

**BOROUGH OF NEWTOWN
NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT**

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Borough of Newtown Board of Burgesses on **Tuesday, April 12, 2016** in the Borough Office at Edmond Town Hall, Newtown, CT. Warden Gaston called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

Present: Warden James Gaston, Second Senior Burgess Jay Maher, Burgess Betsy Kenyon, Burgess Anthony Baiad, Burgess Bill Lucas, Zoning Officer Jean St. Jean, Tax Collector Jodie Enriquez, Treasurer Paula Brinkman, Clerk Ann LoBosco

Absent: Senior Burgess Joan Crick, Burgess Chris Gardner, Tree Warden Rob McCulloch

Burgess Kenyon made a motion to accept the March 8, 2016 minutes, seconded by Burgess Baiad and unanimously approved.

Public Participation: None.

Budget: Warden Gaston presented the proposed budget for 2016-2017 and line items were discussed individually. Several figures were adjusted and the Proposed Mill Rate for 2016-2017 is 0.86%.

Second Senior Burgess Maher made a motion to present the proposed budget for approval at the May 10, 2016 meeting of property owners and/or electors, seconded by Burgess Kenyon and unanimously approved.

Warden's Report: Warden Gaston reported Stephanie Gaston needs to be re-appointed to the Historic District Commission.

Second Senior Burgess Maher made a motion to re-appoint Stephanie Gaston to the Historic District Commission with a term to expire on 7/2020, seconded by Burgess Lucas and unanimously approved.

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

Tax Collector's Report: Tax Collector Enriquez reported the following for February 2016: Total Taxes Due for the List of 2014: \$187,871.54; Current Taxes: \$184,380.99; Back Taxes: \$5,090.01; Interest: \$2,604.58; Lien Fees: \$444.00; Refunds: \$2,205.15. Total Submitted to Treasurer to Date: \$190,525.00. Current Taxes Collected: \$184,380.99 representing 97.4%.

She also presented the report for March 2016: Total Taxes Due for the List of 2014: \$187,871.54; Current Taxes: \$186,079.77; Back Taxes: \$5,193.31; Interest: \$3,014.67; Lien Fees: \$468.00; Refunds: \$2,205.15. Total Submitted to Treasurer to Date: \$190,525.00. Current Taxes Collected: \$186,079.77 representing 98.3%.

Burgess Lucas made a motion to accept the Tax Collector's Report for February 2016,
seconded by Burgess Baiad and unanimously approved.

Burgess Kenyon made a motion to accept the Tax Collector's Report for March 2016,
seconded by Second Senior Burgess Maher and unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Paula Brinkman read the March 2016 report: No deposits were made this month from Tax Collector Jodie Enriquez. A transfer of \$10,000.00 was made to cover last month's invoicing. Interest on the 1 Yr. CD was \$31.25 making a total of \$73,810.90.

Burgess Baiad made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for March 2016, seconded
by Burgess Lucas and unanimously approved.

Burgess Lucas made a motion to transfer \$150.00 from Contingency to Data Processing,
seconded by Second Senior Burgess Maher and unanimously approved.

Burgess Kenyon made a motion to transfer \$450.00 from Contingency to Streets & Parks,
seconded by Burgess Baiad and unanimously approved.

Zoning Officer's Report: Zoning Officer Jean St. Jean reported that \$30,000.00 has been collected from Building & Zoning Fees as of January. She stated that there a few problems being dealt with at the moment. The owner of 48 Main Street has not responded to requests to take necessary steps to address the blight issue. On August 1, 2016, the Town will take over the property. Several builders have already expressed interest in the property.

She also reported that she will be contacting the owner of The Inn at Newtown to discuss possibilities in order to avoid a blight situation.

Danbury Ambulance, who works as a very important back-up to Newtown Ambulance, has expressed interest in the old ambulance garage. The property is zoned residential; however, it can be used by government as it was previously. Discussion followed.

Historic District: Burgess Kenyon reported no applications. She did report that Stephanie Gaston contacted her regarding 48 Main Street suggesting that it be designated as an Historic District property in order to protect it. Burgess Kenyon said that a study committee would need to be formed; 2 studies have been done in the past. It does take time to conduct a study, and Burgess Kenyon said the Commission will look into it. Nothing can be done regarding 48 Main Street until the Town takes ownership.

Sidewalks: Second Senior Burgess Maher reported that in the past the Borough has put together a maintenance program to seal sidewalks. He is suggesting that sidewalks from the Flagpole to the monument on the east side be done during this fiscal year. The cost would be capped at \$8,000.00.

Burgess Kenyon made a motion to approve spending up to \$8,000.00 for the sealing of sidewalks on the east side of Main Street from the flagpole to the monument, seconded by Burgess Lucas and unanimously approved.

Streets & Parks: Nothing new to report.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Public Participation: None.

A meeting of the property owners and/or electors of the Borough of Newtown will be held on May 11, 2016 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 2016-2017. The regular 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.

There being no further business, Burges Baiad made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m., seconded by Second Senior Burgess Maher and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann M. LoBosco
Borough Clerk