

Jeff Capeci  
Judit DeStefano  
Paul Lundquist  
Deborra Zukowski



## TOWN OF NEWTOWN

### Minutes

The Charter Revision Communications Ad Hoc Committee met on Thursday, Sept. 15, 2016 in Meeting Room One of the Newtown Municipal Center. Committee Chairman Judit DeStefano called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

VOTER COMMENT: None.

Present: Ms. DeStefano, Mr. Lundquist, Ms. Zukowski.

Absent: Mr. Capeci.

MINUTES: MR. LUNDQUIST MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF 9/8/16, MS. ZUKOWSKI SECONDED. ALL IN FAVOR.

### NEW BUSINESS

Ms. DeStefano shared information provided by Kinga Walsh of the Community Center Committee on successful promotion of activities and forums. Suggestions included advertising in the Newtown Bee, utilizing town's A-frame boards, and using social media. If budget allows, committee would like to use ad and A-frames for promoting upcoming forums. Additionally, town e-mail notification system will be used if possible, and social media is already being utilized. Ms. DeStefano will follow up with Finance Director, Bee, and printers on dimensions and cost. Mr. Lundquist will design flyer for print as soon as final dates become available.

High-level discussion on pros and cons of town-wide mailer. Mr. Lundquist expressed concern it is a costly approach given how often mailers are overlooked with the influx of political mail households receive this time of year. All in agreement it might be an option to do one mailer just prior to the vote but is not viable to send out mailer as notice of forums.

Week of 10/17 for informal communications and material distribution at senior center. Ms. DeStefano to follow up on best days/times.

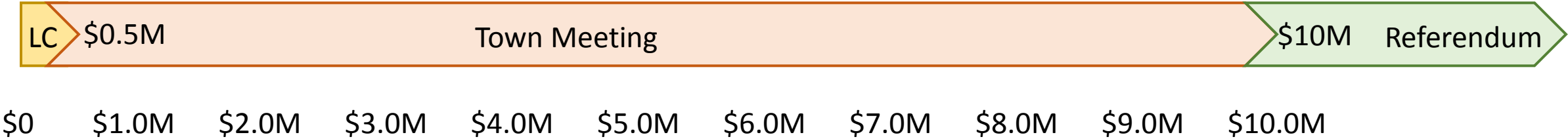
Began work on PowerPoint presentation for forums - with scenarios (attached).

With no further business, Mr. Lundquist motioned to adjourn at 7:12 pm and Ms. Zukowski seconded. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Judit DeStefano,  
Chairman, Charter Revision Communications Committee

# Methods for approving appropriations

## Approval levels provided in current charter



## Approval levels provided in proposed charter



Right of Referendum [?? In current charter and 3-25(b) .....]

# Town Meetings\*: Appropriations of \$1.5M and less

Date	Time	Topic	Amount	attendance	Vote (Y/N)
6/22/2016	7:15 PM	Improvements to High School Roof	\$1,402,500	14	10/0
4/18/2016	6:45 PM	Sidewalks to Reed	Unstated (Grant/Funds Available)	9	Unanimous
8/17/2015	7:00 PM	Acquisition/Replacement of fire apparatus	\$975,000	58	Unanimous
8/17/2015		Newtown Hook & Ladder House	\$1,500,000	58	Unanimous
7/6/2015		Road Improvements	\$1,000,000	91	Passed by show of hands
11/18/2013	7:16 PM	Amendment of 9/16/2013 Dickinson Park Playground	\$866,112	29	Unanimous
9/16/2013	7:15 PM	Dickinson Park Playground (includes \$336,162 donations)	\$774,162	22	Unanimous
7/24/2013	7:02 PM	Sandy Hook School design/planning (CT grant)	\$750,000	~160	Unanimous
7/24/2013	7:02 PM	Treadwell Artificial Turf	\$500,000	~160	Unanimous
11/15/2010	7:00 PM	SH Streetscape, Parks 7 Rec, Dam, water main extension	\$2,070,000 for all 4 projects	16	Unanimous
9/17/2009	7:33 PM	Police radio, Treadwell pool, P&R maintenance facility, Dickinson Park, pumper truck	\$2,419,000 for all 5 projects	18	Unanimous
4/8/2009	5:00 PM	Modular classrooms for high school	\$897,286	13	Unanimous

\* All minutes available, as of Sept 1, 2016, at: [http://newtown-ct.gov/Public\\_Documents/NewtownCT\\_SpecialTownMeetingMin/](http://newtown-ct.gov/Public_Documents/NewtownCT_SpecialTownMeetingMin/)

# Town Meetings\*: Appropriations of more than \$1.5M

Date	Time	Topic	Amount	attendance	Vote (Y/N)
4/18/2016	7:00 PM	Amendment of 2/26/2014 Hawleyville Sewer	Total of \$3,800,000	9	Unanimous
8/17/2015		Demolition /Remediation at FFH	\$5,000,000	58	Most/1
7/6/2015	7:15 PM	Newtown High School Auditorium	\$3,600,000	91	Passed by show of hands
2/26/2014	7:02 PM	Hawleyville Sewer Project	\$2,800,000	109	81/11
3/20/2013	7:00 PM	Hawley Boiler/HVAC	\$1,550,000	10	Unanimous
6/28/2010	7:00 PM	Middle School Roof Replacement	\$4,257,690	5	Unanimous
1/28/2010	6:34 PM	Reimburse NYA re: parking	\$3,500,000	"well attended"	Unanimous
4/8/2009	5:00 PM	Bond refinancing/repayment	up to \$10,000,000	13	Unanimous

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# Town Meetings\*: Land Dispositions

Date	Time	Topic	Amount	attendance	Vote (Y/N)
10/5/2015	7:27 PM	Property: Lot line revisions	NA	6	Unanimous
2/17/2015	7:16 PM	Demolition of 36 Yogananda St. House	Unstated	10	Unanimous

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# Overview

- BoE Political Party Representation
- Town Budget and Related Processes
- Elimination of Town Meeting and Implications
- Restructure/Clarifications

# BoE Political Party Representation

- State Statute
- 5 vs 4
- History Reality vs explanatory text
- Table of open seats??



# Town Budget and Related Processes

- Budget Referendum
  - Questions
  - BoF role
  - Scenario??

# Elimination of Town Meeting and Implications

- Other prezo

# All the rest

- Restructure
- Language
- Clarifications
- etc