



Keith Chapman
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

MAYOR BETH DELBUONO

**NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, August 25, 2020

This meeting was presented as a Zoom Webinar/Meeting.

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2020 SEP -2 PM 12: 36

James Krupinski
Town Clerk

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

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ROLL CALL

Councilor Braverman
Councilor Budrejko
Councilor Camillo
Councilor Donahue
Councilor Manke
Councilor Miner
Councilor Nagel
Mayor DelBuono

Also present:

Keith Chapman, Town Manager
James Krupinski, Town Clerk
Susan Gibbon, Council Clerk

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Councilor Manke to approve the agenda as published. Seconded by Councilor Camillo.
Motion passed 8-0. (Councilor Anest absent)

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - IN GENERAL (Via Zoom Application or Phone)
(4 MINUTE TIME LIMIT PER SPEAKER ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

A. Public Comments

- Havital Meltz [sp?], 168 Nicholson Street assuming town has laid off or furloughed people; but tax bill is only \$20 less than last year, where is my money going? If money was not used, it should have gone to this year's budget. Concerned with extremely irresponsible spending on town buildings. The Town of Glastonbury built their town hall for \$10 million; ours was \$28 million, Rocky Hill built theirs for \$13 million. Now I'm hearing you want to renovate one school for \$35 million and you want to build a pool for \$20 million. Where are these numbers coming from? I'm in the financial industry and have renovated many rental properties, I don't understand where you get these numbers and such an abuse of taxpayers money. My next

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comment is to the town manager, I sent an email to Beth that was forwarded to you about a director in this town and received no response for six weeks. I sent another complaint and added a few items I would like to see added to that department and got a response from HR only about those additional items. The inappropriate behavior, in my opinion, of this director was never addressed. You get paid to do a job and I expect an answer.

- Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive stated that she was curious about the Mill Pond Park PBC - heard that it went from being a regular pool to an indoor pool - did that come to the council? Regarding Anna Reynolds, I have seen on Facebook, and have heard many times that council business is not done on Facebook, but I've seen requests for input for Anna Reynolds at this public hearing. Is that something new that we are doing? Just find these things unusual. What is the process now?

B. Email Correspondence

- None

V. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Councilor Manke asked the town manager for clarification and stated he believes that no town employees were laid off or furloughed and there was no reduction in payroll.
- Town Manager Chapman stated that is no employees on the town government side were laid off or furloughed. We made other arrangements to get the work done. No reduction in payroll.
- Councilor Manke stated that the council was not informed of the Mill Pond covered pool.
- Councilor Donahue stated that is correct. Someone made a comment about having a year round facility, it was discussed and we decided that wasn't the direction we wanted to go in. The next Mill Pond Park PBC will be meeting again on September 14, at 6:00 p.m.
- Councilor Budrejko stated that she wanted to acknowledge concerns by Ms. Meltz and Ms. Lyons. The previous town manager, during different economic times, spoke about how the town had such low debt, could borrow up to \$80 million, but 12 months can make a lot of difference. A lot has happened this past year - COVID, the storm that happened and the storms that will occur. We have to start reigning this in; money will not be coming from the state and we really have to start living within our means and acknowledge the reality of where we are living. It is going to be challenging but we will get through it. Projects may not get done and people need to be cognizant of that.
- Mayor DelBuono addressed Ms. Lyons comment regarding the Facebook post. I did put that up asking from comments from the public and the reason is that the hearing is on an off night, not with our regularly scheduled meeting. Wanted to make sure and assure everyone that the public hearing was coming up and wanted their input. Because it is not an in person meeting and it would be more difficult, we would like to waive the rules so that their letters can be read into the record letting us know how they feel about things. It is not typical that I would post something on Facebook, but times are not typical and it's not a typical public hearing and I wanted to let everyone know that they have a voice and easier way to make their opinion known.

VI. CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS

A. Health Update – COVID-19

- Town Manager Chapman stated that not much has changed since our last meeting. There is a sever spike in the western part of CT. The schools will be partially opening. The town hall and library will remain closed and we are installing glass partitions this week and next. No change in our position, know that there are new guidelines by CDC; taking it slow. Hoping what happens over the next couple of weeks will answer our questions.
- Councilor Manke asked if Newington has seen a spike in cases?

- Town Manager Chapman stated that approx. 80 people per day are testing positive. Resident wise there have been 8 deaths and 11 new workers in nursing homes have tested positive. Newington is holding its own and no employees have tested positive. As mentioned earlier, none of our people were laid off or furloughed. We kept everybody working on different shifts and it worked and my go back to that if COVID gets worse.
- Councilor Miner asked if the town manager could find out from Charles for a metrix that he is comfortable with to allow for in person meetings so at least we have a goal set that we are working towards. Stated wide positivity rate remains at point seven, not even one percent.
- Town Manager Chapman stated that was just updated to .92 percent. Will check with Mr. Brown to see what his thoughts are on in person meetings.
- Councilor Camillo asked if it was true that with the councilors and the members of staff we exceed the 10 person limit.
- Town Manager Chapman stated yea and that 10 is still the limit that he is aware of.
- Councilor Nagel stated that considering in person meetings, our new council chambers would be the place we would have them. Are there any estimates considering that?
- Town Manager Chapman stated that the new town hall council chambers is packed with boxes from the town clerk's office. If you do have in person meetings, the second floor meeting room is most likely where you will have the meeting until the chambers is completely cleared of all storage.
- Councilor Donahue stated don't forget the component to live broadcast from these rooms. Currently we are not set up in the conference room upstairs. Even though you can have a live meeting, there is no way to broadcast them.

B. Town Hall Project Update

- Town Manager Chapman stated that the town hall is fully occupied except for the gymnasium area, that is still being worked on. There are some questions I sent over to the state fire marshal's office, and to our fire marshal, concerning the egress and the bleacher situation; expecting a response by tomorrow from the state fire marshal - will share with council when received. Paul Boutot did a walk through today with our representative from Colliers on the development of punch list; there should be a punch list for the town, the contractor and the architect. Will meet tomorrow morning on the town version. The panels have been installed in the conference rooms, still waiting on gymnasium. We continue to get acclimated and comfortable in our new surroundings.

C. FFY 2020 Homeland Security Grant Program

Motion by Councilor Budrejko

RESOLVED:

That the Town of Newington, Town Council may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That Keith Chapman, as Town Manager of the Town of Newington, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Town of Newington and to do and perform all acts and things which he deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents, including, but not limited to, executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by such documents.

Be it further certified that Keith Chapman now holds the office of Town Manager and that he has held that office since January 10, 2020.

Seconded by Councilor Nagel. Motion passed 8-0 (via roll call vote) (Councilor Anest absent)

- Councilor Manke stated, for clarification, this is something we apply for every year at this time.
- Town Manager Chapman stated that is correct.

D. TPZ Referral for Former Barbour Road

- Mayor DelBuono stated that we have a Certificate of Action for Petition as well as a resolution. At the town council meeting on July 12 we referred the proposed sale to TPZ. At their meeting on August 12, they recommend approval of the sale of the property.

Motion by Councilor Manke

RESOLVED:

The Newington Town Council hereby moves to Place on File the Certificate of Action for Petition #27-20 – Sec. 8-24 Referral of Proposed Sale of Former Barbour Road, received from the Newington Town Plan & Zoning Commission, dated August 14, 2020, a copy of which is attached to this resolution.

Seconded by Councilor Braverman. Motion passed 8-0 (via roll call vote) (Councilor Anest absent)

E. Public Hearing for Sale of Town Owned Property-Former Barbour Road

- Town Clerk Krupienski stated that Newington does not have a process, however, the state does have a process that requires a public hearing for any property that is being sold in excess \$10,000 per CGS §7-163(e). We can schedule this for September 8, prior to our regular meeting. We can complete the process and authorize the sale by our town manager, through our town attorney, to have the deed drawn up and recorded for transfer.

Motion by Councilor Manke

RESOLVED:

The Newington Town Council hereby moves to schedules a Public Hearing on September 8, 2020 at 6:50 PM, regarding the Proposed Sale of a Portion of Former Barbour Road.

Seconded by Councilor Camillo. Motion passed 8-0 (via roll call vote) (Councilor Anest absent)

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. STEAP Grant Application – Senior Center Improvements (Waiver Requested)

- Town Manager Chapman stated that we have an opportunity to get this money that we weren't aware of until recently. It falls in line with COVID 19 requirements that windows open.
- Councilor Nagel stated that currently in CIP there is money for window replacements for at the senior center. Is this application going to be returned to CIP or will this enhance what is already in CIP.
- Town Manager Chapman stated that it is a matching grant, so we have to spend \$128,000 of town money to obtain this grant. No money will be going back into CIP.
- Councilor Nagel stated that the senior center initially asked for part of the windows to be done and were going to apply for a grant for the remainder.
- Town Manager Chapman stated that the funds in CIP were for only half of the windows being replaced and with this grant all the windows will now be replaced. We are doing a lot of work over at the center now. The town has been spending money over time to improve the senior center and surrounding areas. The next time to be done will be the HVAC system.
- Councilor Manke stated that he sees a motion in the packet to waive the rules. Is this because it is time sensitive? When is this due?
- Town Manager Chapman stated that is correct. The grant application is due on August 28.

Motion by Councilor Manke

RESOLVED:

The Newington Town Council, in accordance with the Town Council, Rules of Procedure, §11 Voting, adopted February 11, 2020, hereby moves to allow action on New Business Agenda Item VII.A, the STEAP Grant Application – Senior Center Improvements.

Seconded by Councilor Braverman. Motion passed 8-0 (via roll call vote) (Councilor Anest absent)

Motion by Councilor Nagel

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby approves the forgoing Resolution for the 2020 STEAP Grant Application – Senior Center Improvements.

RESOLVED, that Keith Chapman, Town Manager be, and hereby is, authorized to accept on behalf of the Town of Newington, a 2020 Connecticut STEAP Grant in the amount of \$128,200 for the Senior and Disabled Center Improvements; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Keith Chapman, Town Manager is hereby authorized to enter into and execute any and all agreements, contracts and documents necessary to obtain said 2020 STEAP Grant with the State of Connecticut.

Seconded by Councilor Budrejko. Motion passed 8-0 (via roll call vote) (Councilor Anest absent)

Public Participation

- Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive stated that it is wonderful they are applying for this grant and will be able to do the project 100%. Once again, I ask whether or not someone is in charge of looking at grants and determining when they need to be submitted. Today is August 25 and it is due August 28, that is cutting it close, would have hated to see us lose out on something. Thanked Councilor Nagel for asking if town needed to put up matching funds. Glad money is in CIP. Hope we get the grant. Once again, who is in charge and why is it so late coming to the council.
- Town Manager Chapman stated that due to COVID 19 communication between the state and towns is very weak with long delays with documents to be forwarded and this was in that category. We didn't receive it until late and got it ready to go quickly.
- Councilor Budrejko stated that she is pleased that the senior center is getting the benefits of these funds. Very good stewards of the facility. For them to get something they weren't expecting is wonderful.
- Councilor Miner stated it is important to pursue matching grant funds available in any capacity, because at the end of the day it is completing a project that needs to be done with state matching funds so I also support it.
- Councilor Manke stated that he also supports this and is happy that they are getting a project done in one year that they were expecting to take two. The money is already budgeted. It's a win, win.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that she agrees and it makes sense to waive the rules because the time line is to tight.

B. Waiver of Town Council Rules of Procedure - §11 Public Participation (Waiver Requested)

- Mayor DelBuono stated that this is in relation to the public hearing on August 27. Right now people can send in letters and emails to the town council members, but our rules and procedures currently say that they will be read and reviewed by councilors, but will not be read into the record, merely attached to the minutes. We are proposing to waive those rules for the public hearing this Thursday the 27th. The purpose of the public hearing is review the Anna Reynolds referendum language and to consider sending it to referendum.

Motion by Councilor Manke

RESOLVED:

The Newington Town Council, in accordance with the Town Council, Rules of Procedure, §11 Voting, adopted February 11, 2020, hereby moves to allow action on New Business Agenda Item VII.B, to Waive the Town Council Rules of Procedure - §10 Public Participation.

Seconded by Councilor Braverman. Motion passed 8-0 (via roll call vote) (Councilor Anest absent)

- Councilor Manke stated that it is unusual to have a public hearing in this format. We all would have preferred to have something in person, but this is an attempt to get their comments. Whenever I get a letter from the member of the public, I do read it and it is put on the record. This way they will be read and put on to the record as well.
- Mayor DelBuono stated she wanted to clarify that email is not the only way that you can participate in the meeting; that is just one available avenue. People can also participate via Zoom.
- Councilor Miner stated that he wanted to clarify that to have your email read into the record to include your full name and address. Agree that this is important and one more avenue to participate.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that we also request that you ask to have it read into the record. I will respond to those already received to make sure that is what they want done.
- Councilor Budrejko stated that she is glad we are doing this modification and the way we do business because this is a topic of high interest in the town. If we were doing business as usual, believe we would have had to move it to a bigger facility and the people who are writing in, would have been there in person. Thank everyone for accommodating this method of participation.
- Councilor Nagel stated that he agrees and that this is appropriate for the circumstances that we are in. Believe that we need to be clear as to when the emails are received by in order to be included in the meeting; believe there is a deadline for them to be received in order to be included on the record.

Motion by Councilor Nagel

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby moves to waive the Town Council Rules of Procedure - §10 Public Participation, to allow for email communications to be received and read into the record during the August 27, 2020 Public Hearing regarding the Anna Reynolds Elementary School Renovation Project. Email must be received by August 26, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

Seconded by Councilor Braverman. Motion passed 8-0 (via roll call vote) (Councilor Anest absent)

- Mayor DelBuono asked if the motion needed to be amended to include a deadline of when emails can be received. Typically, by council rules it is 5 p.m. the previous day.
- Councilor Donahue stated it was previously 24 hours but we changed it to five o'clock.
- Councilor Miner stated it is 5:00 p.m.
- Mayor DelBuono asked Councilor Nagel to amend the resolution to include a deadline that "email must be received by August 26, 2020 at 5:00 p.m."

Public Participation

- Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive stated that she is very much in favor of waiving the rules to have the emails read into the record. Not a fan of changing the rules, if a person takes the time to send a letter to an email it should be read into the record at the meeting. That is something I hope you revisit the next time you amend your rules and regulations. Also think that people should get used to attending meetings via Zoom. At 75 years old I figured how to get in and participate in these meetings. Those who have young children in the school should know how to participate and those that are opposed

should figure out how to participate as well. Think is it a good idea that you allow them to be read into the record.

- Councilor Manke stated that he agrees that these unusual circumstances and that having people participate via email is a good idea.
- Town Clerk Krupienski stated that during the public hearing there are two opportunities for the public to speak, but just want to make sure that people are aware that they are only allowed to speak once, either by email or in person.
- Mayor DelBouno stated that if you do send in an email and we read it during public participation, that would count as your public participation, you can't have both.
- Councilor Manke stated that we should develop a plan to read these. To Ms. Lyon's point of view, we do read the letters, but not into the meeting to help them go faster. It does take time to write a letter, but we do take time to read them, that is our job.
- Mayor DelBuono stated she did speak with James earlier and they are working on getting the emails to be displayed during the meeting on the Zoom app.
- Councilor Donahue stated that during a regular meeting they can speak during the first public participation and again during the second one.
- Town Clerk Krupienski stated that they are able to speak once during each public participation section. Just want to be sure that if someone sends an email they are not calling in and speaking. Will be developing a list.
- Councilor Miner stated for clarification - if a member of the public submits an email, that will be read in during the first public participation, but they can call in and participate in the second public participation. Is that correct?
- Mayor DelBuono stated that is correct according to our current council rules.

VIII. RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS (Action May Be Taken)

- None

IX. TAX REFUNDS (Action Requested)

A. Approval of August 25, 2020 Refunds for an Overpayment of Taxes

Motion by Councilor Budrejko

RESOLVED:

That property tax refunds in the amount of \$1,704.10 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 Manke. Motion passed 7-0 (via roll call vote) (Councilor Anest absent/Councilor Camillo not responding)

X. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A. August 11, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion by Councilor Budrejko to approve the above referenced minutes. Seconded by Councilor Camillo. Motion passed 7 yes, 1 abstention (Manke) (via roll call vote) (Councilor Anest absent).

XI. WRITTEN/ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

- Town Manager Chapman stated that the debris cleanup by the town from the storm was completed; still have quite a bit of material at the transfer station. Think the crews did a wonderful job and are

back to doing paving. Want to congratulate the guys from parks and highways for doing a wonderful job.

- Mayor DelBuono stated absolutely, they did a wonderful job.
- Councilor Miner asked the town manager if we met thresholds for FEMA reimbursements.
- Town Manager Chapman stated estimates for all the work that was done and for remaining work that needs to be done to the state; should be getting some type of response soon.
- Councilor Nagel stated that he wanted to extend his thanks to the town for picking up all of that debris all over town. Is the state still going to fund the Maple Hill Avenue project?
- Town Manager Chapman stated that we received 50% of the LOCIP grant and paving projects are underway. As far as the Maple Avenue and Robbins Avenue project, don't anticipate it will be done this fall. We are not optimistic, but are on the list.
- Councilor Miner asked about Eversource response. Has there been any further discussions with the state? After Sandy, we were supposed to have a liaison and dedicated crews.
- Town Manager Chapman stated that he received a call from our Eversource contact today. Taking a quiet position on this; not sure who is to blame. Bottom line is they failed miserably. Don't think CCM has taken a position on this yet.
- Councilor Miner stated that basically if falls on Eversource. It is a 3-step process - Eversource needs to determine if a line is safe or not and seemed to be the biggest hang up.
- Town Manager Chapman stated that he was out at Main Street and Superior and we got someone to determine whether it was live or not. Some property damage.
- Councilor Manke stated that he appreciates all the work by town staff.

XII. COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Councilor Budrejko stated that at the TPZ meeting they decided to keep the public hearing regarding the POCD 2030 Plan open for one more week. Not a lot of comments from the public, but not much controversial in it. Was reviewed thoroughly by TPZ, and the consultant met with other commissions to get their input. One thing that TPZ asked for was Newington Town Council thoughts. Councilor Anest and I had indicated to them that we are received and read the draft reports but we waiting for public comment. Since there was not much public comment, not sure what the council wants to do. We can tell them that we don't have any concerns with the draft.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that was on our agenda a couple of time and there were no significant concerns or comments from council members; did want to wait until public hearing and until something changes drastically, think that the council is ok with the draft.
- Councilor Miner stated for the liaison report for the Board of Fire Commissioners, as of August 21, Chief Chris Schroeder retired from the Newington Volunteer Fire Department after 46 years of service to the town. I personally would like to them him of his years of service to the department and had it not been fro may interaction with him in 2006 I probably would not have joined the department. I wish him well in his retirement. Assistant Chief Tom Lapierre is the acting Fire Chief until such time when the Board of Fire Commissioners meet and goes through the process of appointing a permanent replacement.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that is an incredible thing to hear and all of those volunteer hours in put into the town. Hope that the council will be able to honor him in the near future a little more formally.
- Councilor Donahue stated that the next Mill Pond Park PBC meeting is on September 14 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom.

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

- Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive thanked Councilor Donahue for providing the time of the next Mill Pond Park PBC meeting, maybe at that time can ask my questions how the covered pool got to be. As far as the public hearing coming up, have a problem following things on Facebook, but did see Mayor DelBuono's post and Mr. Branda's post. My thought is putting it on Facebook opens it up to a lot of questions and people don't get the right information, they get misinformation. I have been watching this project when it started out at \$14 million now it's at \$35 million. The question I would like answered is do we have any reports from the facilities consultant's we engaged to look at our facilities and see what needs to be done in our various town buildings. That is something that I would like to know about. Once again, I have not been diligent in attendance, still confused as to what is going to happen on Thursday night. It is that that you are going to send it to referendum, is that why you are pushing for public participation to get their opinions on what needs to be done?
- Ms. Meltz, 168 Nicholson Street thanked the town manager for answering the question about employees being laid off or furloughed. Have a follow up question - so everybody worked there full time, no reduced hours including, for example, the cafeteria staff in the school and the senior center, the bus drivers - I would like to know that. Gail, thank you for talking about the \$80 million and is that something that should be spent. Most people don't renovate their whole house unless they buy it to flip; not usually something that is being done. Just because we have a line of up to \$80 million, it doesn't mean all that has to be spent. We need more fiscal responsibility in town. My last comment is I am an unaffiliated voter and because I am an unaffiliated voter, I cannot be part of a committee and I'm specifically going to mention the committee for the town hall, I know for a fact that some of the people do not own property in town and do not have skin in the game and I find that to be very disturbing that the \$28 million was in no way their responsibility and they have no understanding of finances, no understanding of any type of construction. They were just appointed because they are affiliated and belong to one of the parties. I would like to see something change here, not that I would like to be on a committee, but finances is my industry, I am a real estate investor, I own property in town and I can't be on that committee whereas somebody that doesn't understand anything, not to be disrespectful, maybe there are great at whatever it is they are doing, but they don't understand anything to do with finances or construction and don't own property in town but they can on a committee that puts us in debt just because they belong to a party. I would like to see if the town council is open to have people not affiliated with a party join committees of any sort in town. Very happy that you are doing things at the Senior Center.

XIV. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

- Mayor DelBuono stated that she would like to address a couple of things. First to Ms. Meltz, unaffiliated voters are able to serve on committees, but you have to be appointed by either the Democratic or Republican town committees and both of those committees have in the past appointed unaffiliated people to positions, so you have to express interest to them. In terms of furloughed and laid off workers, I don't know if Mr. Chapman is comfortable answering that question now. From the school perspective, you have to reach out to them regarding their furloughs or layoffs in terms of cafeteria workers and bus drivers. I know that some of the bus drivers were delivering food and lunches to families that qualified for that.
- Town Manager Chapman stated that the senior center bus drivers have been working delivering food to those that are homebound. The employees that were scheduled to work at the parks for the month of June early on were kept on the payroll and their contracts ended they were taken off because there was no guarantee of work. As far as fulltime employees, the parks and highway employees were put on a seven day work schedule, 3½ days each, 10 hours a day and one day being 5 hours. The police department kept with their normal schedule. We were fortunate, everyone stepped up to the plate and we are now back to normal scheduling. But, as I pointed out,

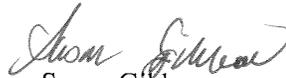
there are things in the park that we are not doing so we didn't bring back as many employees as we normally would, but overall we tried to keep everybody whole during this pandemic.

- Mayor DelBuono stated that she wanted to address the comments by Ms. Lyons regarding the procedure for Thursday. It is a public hearing where we will be hearing comments from the public and reading letters that we receive by tomorrow at the 5 p.m. deadline. Following the public hearing, there will be a special meeting of the town council for purpose of discussion of the public comments, adopting the bond ordinance and setting a date for referendum and taking a vote on those matters. So, yes, we are looking for public to move that forward to referendum.
- Councilor Budrejko stated that she wanted to comment on Ms. Meltz' inquiry regarding membership on committees. Know that both town committees, there are vacancies on different boards and commission and encourage you to look on the town website and see all the positions that are available and there are memberships as well as vacancies listed on there and if you have a specific are of interest you may want to contact the party chairman or they may have a nominating committee person and express your interest and ask them to keep you in mind as vacancies occur. Participation from the public is welcome. To be good commission member or committee member it takes time and research.
- Councilor Miner stated that he wanted to follow up to Ms. Meltz' comments. First and foremost is the perception that in order to be on a committee or commission one needs to own property in town, from my understanding that is not correct, the only prerequisite is that the person is a registered voter within the Town of Newington. Am I correct in that?
- Mayor DelBuono stated that is her understanding.
- Councilor Miner stated that of clarification you don't have to own property, but be a registered voter in town. The second is the Board of Education did have a large surplus that was returned to the town general fund and that was addressed during the final budget deliberations. So there were substantial funds returned to the general fund that was sizable and was due to layoffs and the fact that they did not have a lot of staff on hand.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that the BOE returned \$1.5 million to the general fund in May of this year but they did spend down almost \$5 million to get some additional items that were not included in their initial budgeting.
- Councilor Braverman stated that she attend the Board of Education hybrid convocation yesterday. It was online, but it was well done. Mark Brackett from Yale gave a great talk and Dr. Brummett did a great job as always and the faculty was sitting in the auditorium properly distanced.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilor Manke to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m. Seconded by Councilor Donahue.
Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Anest absent).

Respectfully submitted,



Susan Gibbon
Council Clerk