

**BOROUGH OF NEWTOWN
NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT**

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Borough of Newtown Board of Burgesses on **Tuesday, April 9, 2013** in the Borough Office at Edmond Town Hall, Newtown, CT. Warden Gaston called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Present: Warden James Gaston, Senior Burgess Joan Crick, Second Senior burgess Jay Maher, Burgess Anthony Baiad, Burgess Betsy Kenyon, Zoning Officer Jean St. Jean, Tax Collector Jodie Enriquez, Clerk Ann Benore, Tree Warden Rob McCulloch

Absent: Burgess Bill Lucas, Burgess Kim D'Amico, Treasurer Cathy Monckton

Burgess Kenyon made a motion to accept the March 12, 2013 regular meeting minutes, seconded by Burgess Baiad and unanimously approved.

Public Participation: Diana Johnson, Newtown Town & Country Garden Club introduced herself to the Board and informed them that the Garden Club received a proposal for planting on Traffic Island 1 (Queen Street and Church Hill Road). The Garden Club's Board decided that the proposal was too expensive and was not fitting for a busy traffic island. She stated the Garden Club will continue to maintain the island as it has in the past. She also stated that they received an offer from Dave DiLeo from Royal Oaks to trim the tree on that island free of charge. Warden Gaston asked Tree Warden Rob McCulloch to contact Mr. DiLeo to review the plan. Burgess Kenyon thanked Ms. Johnson and the Garden Club for all the hard work that they put in to maintaining the islands. All agreed.

Mike Nowak, 7 Patriot Ridge Road (Avion Energy), presented the Energy Rate Comparison that he prepared at the request of the Board at last month's meeting. He received 2 quotes which offered fixed rates for terms of 12 month, 24 month, or 36 month for an average savings of \$400 to \$650 per year. The Board reviewed the numbers and decided that they would be interested in the 24 month contract with Nextera Energy.

Burgess Baiad made a motion to contract with Nextera Energy for a 24 month term to reduce energy costs, seconded by Burgess Kenyon and unanimously approved.

Tree Warden: Tree Warden McCulloch reported that the work at 13 Lovell's Lane is almost complete. He said the he will begin plantings in the next couple of months on Main Street, Glover Avenue and Lovell's Lane. He will get the trees from Planters Choice and will look into quotes for the labor/installation of the trees.

Warden's Report: Warden Gaston reported that the property on Castle Hill Road (Bridgeport Diocese) that was discussed at last month's meeting has been purchased by the Drapers. He is pleased with the outcome and felt that the Diocese did take into consideration the Board's position on the sale and future of the property.

Budget: Warden Gaston presented the proposed budget for 2012-2013. Each line item was reviewed and discussed as well as the revenue figures. The Proposed Mill Rate for 2013/2014 is 0.91. The Mill Rate reflects an approximate 30% value depreciation in Grand List properties. At the 2012-2013 Grand List rate, Mill Rate would be equivalent to 0.70 Mills.

Zoning Officer Jean St. Jean pointed out that the \$10,000 figure for Building Revenues Anticipated was low and felt it should be adjusted to \$12,500. Therefore, Warden Gaston will adjust the numbers to reflect that change and lower the mill rate.

Burgess Kenyon made a motion to accept the 2013-2014 Budget at next month's meeting which will reflect the \$2,500 increase in Building Revenues Anticipated, seconded by Burgess Baiad and unanimously approved.

A meeting of the property owners and/or electors of the Borough of Newtown will be held on May 14, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. in the Old Courtroom at Edmond Town Hall for the purpose of voting on the proposed budget for the fiscal year 2013-2014. A special meeting of the Board of Burgesses will be held immediately following the meeting of property owners, in the Borough Office at Edmond Town Hall, 45 Main Street, Newtown, CT.

Tax Collector's Report: Tax Collector Enriquez reported the following for March 2013: Total Taxes Due for the List of 2011: \$169,413.31; Current Taxes: \$162,516.00; Back Taxes: \$2,535.16; Interest: \$1,745.96; Lien Fees: \$304.48; Write-Offs: (\$78.32); Refunds: (\$822.28). Total Submitted to Treasurer to Date: \$164,500.00. Current Taxes Collected: \$162,516.00.

Senior Burgess Joan Crick made a motion to accept the Tax Collector's Report for March 2013, seconded by Burgess Baiad and unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: No report due to Treasurer Monckton's absence. Clerk Benore did report that \$159.51 was needed in Line Item Office Supplies to cover this month's invoicing.

Senior Burgess Jay Maher made a motion to transfer \$160.00 from Contingency to Office Supplies, seconded by Burgess Baiad and unanimously approved.

Zoning Officer's Report: Zoning Officer Jean St. Jean reported that Dr. Beck did take down the building at 12 Queen Street and will now ask for an extension at tomorrow's Borough Zoning meeting.

Historic District: Burgess Kenyon reported that an application was received to place a fixture on the flagpole that would reflect 26 pieces of light shining down the flagpole in honor of the events of December 14, 2012. There will be a hearing scheduled in the next week or so to discuss the matter.

Sidewalks: Senior Burgess Maher had nothing to report.

Streets & Parks: Senior Burgess Maher had nothing to report.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Public Participation: None.

A special meeting the Board of Burgesses will be held on Tuesday, May 14, 2013 immediately following the budget meeting in the Borough Office in Edmond Town Hall, Newtown, CT

There being no further business, Burgess Baiad made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 p.m., seconded by Senior Burgess Crick and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann M. Benore
Borough Clerk