

**BOROUGH OF NEWTOWN  
NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT**

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Borough of Newtown Board of Burgesses on **Tuesday, February 14, 2012** at Edmond Town Hall, Newtown, CT. Warden Gaston called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

**Present:** Warden James Gaston, Senior Burgess Joan Crick, Second Senior Burgess Jay Maher, Burgess Anthony Baiad (7:38), Burgess Betsy Kenyon, Burgess Bill Lucas (7:36), Treasurer and Burgess Marie Walker, Tax Collector Jodie Enriquez, Zoning Officer Jean St. Jean, Clerk Ann Benore

**Also Present:** Tree Warden Rob McCulloch, Alan Shepard (Borough Representative, WPCA)

Burgess Betsy Kenyon made a motion to accept the January 10, 2012 meeting minutes, seconded by Second Senior Burgess Jay Maher and unanimously approved.

Tree Warden: Rob McCulloch reported that Newtown Arbor removed the tree at 1 Currituck Road. Also to be removed, are two trees on Glover Avenue on the Meadow Road side of the street (#10 and #12 Glover Avenue) as well as a tree at 32 Queen Street. As spring approaches he will ride through the Borough and list questionable trees. There could be a total of 8 trees removed – 4 on Main Street, 3 on Glover Avenue, and one on Queen Street. Mr. McCulloch recommends appropriating \$500 each for 8 trees to be replaced. He also stated that he is getting prices on removing a tree at 7 Hanover Road.

Burgess Lucas made a motion to appropriate \$500 each for 8 trees to be replaced totaling \$4,000, Burgess Kenyon seconded the motion and unanimously approved.

Public Participation: Alan Shepard, Borough Representative for the Water Pollution Control Authority, explained the origin of the sewer plan for the Borough. When the sewer plan was first adopted it did not include Fairfield Hills. It was negotiated with the State for them to buy into the plan. Since then, the town has purchased the campus part of Fairfield Hills and switched over to metering individual flow into the sewers. There has been some talk on the WPCA board that they accept Fairfield Hills into their plan. However, Mr. Shepard does not agree given that sewer lines are not up to code and some are leaking. Nunnawauk Meadows and Garner are part of the state capacity whereas Fairfield Hills is its own entity at \$100,000 gallons per day. Any cost for improvements to the sewer lines in the future could fall on the Borough users the way it currently stands. Right now the users are paying to treat 1/3 more water because of leakages. Mr. Shepard suggests that we need to define our service areas and he suggests that Fairfield Hills be considered a separate service area. (When the houses at the end of Queen Street went in, they were not charged for sewer usage.) He states that, for instance, if 150 units are built at Fairfield Hills, the current line will not be able to handle the water. Someone will have to assume the cost and he is concerned that the Borough users may have to pay for the work.

The Fairfield Hills Campus (the Town) has 100,000 gallons capacity per day of waste water using the same treatment plant as the Borough. The plant can handle 1.4 million gallons a day total. When the State sold FFH to the town, they retained 650,000 gallons and gave 100,000 gallons to the town for the Fairfield Hills Campus, Garner has 350,000 gallons. Therefore, the State has 200,000 gallons capacity available. The balance of the 1.4 million is used by the Borough, which has 1,500 users.

In the town's CIP, \$600,000 was put in for water to bring the main line to the proposed Ambulance building and other improvements. Mr. Shepard suggests that we need to negotiate a deal upfront with any developer coming in to FFH for upgrading the sewer lines. Warden Gaston asked what the cost would be to repair the lines. Mr. Shepard said that it would be substantial and suggested reducing the scope of lines going to buildings that are not in use. He said that he believes this work and the planning could be done with current town staff.

Warden Gaston believes that Mr. Shepard is on the right track with bringing this issue to the Borough's attention. Burgess Baiad and Senior Burgess Crick thanked Mr. Shepard for his continued service to the Borough.

Warden's Report: Warden Gaston reported that he received a copy email from Bruce Walczak to the First Selectman regarding the sidewalk plan on Queen Street. The town has applied for a grant for the project. Mr. Walczak questioned the decision to put sidewalks on the west side of Queen Street. Warden Gaston reported that no decision had been made as to which side of Queen Street the sidewalks would go, nor whether changes to the triangle were planned. Instead, the First Selectman has indicated the public, the Borough and town would all be involved in the process should and/or when the grant money comes through.

Warden Gaston reported that he also received a copy letter from Karen Pierce, Nettleton Road, which was sent to Paul Mangiafico, Chairman of Police Commission. Her letter addressed the issue of putting traffic lights in at the flagpole. Warden Gaston said that any proposal would have to go to the Borough's Historic District Commission. Warden Gaston indicated that traffic lights on the flagpole have long been recognized as presenting - winter safety hazards given the road slope; cuing issues; noise issues; and if implemented, create incentive for the State to widen Main Street to four lanes to address the slope, and cueing issues, thus resulting in the loss of the 'pristine early American elegance of Main Street' (New York Times). Resultantly, the Borough opposes traffic lights at or on the flagpole.

It was noted that the Borough office is in use daily by Borough officials and Boards and Commissions. Use includes most evening and days. It was noted that the Borough office contains important documents that requires security, and the office is located such that it has access to its required vault.

Burgess Baiad made a motion to donate \$2,500 to the Edmond Town Hall Board of Managers for the Borough's use of the office, Senior Burgess Joan Crick seconded the motion and unanimously approved.

Warden Gaston also mentioned a request for the maintenance on the islands in the Borough to go out to bid. Tree Warden Rob McCulloch expressed an interest in bidding on the work as well. It was discussed whether his bid would be a conflict of interest given his position as Tree Warden.

The Board of Burgess noted Tree services are separate and apart from the island maintenance care. The Board of Burgesses indicated it perceived no conflict. Second Senior Burgess Maher and Burgess Kenyon will look at the islands, etc. and develop specs for a bid on the work.

Tax Collector's Report: Tax Collector Enriquez presented the December 2011 report: Total Taxes Due for the List of 2010: \$168,543.73; Current Taxes: \$156,102.57; Back Taxes: \$4,410.88; Interest: \$1,281.19; Lien Fees: \$384.00; Return of Overpayments: (\$1,225.44). Total Submitted to Treasurer to Date: \$160,600.00. Current Taxes Collected: \$154,877.13. She also presented the January 2012 report: Total Taxes Due for the List of 2010: \$168,543.73; Current Taxes: \$157,122.02; Back Taxes: \$4,555.94; Interest: \$1,403.66; Lien Fees: \$408.00; Return of Overpayments: (\$1,225.44). Total Submitted to Treasurer to Date: \$160,600.00. Current Taxes Collected: \$155,896.58.

Burgess Kenyon made a motion to accept the Tax Collector's Report for December 2011,  
Burgess Walker seconded and unanimously approved.

Burgess Kenyon made a motion to accept the Tax Collector's Report for January 2012, Burgess Baiad seconded and unanimously approved.

Tax Collector Enriquez also presented the 2011 Grand List of Taxable Property and reported the Final Total Taxable being \$265,280,545.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Walker reported the following: An additional transfer of \$26,000.00 was made last month to cover a bill from the Fire Hydrant line item, leaving a total of \$238,154.13. A transfer of \$8,000.00 was made to cover this month's invoicing, leaving a total of \$230,665.69 to date in the NSBMM account. Capital Reserve is \$1,900.05 as of January 31, 2012.

Second Senior Burgess Maher made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Burgess Kenyon and unanimously approved.

Zoning Officer's Report: Zoning Officer Jean St. Jean reported that the property at 30 & 32 Church Hill Road will be designed by Ben Sullivan. A traffic light will be placed there if deemed necessary. She also reported that Dr. Beck will be moving in a trailer at 12 Queen Street while the existing building is being demolished.

Historic District: Burgess Kenyon reported one application by Eric DaSilva for a new sign application. Mr. DaSilva spoke to Don Mitchell relative to the new regulations. He presented four different styles and the Historic District requested a white background with black letters. Subject to approval of the new regulation, the Historic District did approve his application.

Sidewalks: Second Senior Burgess Maher reported that all was quiet.

Streets & Parks: Second Senior Burgess Maher reported that he will work on the specs for the islands.

Old Business: Second Senior Burgess Maher reported that the State approved the Historic District signs.

New Business: None.

Public Participation: None.

**The regular meeting of the Borough of Newtown Board of Burgesses will held on March 13, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. in the Borough Office at Edmond Town Hall.**

There being no further business, Burgess Baiad made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 p.m., seconded by Burgess Lucas and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann M. Benore  
Borough Clerk