

**BOROUGH OF NEWTOWN
NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT**

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Borough of Newtown Board of Burgesses on **Tuesday, April 8, 2014** in the Borough Office at Edmond Town Hall, Newtown, CT. Warden Gaston called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

Present: Warden James Gaston, Senior Burgess Joan Crick, Second Senior Burgess Jay Maher, Burgess Betsy Kenyon, Burgess Bill Lucas, Burgess Chris Gardner, Zoning Officer Jean St. Jean, Tax Collector Jodie Enriquez, Treasurer Paula Brinkman, Clerk Ann Benore

Absent: Burgess Anthony Baiad, Tree Warden Rob McCulloch

Also Present: One member of the public.

Second Senior Burgess Maher made a motion to accept the March 11, 2014 regular meeting minutes, seconded by Burgess Lucas and unanimously approved.

Public Participation: Paul Morris, 15 Glover Avenue, asked about the status of the bamboo issue. Warden Gaston said he has met with Conservation and they have the same concern with the spreading bamboo. The statute was reviewed and they looked at other towns and what ordinances may have been passed. So far there have only been proposals. Don Mitchell, Borough Attorney, has been asked to draft an ordinance and Warden Gaston stated that he will follow up with Attorney Mitchell and get an update.

Tree Warden: No report due to Rob McCulloch's absence.

Warden's Report: Warden Gaston reported there was a vacancy on the Borough Zoning Commission (Alternate position) and asked for a motion to appoint Susan Filan, 1 Lovell's Lane, to fill the vacancy.

Burgess Kenyon made a motion to appoint Susan Filan as an Alternate on the Borough Zoning Commission, seconded by Second Senior Burgess Maher and unanimously approved.

Warden Gaston also reported that he received an invoice from the Edmond Town Hall Board of Managers with respect to rent due for the Borough's use of office space. He stated that the office space was available in ETH back in 2009 and a municipality was needed to occupy the space in accordance with the deed to the property. The Borough had agreed to make a \$2,500.00 contribution for management expense on a yearly basis. He was not opposed to increasing the contribution to \$3,500.00 for the upcoming budget year 2014-2015. He will contact the Board of Managers about the matter.

Tax Collector's Report: Tax Collector Enriquez reported the following for March 2014: Total Taxes Due for the List of 2012: \$192,172.81; Current Taxes: \$186,891.03; Back Taxes: \$5,684.53; Interest: \$5,286.62; Lien Fees: \$1,038.50; Write-Offs: \$54.98; Refunds:

(\$4,515.65). Total Submitted to Treasurer to Date: \$193,500.00. Current Taxes Collected: \$186,891.03.

Burgess Chris Gardner made a motion to accept the Tax Collector's Report for March 2014, seconded by Burgess Kenyon and unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Paula Brinkman read the report: A deposit of \$500.00 was made from Tax Collector Jodie Enriquez making a total of \$193,500.00. No transfer was needed for this month's invoicing. Capital Reserve is \$1,902.10 as of March 31, 2014.

Burgess Lucas made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for March 2014, seconded by Burgess Gardner and unanimously approved.

Zoning Officer's Report: Zoning Officer Jean St. Jean reported that the Pod was removed from the 64 Main Street property. She also reported that Hugh Sullivan has been contacted to put together plans for the Lexington Gardens project. Ms. St. Jean will be meeting with George Benson next week to discuss the blight issues at 14 Queen Street and 48 Main Street. She also reported that the Borough is close to being built up; therefore, building fees will be slowing down in the next year or two.

Historic District: Burgess Kenyon had nothing to report.

Sidewalks: Senior Burgess Maher reported that he spoke with Rob Sibley and that 3 contractors are reviewing bids for the sidewalk work to be done on Church Hill Road. He expects a bid to be awarded in the next couple of weeks.

Streets & Parks: Senior Burgess Maher reported that the check for \$500.00 from Lou Sclafani, 10 Glover Avenue, was received for trees planted on his property.

Old Business: Senior Burgess Crick said she was contacted by Dr. Robert Grossman, 49 Mt. Pleasant Road, regarding sewers. He stated that when the sewer line was put in on Mt. Pleasant Road he was told his property would eventually be hooked up. Senior Burgess Crick asked to look into this matter on his behalf. Warden Gaston and the Board agreed.

She also asked if someone could get her the pole number at 21 Grand Place so she can have the light replaced. Treasurer Brinkman offered to do that for her.

New Business: Clerk Benore asked the Board for permission to purchase a new copier for the Borough's use.

Senior Burgess Crick made a motion to use \$500.00 or less in Borough funds for a new copier, seconded by Burgess Lucas and unanimously approved.

Budget: Warden Gaston presented the proposed budget for 2014-2015. Each line item was reviewed and discussed as well as the revenue figures. The Proposed Mill Rate for 2014/2015 is 0.87 which represents a 0.02 decrease in taxes.

Burgess Kenyon made a motion to accept the 2014-2015 Proposed Budget to be presented at next month's public hearing, seconded by Burgess Lucas and unanimously approved.

A meeting of the property owners and/or electors of the Borough of Newtown will be held on May 13, 2014 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 2014-2015. 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.

Public Participation: None.

There being no further business, Burgess Gardner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m., seconded by Second Senior Burgess Maher and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann M. Benore
Borough Clerk