputy Superintendent of Schools for the Town of Newington in 2012; and

WHEREAS, during her final year with the District, the 2018-2019 school year, Ms. Muraca was named the Interim Superintendent of Newington Public Schools; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Newington Town Council hereby recognizes Ms. Pamela Muraca for educating and nurturing the youth of Connecticut for over 46 years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby extends its sincerest appreciation to Ms. Pamela Muraca for her dedicated, professional service to the Newington Public School system, congratulates her on her retirement, and extends its best wishes to her and her family for the future.

Seconded by Councilor Marocchini. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Manke absent)

- Ms. Muraca stated that it has been a bittersweet week for her; it is the final of everything. Honored to receive the proclamation, it’s been a wonderful career. I would do this all over again. Have seen children become adults. Wonderful community, so supportive of education. Appreciate all the support I’ve received this past year.
- Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive stated that both she and Maddy Kenny want to thank Ms. Muraca for her years here in Newington. Know how important you were to us.
- Michael J. Fox, 1901 Main Street stated that he wanted to thank Pam for all her work with the Earth Day events here in town; without you we wouldn’t have been able to do what we have done and because of you we had posters, classes. Good luck in the future, you are a wonderful person.
- Rich Merlino stated that he is a 35 year resident of the town of Newington; wanted to thank the Newington education system for doing a great job.
- Councilor Anest stated that it has been bittersweet, have enjoyed working with you on the BOE. Congratulations, it is well deserved. Newington is going to miss you; you have left your mark here in town.
- Councilor DelBuono stated that she was honored to read the Proclamation this evening. Have known each other many years. One thing that stands out is that you are always positive. You have done wonders in the last year in bringing the Council and the BOE together. Sad to see you go, but know you will be happy wherever you are. Thank you for everything.
- Councilor Budrejko stated that the words that come to mind when I think of you are grace under pressure. Not just in the last year, which was challenging, but the fun things, the accomplishments. You maintain your composure and get results. Thank you and good luck in the future.
- Councilor Marocchini stated that positive is his word for Pam. We’ve had some challenges in the last year and a half, including the most recent budget, it went well because of how you started your budget. Truly a mentor for young children. Congratulations on your retirement and all the best in the future.
- Councilor Arace stated that he wanted to say congratulations and enjoy your retirement. Know how hard a worker you are, your work ethic, it is inspiring. Enjoy yourself. Congratulations.
- Councilor Miner stated that I had the pleasure of getting to know you over the past year. Your idealism that collaboration can exist between the BOE and the Council is something I hope continues. Congratulations.
- Councilor Serra stated that she wanted to congratulate Pam. Have learned a lot from you over the years by attending the board meetings. You have a positive attitude and that shows in the students and all you have offered them. Thank you for everything you have done for the town of Newington.
- Mayor Zartarian stated that he went to school in Hartford and didn’t have such nice people in charge. You have begun the process of rebuilding the bridge between the BOE and the Town Council; you have opened the way for real communication in the future and part of that is how
you handled your duties over the past year and for that I want to express my appreciation. I see a lot of collaboration and cooperation as we go forward as Newington faces the future. All the best to you.

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL (In Person/Via Telephone: 860-665-8736)
(3 MINUTE TIME LIMIT PER SPEAKER ON ANY ITEM)
- Rich Merlino stated that he has a question regarding the town noise ordinance. Believe from research it is lacking a bit, behind the times. Have spoken to several people regarding this. Have some input. [Mayor Zartarian suggested Mr. Merlino get in touch with Town Manager Lane.]
- John Donohue, 29 Maple Hill Avenue stated his opposition to tolls within the state. A copy of his statement is attached hereto.
- Barbara Schoolacot (sp?), 275 Field Street stated that she is against tolls. Thinks Newington is going to take a hit if tolls go in. Routes 15, 91, 84 are roads we use on a daily basis. Highly opposed to tolls of any kind. People are outraged and tolls should be taken off the list.
- Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive stated that today she attended the public hearing regarding Victory Gardens. Disappointed on how is was not communicated to anyone, just a small ad in the Town Crier. Asked if they were going to Town Council or BOE, will have to go before TPZ at some point, but there didn’t seem to be any interest in doing that. Perhaps the Town Manager should ask them to come here. Councilor Budrejko was there, as well as Sharon Braverman and her husband who is an alternate on the TPZ. Even though they provide services for the veterans, there were people there thanking the Town of Newington for the services they provide them. All for veterans housing, my father was a WWII vet and my brother was a Vietnam vet. The town needs to be aware of what is going to for budget time. There are 50 children between the ages of 1 and 6 living there and 24 of them are attending Newington Schools. For all the talk about how is wasn’t going to impact us, I think it is. They are rehabbing (3) buildings and building another one.
- John Bachand, 56 Maple Hill Avenue (v. Thank you for all your work and effort. Overall opinion is good; dragging down my opinion is the town hall fiasco. Regarding the court case, and I think the plaintiff have a solid case, is I think you should make a statement and let the public know what your game plan is on this. The standard is that we don’t comment on litigation. Part of the council voted for something and part of it didn’t; don’t know how that works as far as executive session. Think there is a conflict in representation. Don’t know how one side looks at the other and says this is what we are doing. Talking about expending town funds in expense of the council being sued. Wish we could get some public statement from you on this.
- Michael J. Fox, 1901 Main Street stated that it seems as if something controversial comes up, a lot of people are saying they don’t want tolls, but no one has come up with something better. Not in favor of the Town Council resolution against them. As far as the lawsuit, just want to say how upset and bad I feel about the comments on Facebook about the approval you gave in March, they are not very civil. To tell these five people and Tim Manke they have no right to defend themselves in a court of law is disgusting. Thank you.
- Councilor DelBuono read an email from Robert Brighaman, 75 Groveland Terrace into the record (attached hereto).

VI. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
- Councilor Budrejko stated that she attended the public hearing regarding Victory Gardens. They have plans for 35 supportive housing units at (3) buildings they will be refurbishing and then building an additional building. In the best case scenario they said construction is to begin May 2021, completion of 2022. Asked how many residents they will be adding and they wouldn’t, or couldn’t give an answer. This is a concern for Newington. Even though the
VA provides medical and psychological services, there are still services of the Town they utilize. Surprised to learn that there are 50 children living there under the age of six. This is going to be a permanent enclave of housing of people who will need services.

- Councilor Anest asked the Town Manager to have them come before the council. They do not need to go before TPZ, it is on Federal land, that is just a courtesy.
- Councilor Miner asked if they identified how many units are occupied by veterans.
- Councilor Budrejko stated that she did ask that and they stated that 100% of the units are occupied by veterans. When the first proposals went through, we were told 65% would be allocated to veterans. They have a much better process today. The Coordinated Action Network for veterans and when there is a vacancy they go to that list first and work their way down.
- Councilor DelBuono stated that she wanted to respond to Mr. Bachand’s question regarding the lawsuit. He is not wrong, there are two sides to the issue. For the record, Councilor Budrejko and I requested separate counsel, it was up to the Mayor to decide that and that request was denied. We are of a different mindset regarding the project and the funding, primarily the funding. I am very much in favor of moving the project forward, have been on that committee for a while now, not something I want to see stopped. The reason I voted no, and I am not against the building the town hall, I voted yes to forward the project from the committee to the town council knowing it was over budget and it was the councils job to consider that and do what needed to be done. Having said that my no vote was about the funding and being $2.8 over budget. My feeling is that the project was already $2.8 million over and my feeling is why bother having referendums and I stand by that. There are two very different sides and only one legal counsel provided by the Mayor at this point. There are 2, 3 attorneys that I consider will be representing the “yes” votes and no attorney representing the “no” votes. It does make for an awkward executive session. I consider us to be professionals, and we have had good dialogue and we continue to work well together, and we have respect for each other. I respect the reasons why people voted yes and I respected the reasons why we voted no. We will move forward in moving forward in coming to a resolution that is best for the Town of Newington.
- Mayor Zartarian stated that regarding the noise ordinance; believe the Town Manager is trying to locate the sound meter in the town’s possession and see if anyone is trained. Understand your concern, it was discussed at our last meeting and we as a Council will continue to look at to see whether or not we need to update it to current standards. It is on our plate and we are working on it. Regarding the VA, maybe we should get that presentation here to see what they are doing; we are providing services to them. Regarding the pending litigation, I was one of the no votes on the increase, at the same time I am the one authorized by charter to hire counsel and I take my position of Mayor of this town seriously. I am one of the defendants by name on the lawsuit, as well as Town Manager Lane and James Krupienski, Town Clerk and the Council as a body is a defendant. I wanted us to have counsel that is equal to, if not better than, the counsel hired by the plaintiffs. I have engaged Murtha Cullina to represent us and we have had one meeting with them. As far as the issue that Deputy Mayor DelBuono brought up regarding her no vote, the council as a body is being sued, no one on the council is named individually.

NEW BUSINESS: Update from State Legislators

- Gary Turco of the 27th District and Carrie Wood of the 29th District gave an update on the legislative session.
- Ms. Woods thanked the council for having them. Finished first legislative session working with Gary [Turco], Matt Lesser and Rick Lopes who represent Newington. Have a great working relationship and with Mayor Zartarian. Did a lot of bipartisan testimony together. Passed a budget on time. The economy is doing well and the income tax revenue exceeded
expectations. Did make some tax increases, but also made some tax cuts. The Teacher Pension Fund was diverted. We were able to give towns an increase in funding.

- Mr. Turco stated that we worked very well together representing our delegation and Newington. Want to thank all you and the BOE members for your help. Want to continue bipartisanship. Good show of strength and community. State Senators impressed with our bipartisanship. Did a good job of passing a budget by making smart and strategic investment in our municipalities. If we need to improve our economy we need to have the most talented and work force. Created the Workforce Alliance to work in conjunction with our small business, government and higher education systems to see where we need to go with our workforces. Very proud of that. Working on preserving 18.2 acres on Cedar Mountain, Carrie and I did our job, we got it passed in the house unanimously, but it did not get passed in the Senate, they just ran out of time. Working with Senator Lessor to get it passed in a special session, as well as the bonding grant which includes the BOE offices for town hall. Have confirmation from Speaker of the House and Governor that will stay in the package. The funding for the train station is in the toll bill. Want to invest in mass transit, you need money to pay for it, tolls will be the way to do that. The toll bill did not pass, so there is no funding for train station.

- Ms. Woods stated that they met with our fire team and they did pass a bill to cover police and fire PTSD. We will be working next with EMS personnel to get them covered as well. Have a rainy day fund of $2.8 billion dollars. Heard a lot from the community about car thefts and a bill was passed giving the police ability to detain repeat offenders. Not just longer time, but rehabilitation as well. Did see on the agenda an opposition to tolling. Three big things that happened this year are a raise in minimum wage, paid family medical and leave and tolling. Did pass the minimum wage and family leave program. We may be going to special session regarding tolls. Compliment you for bringing it up and letting people speak on it. Think the tolling plan put out was scary to people; there may be a tolling plan presented in a bipartisan way. The way the bill stands now, I will not be supporting a tolling plan, think we need to put it on hold and reassess it. Have had these forums and need to listen to what the people say. If you pass something that says no today, something better may come out in the future.

- Mr. Turco stated that he would like to comment on the tolls as well. Rep. Woods mentioned paid family medical leave, minimum wage and tolling were big topics this year. Not necessarily tolling, but our infrastructure. Our infrastructure has a dire need for additional funding and maintenance and investments towards the future. We have bridges, and highways and tunnels that need maintenance. We have a lot of needs to maintain and investing in mass transit to get people off the roads. The gas tax is not enough, we need $800 million to fully support our infrastructure. Throughout the years the legislature has diverted funds, but over the years the state has put more money in than it took out. We need to find other funding means. A lot of people like the idea of tolls, you drive over a bridge, you pay for the bridge, you pay to be able to do that. The reason I want to have conversation about tolls, and I don’t want to see tolls it is just another burden on taxpayer, but the alternatives are a 53 cent increase in the gas tax, or Bob Brighaman’s idea to increase sales tax by 1.5%, or increase in income tax, or cut municipal aid and increase property tax. It is no to tolls, it is no to paying for maintenance of our infrastructure. I ask you to think hard about that are the alternatives better for our economy and our future? Don’t mean to make this partisan, but Republicans have stated they want to borrow the $800 million. The Democrat and Republican leadership are sitting down to come up with a compromise. It may be the best of the worst solutions.

- Councilor Minner thanked Rep. Turco and Rep. Woods for coming to the meeting tonight. There was one bill I was following and lost, it was in regards to a tax abatement for volunteer firefighters.

- Rep. Turco stated that is passed the house, I believe it passed the Senate, but I need to check on that.
• Councilor Miner stated that it is very important for the retention and recruiting of volunteer firefighters. Seventy percent of fire departments nationwide are volunteer. It is a big commitment.
• Councilor Budrejko asked if you can tell us where there were spending cuts in this year’s budget.
• Rep. Woods stated that there were of spending increases to provide Medicare savings, the passport to parks, the green bank and energy efficiency fund. Did pass a bill that allows for bonuses to state employees who provide ways to save money and decrease spending. Medicaid is a large item in the budget, any nursing home in the state that have a one star rating, their funding will be reduced 5%, and if they do not get their rating up in nine months, their funding will decrease by another 5%. There were cuts and the capital, and the Governor’s office did cut staffing
• Councilor Budrejko stated that those are ideas and conditional, were there any actual spending cuts. Actual cuts in spending in operational efficiencies or redundancies. The Courant stated that “the legislature has made no effort to cut spending in this years budget, which is a full aggregation of responsibility by the legislators and governor.” Were there any actual hard conversations with labor, with personnel, with redundancies and operational effectiveness. I don’t see that being addressed. In terms of the tolls, yes, we need to take care of our roads and bridges, that is critical, but a lot of the funds proposed for tolls are going to be diverted for building mass transit. Mass transit now is a lot of subsidies. You are using some of those funds for infrastructure to build mass transit. The CT Fastrack costs $113 million in subsidies. You are using new funding streams to fix the infrastructure, but are subsidizing mass transit, you will never get caught up.
• Rep. Turco stated that there is no mass transit system in the entire country that is not subsidized. No rail system actually makes money, that is not why we build them; it is to get people from A to B efficiently and quickly. You are correct, if we build more mass transit we need to maintain them. The state has made very serious cuts over the past eight years. The prescription drug program was cut, we took thousands of people off state health insurance, state employee numbers are down to 1970’s numbers. This year, with economic growth, we were looking to stabilize things a little bit. Municipalities got additional funding, but we did make cuts. Seniors do not have to pay state income tax on up to $100,000 of their social security income. By 2024 you will not have to pay income tax on pensions up to $100,000. Gave tax breaks to businesses who help repair blighted areas. Gave tax cuts to businesses who will help employees pay off student loans.
• Rep. Woods stated that the Angel Investor Tax Credit Program is very successful. That in turn is creating a new biotech sector, students from Yale, the people that don’t have millions to start up; those tax breaks are meant to stimulate our economy. All these communities like Hartford, New Britain and Bridgeport that have blighted properties that fall within the transfers act have been streamlined to get them back online, we have encouraged development there. The federal government has a program called Opportunity Zone Funding which allows for additional tax credits. I believe we will see a major change in opportunity zone funding.
• Rep. Turco stated that they will continue to look for efficiencies and where there is waste to reduce that. That is a continuous thing. We get weekly reports from our auditors on where we can be more efficient and make cuts. Believe the State is moving in the right direction. Regarding actual programs, the state is moving towards a result based accountability for the non-profits we are funding, the hospitals we are funding, social services programs – making sure the results are what we are investing in.
• Mayor Zartarian asked about the 7% increase for state employees.
• Rep. Woods stated that she didn’t see it, it never came up on the floor. Someone clearly felt that staff needed a raise.
• Rep. Turco stated that he has heard that staff has not received a raise in a number of years. Not sure this was the year to do it when we were trying to stabilize things.
• Rep. Woods stated that this is a transparency of trust thing that all of a sudden weighs on us when things like that happen. We did our best, but we can do better. If I had to do it over again I would ask what is shocking in this document that I need to know. It would have been nice to have a heads up on that.

VII. CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS (Action May Be Taken)

A. Resolution to Oppose Tolls on State Highways

Motion by Councilor DelBuono

Resolution in Opposition to the Implementation of Tolls on State Highways

WHEREAS, the Governor and members of the General Assembly have indicated their support for the placement of tolls on Connecticut’s highways; and,

WHEREAS, many residents of Newington use these roadways each day for work, family obligations and pleasure; and,

WHEREAS, the Governor’s proposals would implement tolling systems and other regressive measures that would increase financial burdens on working people and small businesses; and,

WHEREAS, the implementation of tolls will result in a significant increase in the amount of traffic on Newington’s roadways as drivers attempt to avoid the cost burden from tolls on the aforesaid major roadways;

WHEREAS, this increased volume of traffic from trucks, automobiles, and other vehicles through our Town would negatively impact the quality of life in numerous ways impacting the safety of our residents and visitors, reducing property values, and increasing the Town’s costs for services and for roadway maintenance and repairs; and,

WHEREAS, road and bridge work costs for construction in Connecticut are the fifth highest in the country, and administration costs are the highest in the country with no resolve;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Newington Town Council declares its opposition to the implementation of tolls on State highways and urges the Governor and its elected representatives in the General Assembly to oppose any measure that would impose tolls and an additional burden on Newington residents.

Seconded by Councilor Budrejko. Motion failed (Roll Call vote) (3) Yes; (3) Abstain; (2) No

• Councilor Miner stated that we don’t have any solid to oppose; at this point, until we have something concrete. As Mr. Donahue said, being a small business owner, this is something that would directly impact me. I would rather have something definitive to oppose. Would not be opposed having to call a special meeting regarding this, if and when that point comes. I understand completely where Mr. Donahue is coming from. If we bond this, only CT residents will pay for this; if we have tolls, at least 30-40% of out of state drivers will help pay.

• Councilor Marocchini stated that he agrees will Councilor Miner. Have issues with the way the resolution is written. Don’t have a toll package, just don’t feel comfortable voting for something that is a non-conversation right now. If tolls were to happen Newington could benefit from them. Almost all of our main roads are state roads. Bad idea to send to capital right now; cannot support it.
• Councilor Serra stated that she at this point we don’t know what impact it would be on our community or surrounding communities. I’m not saying get rid of the resolution; keep it out there. Right now I’m not in favor of or opposed to tolls, need to know what will happen first. I cannot vote on this now at this time.

• Councilor Anest stated that she agrees with the other councilors and two weeks ago put on record why she is not in favor of supporting this at this time. Like Councilor Miner said, once something is on the table, let’s discuss it. It might be a benefit to Newington, it might not. I cannot support something that I don’t what it is.

• Councilor Budrejko stated the only reason we don’t have something on the table now is because people in the state stood up and said heck no; otherwise this would have sailed through. No Tolls Connecticut that was grass roots group that collected over 90,000 signature; 18 municipalities passed resolutions. In my opinion sending a no tolls resolution is the only way the legislature will listen to us. Governor is playing le’s make a deal – if I give you a train station, Bridgeport, Newington, will you support tolls. At the Democratic caucus he promised to raise campaign money for those who support tolls. Not the way to pass legislation in my opinion. As far as out of towners paying 30-40%. The state said they are going to get $800 million yearly in revenue. I compared this to Massachusetts, and they bring in only $400 million in revenue; and they have significant trouble collecting money from out of state drivers who don’t have EZ Passes. The Boston Herald published an article in January 2019 and it reported that $26.8 in unpaid tolls since electronic tolls were implemented two years. CT drivers are 20% of that number. One last point, even at 60-70%, CT residents are going to bear the brunt of the tolls, and it will hit the working class the hardest. Many people need to drive 91, 84, and 95 daily; especially during rush hour. At this time there should be no tolls. Go back to the drawing board. There has been over $2 billion diverted from the transportation fund to the general fund since 2012. This year you are diverting $172 million from the special transportation fund into the general fund. CT has the highest administrative costs per mile in the nation. That is general and office expenses, find a way to reduce that waste and then we can talk about tolls. Figure out a way to subsidize mass transportation in the future.

• Councilor DelBuono stated that she was the one who originally brought this to the table. The people affected by this will be the working people and the small business owners. They will be the one impacted the most. Mr. Donahue stated that he is already paying vehicle taxes, gas taxes and small business taxes. This will continue to pile up on small business owners, make it impossible for them to survive. Lockboxes don’t work when everyone has a key. All nice thoughts meant to market the ideas of tolls. Residents I spoke with are opposed to tolls. Understand there is no package on the table, but this could come up at the spur of the moment, no guarantee we will have time to take this up again. Not willing to take and send a message. Not in favor of tolls, is a toll a toll. Going to change my mantra – a toll is a tax is a tax. If will increase costs to the town if traffic is diverted into town, it is going to increase the possibility of more police calls and it is going to drain us in ways we haven’t thought about. Agree with Councilor Budrejko, we need to go back to the drawing board, not a viable solution. It is not fair, I see it as another tax on top of all the other taxes. Disagree with using it to fund mass transit. If it was just to fix our infrastructure, then maybe I would buy it a little bit more. We are going to build new infrastructure that will require maintenance, on top of maintenance and we haven’t fixed what we have already. I am all for it, this resolution.

• Councilor Miner stated that everyone forgets that CT had tolls on our highways. Unfortunately due to some tragic accidents that occurred at a time where there was no high speed tolling, the decision was made to remove them by the Feds. The era of traveling through tolls now is much different. If you talk to New York on how they are handling EZ Pass violators, with the advent of licenses plate readers, they have officers stationed at the tolls areas and will seize your car if you have unpaid fees. The argument of saying it is uncollectible is not true. You cannot tell me this will pass in the middle of the night, and I would be concerned that were to happen. I ask our legislators who are sitting here to let us know if they hear of anything. This is a huge issue, but
where is the money going to come from? If we bond this, CT residents are going to be paying 100% of the cost. Even if it is just 10% from of out of state, then someone else is sharing the cost.

B. Annual Suspense List

Motion by Councilor Anest

RESOLVED,

That the Newington Town Council hereby authorizes transfers in the amount of $125,771.35 to the Suspense Tax Book for the tax year 2017-2018, 2016 Grand List. This action is being taken upon the recommendation of Corinne Aldinger, Revenue Collector, as shown in a report dated June 5, 2019.

Seconded by Councilor Marocchini. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Manke absent)

Motion by Councilor Anest

RESOLVED,

That the Newington Town Council hereby authorizes the outstanding balance from the 2003 Grand List in the amount of $9,698.54 be removed from the Town’s receivable assets as of June 30, 2019, as per the recommendation of Corinne Aldinger, Revenue Collector.

Seconded by Councilor Marocchini. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Manke absent)

C. Cancellation of the July 9, 2019 Meeting

Motion by Councilor Anest

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby moves to amend the approved meeting schedule by canceling its Regular Meeting of July 9, 2019.

Seconded by Councilor Marocchini. Motion passed. (Roll Call vote) (6) Yes; (2) No

- Councilor DelBuono asked how many will not be at the meeting the reasons.
- Councilor Anest stated five of us. We all have plans, unfortunately I will be moving my son.
- Councilor Arace stated that he will be away on business.
- Councilor Serra stated that she will be away.
- Councilor Miner stated that he will be in Bermuda.
- Councilor Marocchini stated that he will not be here.
- Mayor Zartarian stated that he plans his travels around these meetings, and this will be the fourth year he will be going to Vermont late.
- Councilor Anest stated that some of us had no choice.
- Councilor DelBuono stated that it is unprecedented to cancel a meeting because of peoples plans. I have a vacation coming up and I plan on being here for the meeting or business will go on without me. My understanding is that we could have a meeting, just not take action on things. It feels awkward to me to not have a meeting. Think it is a slippery slope to reschedule for that.
- Mayor Zartarian stated that there wouldn’t be a quorum to adjourn.
- Councilor Anest stated that we could schedule a meeting later that week.
- Councilor DelBuono stated that we cancel typically when there is no business to be conducted. Haven’t heard this as a reason.
- Mayor Zartarian stated that his concern is if they need to call a special meeting.
- Councilor Anest stated that she is available by phone and we can always schedule a meeting for that Thursday.
• Councilor Miner stated that on the 11th and 14th he will not be available, but with advance notice he can be.
• Councilor Serra stated that she is available by phone.
• Councilor Budrejko stated that if Councilor Anest agreed to reschedule...
• Councilor DelBuono stated that will be a special meeting.
• Councilor Anest stated that we will still be meeting that week.
• Councilor Budrejko stated that in the past...
• Councilor Anest stated that we generally cancel the second meeting in July.
• Councilor Budrejko stated that in the future, maybe pick a week and have that as a vacation and not schedule a meeting.

D. Placement of PCL Insurance Coverage for the Town of Newington

Motion by Councilor Serra

RESOLVED:

That in accordance with section 8-27(4)(a) of the Code of Ordinances, the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the recommendation of the Standing Insurance Committee and directs USI Insurance Services, of Meriden, as the Town’s Agent of Record to place workers compensation, general liability, automobile liability, professional liability and umbrella coverage with the Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency (CIRMA), effective July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2022.

Seconded by Councilor Manke. Motion passed 9-0.

• Councilor Arace stated that he wanted to clear something up that he read on Facebook with the increase. The way this works it the CIRMA has a pool and the rate is set on how the pool performs, it is not necessarily on one municipality having an oil spill. Overall this is very good for a municipality and clear up some conversation on Facebook.

VIII. CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS (Action May Be Taken by Waiving the Rules)

B. Approval of AMR Agreement

Motion by Councilor Marocchini

RESOLVED:

The Newington Town Council, in accordance with the Town Council, Rules of Procedure, §12 Voting, adopted May 10, 2016, hereby moves to allow action on New Business Agenda Item VIII.B to authorize Tanya D. Lane, Town Manager to execute an Agreement with American Medical Response (AMR).

Seconded by Councilor Arace. Motion passed 7-0 (Councilor Manke absent; Councilor DelBuono out of room)

Motion by Councilor Marocchini

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby authorizes the Town Manager to execute an agreement between the Town of Newington and American Medical Response (AMR) for professional ambulance services, said agreement shall be effective July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2023.

Seconded by Councilor Serra. Motion passed 7-0 (Councilor Manke absent; Councilor Arace out of room).

Public Participation

• Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive asked if this were an unusual circumstance or an emergency.
• Councilor Miner stated that he wanted to bring up two points regarding the AMR contract. This is the second contract and there have been no levies for fines against them, as well as consideration for providing another ambulance in town. NEMS is not in a position at this point to take over 24 hour service for the residents.
• Councilor Marocchini stated to answer Ms. Lyons, this is a special circumstance because the contract will expire on Sunday.
• Mayor Zartarian stated that there have been negotiations going on and have been discussed in executive session.

C. Discussion-Town Facilities Use Fee
• Town Manager Lane stated that the Facilities Rental Policy was established in 2003 with the intent of the Facilities Use Fees would be cost neutral to the town. At the suggestion of the Mayor, he suggested we table this until the new town hall facility is built.
• Tabled until new town hall built.

D. CIP Transfer-Fire Department
• Deputy Chief Trommer stated that they are looking to move funds from the energy efficient A/C account, we have done all of the work and also the energy efficient heating account for Company 1. Right now that is underfunded, it will cost $52,000 to complete that work. Looking to use these funds to replace two thermal image cameras that are outdated. These are important tools we use. Looking to transfer the money into the thermal imaging account.
• Councilor Marocchini stated that these have come up a couple of time in the CIP budget. Realized there is money on their side to shift to this account.
• Deputy Chief Trommer stated that they show hidden fires, they help locate victims, overheated mechanical equipment.
• Mayor Zartarian asked if they had that capability now or is this new.
• Deputy Chief Trommer stated that they currently have them, but the repair costs outweigh the cost of replacement.
• Mayor Zartarian asked if the energy efficient projects were taken care of.
• Deputy Chief Trommer stated that the only one not take care of was the radiant heat, that account was underfunded, the actual cost was actually $52,000. We will address this down the road. Janet suggested we leave that account open.
• Town Manager Lane stated it the end of the fiscal year and we need to waive the rules and act on it now.

Motion by Councilor Marocchini

RESOLVED:

The Newington Town Council, in accordance with the Town Council, Rules of Procedure, §12 Voting, adopted May 10, 2016, hereby moves to allow action on New Business Agenda Item VIII.D to approve the transfer of CIP funds for the Fire Department.

Seconded by Councilor Anest. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Manke absent)

Public Participation
• None

Motion by Councilor Marocchini.

CERTIFICATION:

In accordance with Section 808 of the Town Charter, I hereby certify that there exists, free from encumbrances, in the following appropriations in the CIP Fund, the amounts listed below.

7755479v1  Newington Town Council Meeting (6/25/2019) 11
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account Number</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30235-88935</td>
<td>Fire Co 1 Energy Eff A/C Repl</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30235-88936</td>
<td>Fire Co 1 Energy Eff Radiant Heat</td>
<td>$19,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Janet Murphy, Director of Finance

RESOLVED:
That the Newington Town Council hereby transfers the above-certified funds in the CIP Fund to the following account:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account Number</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30235-88315</td>
<td>Thermal Imaging Cameras</td>
<td>$24,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Seconded by Councilor Anest. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Manke absent)

IX. RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS (Action May Be Taken)
- None

X. TAX REFUNDS (Action Requested)
B. Approval of June 25, 2019 Refunds for an Overpayment of Taxes
Motion by Councilor Budrezko

RESOLVED:
That property tax refunds in the amount of $630.76 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 Marocchini. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Manke absent)

XI. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS
B. June 11, 2019 Special Meeting Minutes
C. June 11, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes
D. June 13, 2019 Special Meeting Minutes

Motion to accept the minutes of the above meetings, as amended, by Councilor Anest. Seconded by Councilor Serra. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Manke absent)
- Mayor Zartarian stated that on the June 11 Regular Meeting Minutes, page 14, first paragraph tolls should be tools.

XII. WRITTEN/ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER, OTHER TOWN AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS, OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS AND THE PUBLIC
- None

XIII. COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS
- Councilor Marocchini stated that the building committee met last Wednesday; putting in a lot of overtime to catch up, delays due to all the rain we have had. It will take the summer to get all the foundations in. With Change Orders we are $50,000 in the plus; very fluid process. The company we hired for the fire alarm system is doing the work for less than stated. While digging they found a couple more pockets of contaminated soil; hopefully not petroleum base. We are in good shape. Going well, going smooth. Team we have working on this is excellent, they keep up updated and informed. Next meeting is tomorrow at 5 p.m. future meetings will be the third Wednesday at each month.
• Councilor DelBuono stated that the Indian Hill Subcommittee has been meeting in terms of past contracts and future considerations with the club.

XIV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL (In Person/Via Telephone: 860-665-8736)
(3 MINUTE TIME LIMIT PER SPEAKER ON ANY ITEM)
• Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive stated she doesn’t want to keep Deputy Chief Trommer here any longer; just wondering how the agenda is set up, he sat here for two hours for his five minutes of response. She also suggested to watch you comments; you will be quoted with them come election time. As for Facebook, I don’t have a problem with issues being discussed, but when personal attacks are made, I find it offensive. Stick to the facts of the matter. In the 72 years I have lived here in Newington, I’ve never seen things so nasty. Glad Councilor Arace addressed the Facebook comment regarding the insurance. Understand not responding to posts, but like to see at meetings you address them. I have a copy of the PowerPoint presentation they presented at the VA today. I got to see a mole’s eye view of the project from the town clerk’s office.
• John Bachand, 56 Maple Hill stated he wanted to thank NCTV for having everything working properly and he could watch at home. Wanted to comment on Mike’s comments regarding conflict of interest. Not advocating that the six yes votes not be represented by legal council. Encouraged that you responded to my questions and get it out in the open. A petition for dismissal was filed in the court case; not much compromise seemed to occur. Can you be impartial? Fascinating case. Hoping that indication that this will go away; potential downside to this is huge. At the heart of the case we are talking about changing the result of an election. As Councilor DelBuono stated why bother having a referendum if you can change the outcome. Ask Mayor to reconsider separate councilor for the tow that requested it. Unprecedented. Case should be on it merit, not on a vote.

XV. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS
• Mayor Zartarian stated that he we will have a meeting with the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving regarding the Community Meeting Fund arranged by CROG; and a meeting with the Governor regarding the train station.

Council adjourned to executive session at 9:12 p.m.

XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

B. PENDING LITIGATION §1-200(6)(B) - Camillo et al v. Town of Newington

Motion by Councilor Anest

RESOLVED,

That the Newington Town Council, in accordance with CGS §1-200(6)(B) hereby moves to go into Executive Session, and invites the Town Council members, the Mayor and Tanya D. Lane, Town Manager, James Krupienski, Town Clerk, Counsel from Murtha Cullina, and Attorney Giontonio and Attorney Palomino to discuss Pending Litigation: Camillo et al v. Town of Newington.

Seconded by Councilor Marocchini. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Manke absent)

Councilor Miner exited at 9:55 pm and returned at 9:59 pm

Mayor Zartarian exited at 10:00 pm and returned at 10:03 pm.

Executive Session ended at 10:08 pm
ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilor Marocchini to adjourn meeting at 10:09 p.m. Seconded by Councilor Arace. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Manke absent).

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Susan Gibbon
Council Clerk
Dear Town Council,

I am here to speak against the proposed tolls in Connecticut. I am a Matco Tools Distributor and have been in business for a little over a year. As a small business owner just starting out every dollar is extremely important, and I need to get the most out of it. My business is run out of my Mobile Tool Store, a 26 ft Diesel Freightliner. My current route runs from Waterford to Clinton and up to East Haddam. This is where the bulk of the tolls will be concentrated, along I95 and Rte 9. As a small business I currently pay a lot of taxes and fees to the State of Connecticut for the privilege of doing business in this state. Fuel Tax, Sales Tax, Tire Tax, Property Tax, Vehicle Registration Fees, Business Entity Fees and probably about another 6 or 7 I am missing. Of course, let's not forget the Federal stuff. Tolls are just another TAX. I can't tell you how much this is going to cost a year because, apparently no one can come up with a decent solution. Flat rate, congestion pricing, State vehicles exempt, only “big” trucks. No matter what plan is it is too much for the small business owners to absorb. It has always been a concern of mine because of the “big” truck statement. I pay Gasoline tax which was supposed to be in a lockbox and used only for road improvements. We had a lock box for the Casino money that was supposed to go towards education, but if everyone has keys to the boxes it is not a lock box. Now we have the promise of another lock box for the tolls, which will not work. Statements made about borrowing against future revenue from the tolls renders the lockbox argument worthless. We have also heard “Just to be clear, we never raided the transportation lockbox, we diverted the money before it got there”. The Representative's name escapes me, at the moment, but it was on CTN. As a business owner, when we are not making enough to cover our expenses, we cannot reach into the tax payers’ pockets to make up for the loss. We either must cut expenses or go out of business. I would prefer to stay in business. There was also some talk of reducing the fuel taxes, but I guess that was another mis-quote. I currently consume about 104 gallons of Diesel Fuel a week and at a 25-cent tax per gallon that is almost $1,360 dollars a year. I could certainly use part of the money to go back into my business. I am also concerned about how The State of Connecticut is going to run this major operation. Will it be a new department, with new State Employees, new Equipment, and all the hierarchy that comes with state government. We have been told how much the tolls will raise, but no one has said how much it will cost? You can look at CT Fastrack and Hartford Rail if you need examples. My only way to reduce fuel cost is to move closer to my route, but I like living in Newington.

I will leave you with this final thought. You tax my vehicle and fuel, to drive on roads that are in disrepair and now want to tax me again to fix the roads that I am already taxed on.

Thank You for your time

John & Gavin Donahue
Donahue Matco Tool Distributors, Inc
28 Maple Hill Ave.
Newington, CT 06111
Why Tolls ARE NOT the Best Solution

In the spirit of full disclosure, let me first state that I am against any further tax increases. However, being the pragmatist that I am, this will be virtually impossible in a Democratic controlled legislature. With all due respect to Representative Turco, there is a better alternative! A better alternative to tolls, increases in the gas tax or income tax, expanding items subject to the sales tax, bonding against future toll revenue, or a myriad of other revenue schemes proposed by the Democrats certainly exists.

Democrats are attempting to raise approximately eight hundred million to a billion dollars from the tolls tax. This won’t happen for another four to five years until the gantries are installed. The current estimate to install the gantries is approximately eighty million dollars. How many state employees will be needed to administer this program or will this be a shared private and public partnership and at what cost?

We already have a sales tax system in place. An increase of just .5% in the sales tax will raise an estimated $340 million during the fiscal year. An increase of 1.5% will raise approximately $1020 billion dollars. This could be implemented immediately without the need for additional state employees, while avoiding the costs and delays associated with the ill-conceived tolls. The $1020 billion that would be generated annually should be directed to a secure Transportation Funding Lockbox with strict controls on how those funds could be appropriated for highway maintenance and construction. Revenue could start immediately, providing a gain of four to five billion dollars versus waiting four to five years for construction of gantries. The argument against raising the sales tax by 1.5% is that it would be detrimental to the lower income residents. But that is a disingenuous argument as they are already paying 6.35% in sales tax now. An additional $1.50 on a $100.00 purchase will not place an undue burden on anyone. All of our consumer products are delivered via the state’s infrastructure, and since we all benefit, this would be the simplest, fairest, quickest, and most cost effective solution to implement.

My plan can be implemented right now, with a gain of four to five billion dollars in the transportation fund before the toll revenue would even start. Why are we passing up the opportunity to realize a gain of four to five billion dollars?

Robert Briggaman
Newington, CT 06111