

**BOROUGH OF NEWTOWN  
NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT**

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Borough of Newtown Board of Burgesses on **Tuesday, June 10, 2014** in the Borough Office at Edmond Town Hall, Newtown, CT. Warden Gaston called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m.

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

**Absent:** Senior Burgess Joan Crick, Burgess Bill Lucas, Burgess Chris Gardner

**Burgess Baiad made a motion to accept the May 13, 2014 special meeting minutes,** seconded by Second Senior Burgess Maher and unanimously approved.

**Second Senior Burgess Maher made a motion to accept the May 13, 2014 regular meeting minutes,** seconded by Burgess Baiad and unanimously approved.

**Public Participation:** None.

**Warden's Report:** Warden Gaston reported that work was still being done on the bamboo ordinance.

**Tree Warden:** Rob McCulloch had nothing new to report. Second Senior Burgess Maher asked whether there should be concern about the 3 tall dead ash trees on the island at Johnnycake Lane. Rob McCulloch said he will take a look at them this week.

**Tax Collector's Report:** Tax Collector Enriquez reported the following for May 2014: Total Taxes Due for the List of 2012: \$192,172.81; Current Taxes: \$188,207.81; Back Taxes: \$7,240.43; Interest: \$6,170.31; Lien Fees: \$1,158.50; Write-Offs: \$54.98; Refunds: (\$4,515.65). Total Submitted to Treasurer to Date: \$200,500.00. Current Taxes Collected: \$188,207.81. Warden Gaston noted that the 97.7% collection rate was above anticipated and thanked Tax Collector Enriquez for her efforts.

**Second Senior Burgess Maher made a motion to accept the Tax Collector's Report for May 2014,** seconded by Burgess Kenyon and unanimously approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Paula Brinkman read the report: A deposit of \$2,000.00 was made from Tax Collector Jodie Enriquez making a total of \$200,500.00. Total deposits for building and zoning fees were \$11,687.20. A transfer of \$15,000.00 was made for this month's invoicing. Capital Reserve is \$1,902.26 as of May 31, 2014.

**Burgess Kenyon made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for May 2014,** seconded by Burgess Baiad and unanimously approved.

**Zoning Officer's Report:** Zoning Officer Jean St. Jean reported that George Benson, Blight Enforcement Officer of the Town, wrote a letter to the owner of 48 Main Street regarding the condition of that property. She also reported that the Health Department is still looking into the lead paint problem at 14 Queen Street. She reported that the foundation came in at Lexington Gardens and that the two side buildings will be constructed first. She also reported that the preliminary plans for the Newtown Hook & Ladder firehouse came in and they include the installation of a sidewalk in front of the property.

**Historic District:** Burgess Kenyon read the report provided by board member Stephanie Gaston. She stated that 2 applications came in: an application from 13 Main Street for the enclosure of the upper platform of a deck, which was approved; and the pre-application from Newtown Hook & Ladder. NH&L is taking into consideration the recommendations made by the Historic District.

**Sidewalks:** Senior Burgess Maher reported that the project on the north side of Church Hill Road is moving forward. LRM will be the contractor and is putting together the plans to be presented to the Historic District. The cost of the project will be \$193,000 and Joe Draper has generously agreed to cover the cost. The project is expected to be completed by the end of the Fall of 2014. Senior Burgess Maher also reported that he submitted an invoice for \$1,500 for the masonry work done at the library, which came within budget.

Burgess Kenyon asked about how the salt used over the long winter has affected the condition of the sidewalks. Mr. Maher stated that there are areas that have been affected and he suggested that the sidewalks be sealed to prevent future damage. Discussion followed.

**Burgess Kenyon made a motion to spend \$10,000.00 on the maintenance (sealing) of the sidewalks focusing on the most needed areas,** seconded by Burgess Baiad and unanimously approved.

**Streets & Parks:** Burgess Kenyon asked whether there were guidelines in place with respect to putting benches along Main Street which would be placed on State property. Mr. Maher stated that he may need a sign-off from the State and he would look into the matter.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** Warden Gaston presented the contract dated May 21, 2014 from Nanavaty, Nanavaty & Davenport to conduct the annual audit and the fee will be \$5,700.00.

**Burgess Baiad made a motion to accept the contract for the annual audit as presented,** seconded by Second Senior Burgess Maher and unanimously approved.

Warden Gaston stated that there are approximately 10.4 acres of land deeded to the Newtown Borough Land Trust: 1.4 acres behind 16/18 Main Street, 6 acres on Sugar Street behind the

police station, and 3 acres behind Newtown Savings Bank. He asked the Board their thoughts on possibly deeding the property to another non-profit organization such as Newtown Forest Association. Discussion followed. Warden Gaston stated that Newtown Forest will be meeting this week and will consider the idea. He will follow up with the matter at next month's Borough meeting.

Warden Gaston presented a resume submitted by Michael Guman, 38 Main Street, who is interested in being an Alternate on the Borough Zoning Commission.

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

**Public Participation**: None.

A regular meeting the Board of Burgesses will be held on Tuesday, July 8, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. in the Borough Office in Edmond Town Hall, Newtown, CT

**There being no further business, Second Senior Burgess Maher made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m.**, seconded by Burgess Baiad and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann M. Benore  
Borough Clerk

