

A. Jeffrey Capeci, Chairman
Mary Ann Jacob, Vice Chair
Dan Amaral
Jan Andras
Kathy Fetchick
James S. Belden



Gary Davis
George T. Ferguson
Kevin Fitzgerald
Bob Merola
Ben Spragg
Richard Woycik

TOWN OF NEWTOWN

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**Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Legislative Council
Held in the Board Room in the Newtown Municipal Center,
3 Primrose Street, Newtown, Connecticut
Tuesday, May 3, 2011**

** These are draft minutes and as such are subject to correction by the Legislative Council at the next regular meeting. All corrections will be determined in minutes of the meeting which they were corrected.*

Chairman Jeffrey Capeci called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm.

PRESENT: George Ferguson, Ben Spragg, Dan Amaral, Jan Andras, Gary Davis, Rich Woycik, Kevin Fitzgerald, Jim Belden, Bob Merola, Kathy Fetchick, Mary Ann Jacob, and Chairman Jeff Capeci

ABSENT: none

ALSO PRESENT: First Selectman Patricia Llodra, Finance Director Bob Tait, School Superintendent Janet Robinson, Board of Education Chairman Bill Hart, 3 members of the press and 14 members of the public.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

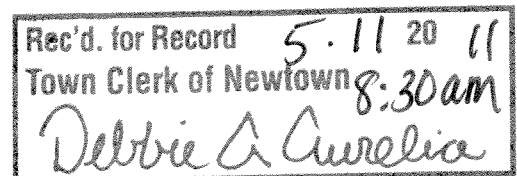
Robin Fitzgerald, 24 Old Farm Road, thanked the Legislative Council for allowing her to speak and said she admired them as a board for trying the new collaborative process. She noted that the lack of trust that exists had produced an undesirable result and indicated that there has been a suggestion for a greater cut to the school.

Mrs. Fitzgerald asked that the funding for the Educational Assistants (EAs) be restored noting that they are the front line for the young children. She told the Council that the Board of Education debated between cutting the position of the Assistant Principal (AP) at the high school and cutting the EAs in the lower schools and chose cutting the EA's.

According to Mrs. Fitzgerald, both the EAs and the AP are sorely needed by the kids. She added that she doesn't understand why if the Board of Education can support having both the Council can't support it. Mrs. Fitzgerald questioned whether the Town supported education or not. She told the Council that if the cuts to the Board of Education go intact she can't support the budget, noting that she made a promise that she would never support a budget that negatively affects the kids.

Mrs. Fitzgerald concluded that she hopes the Council considers a smaller cut to the Board of Education to keep both those positions.

Michelle Hankin, 16 Greenleaf Farms Road, told the Council she is asking for a smaller cut. She explained that there was a very small turn out for the referendum and pointed out, that the "no's" weren't



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anymore before. Ms. Hankin concluded that if there were smaller cuts there would be more focus on education. She suggested that a smaller cut would allow them to have better success at the polls.

Rich Venerolli, 63 Tomahawk Trail, believes that the low turn-out to the referendum is because people are stressed about the economy, increasing taxes, etc. and stated that puts a huge responsibility on the Council members as to whether people trust them.

Mr. Venerolli told the Council that he has heard people in support of the school system for 30 years now. He said that he has seen the school budget go up and the SAT scores go down; and suggested that children are being labeled learning disabled but no one looks at the school.

Mr. Venerolli explained that people believe the vote was a willingness to cut services, but he thinks it's just the opposite. He asked why police services have to be cut while school administrators earn six figure incomes. Mr. Venerolli stressed that there shouldn't be a single person in town who's paid more than the people who wear bullet proof vests for them.

Charles Hepp, 4 Winter Ridge Road, suggested that everyone is hung up with the 70% 30% option. He noted that Mr. Hart made it clear the school is in a sense a business.

Mr. Hepp said he expected that Mrs. Llodra would come in with the solution that the roads wouldn't get paved but not talk about people getting laid off. He noted that the Board of Education is suggesting 28-30 EAs be laid off. Mr. Hepp suggested the problem is with decision making, noting that the Board of Education is cutting jobs, but not cutting after school activities. He concluded by stating that he thought the core functions should stay in place.

Public Participation closed at 7:55 pm.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Discussion and possible action on: 2011-2012 Town of Newtown Budget –

The First Selectman began by handing out two documents to the Council. She informed those in attendance that the Board of Selectmen was charged to reduce its budget proposal by \$326,000 but indicated that the Board went a step further and reduced its proposed budget by \$336,000.

According to Mrs. Llodra, the following reductions were made:

- Elimination of a position in the tax department, \$27,254;
- Elimination of a clerical position in the records division at the Police Department, \$35,841;
- Savings in Police Department's salary account by replacing senior officers with new hires, \$61,914;
- Elimination of a part-time position in Land Use, \$19,000;
- Reductions in cost for medical benefits and FICA due to position eliminations and reductions, \$26,991;
- Consolidation of the landscaping contract at Fairfield Hills under the Parks and Recreation, \$86,000;
- Parks and Recreation hours of operation at Treadwell and the swim area at Eichler's Cove will be modified to close at 7 pm instead of 8 pm from end of June thru Labor Day due to cutting back Life Guards back one hour, \$20,000;
- Reduction in community access to Library by possibly in the form of later opening hours, \$8,000;
- Town Finance will take over Edmond Town Hall (ETH) Board of Managers' accounting function at ETH, \$5,000;
- Reduction of short-term workers in Town Clerk's office to cover during vacations and/or execute special projects such as indexing, \$7,500;
- Modifying the Police Department's patrol car replacement program from 4 annual replacements to 3 annual replacements, \$30,000;

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- And, miscellaneous reductions in Communications Department to be managed by the department supervisor, \$6,500.

Mrs. Llodra informed the Council that the Board of Selectmen changed their reduction to \$334,000 as opposed to \$350,000 to keep a full-time person at the Senior Center. She explained that the Board believed that the seniors were already feeling the impact enough.

Mr. Woycik indicated there are questions he has regarding some of the cuts to better understand them. The First Selectman said the answers to a lot of the common questions were on the second document that she provided.

Before a motion was made with regard to the municipal budget, Chairman Capeci suggested that Mr. Hart speak on behalf of the Board of Education's proposed reductions.

Mr. Hart explained that since the Board of Education accepted its budget back in February it has had additional expenses (\$121,000) arrive, primarily costs related to specialized students who have to be moved in and out of the school district. He noted that homebound special education students brought the cost of tutors up from last year as well. The Board of Education Chairman reminded the Council that schools are mandated to educate anyone who was expelled.

Mr. Hart told the Council that they finalized negotiations of a dental provider saving \$39,000.

He reminded the Council that the Board of Education intended to buy equipment next year with the \$150,000 surplus in funds that had been placed into Capital Non-Recurring Fund last year. Mr. Hart indicated that he modified the decision to apply the whole \$150,000 to the reduction in Educational Assistants (EAs).

Further more Mr. Hart noted the following reductions:

- Use of Capital Non-recurring funds \$150,000
- Efficiency Study \$30,000
- (2) Behavior Therapists not necessary as students transitioned out \$48,000
- 5% Reduction for Supplies \$60,000
- Equipment reduced \$33,000
- Furniture budget was cut in half \$10,000
- Projects \$95,000
- Social Worker \$69,000
- Middle Gate grade 3 teacher \$57,000
- Hawley grade 1 teacher \$57,000
- Educational Assistants \$244,000

Mr. Hart noted that those total reductions came to \$853,000; and less the additional needs of \$121,000 brings the Board of Education's total net reduction to \$732,000

Mr. Spragg made the motion to adopt the 2011/2012 budget of the Board of Selectmen for \$37,588,648 a proposed reduction of \$334,000 from the last budget presented. Ms. Fetchick seconded.

Mr. Spragg noted that he supports the recommended budget reductions and would votes yes to approve them.

Mr. Woycik questioned the First Selectman regarding the savings at the Police Department that will be realized with the replacement of senior officers by 3 new hires. He noted that the number reflects that there are 3 new hires at the academy at a cost of \$48,000 each – roughly \$150,000.

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Mrs. Llodra indicated that the Police Department had three officers who either retired or resigned, and noted that those three new hires were to replace them. She indicated it would be a savings of \$68,000. Mr. Woycik asked if those three new hires were indeed hired before the budget was finalized and Mrs. Llodra stated that they were.

Mr. Woycik asked when Parks and Recreation planned on closing if the Treadwell Pool and Eichler's Cove were closing an hour early. Mrs. Llodra indicated that currently the pool and swim area close at 8 pm, and noted that they would now close at 7 pm as the Life Guards will not be on duty. She added that the money being saved was from the Life Guard account.

Mr. Davis asked why keep the \$5,000 line item for Economic Development Committee (EDC), if there has not been an increase in the economic development. Mrs. Llodra responded that it was the intention of the EDC to subcontract specific tasks. She noted that the EDC is hoping the number will grow enough over time to hire another employee.

Ms. Jacob commended Mrs. Llodra and the Board of Selectmen for really looking at how the work is being carried out and how to tighten it up.

Chairman Capeci asked the First Selectmen if the consolidated contract at Fairfield Hills was consolidating municipal contracts or brining work in. Mrs. Llodra indicated that they had rewritten the bid specs and changed the scope of municipal contracts, consolidated them and requires for Parks and Rec to do more of the care of the fields at a substantial savings.

Amendment #1 - Mr. Woycik proposed an amendment to the original motion requesting an additional \$5,000 be removed from the Board of Selectmen's budget, line item 01740-1004, Part-time payroll at the Economic Development Commission (EDC) office. Mr. Belden seconded the amendment.

According to Mr. Woycik, the Newtown is experiencing very different times and there is very little economic development occurring. He added that thinks the \$5,000 is a cost that can be saved.

Mrs. Llodra indicated that some of what Mr. Woycik said is exactly why they need that additional person. She stated that the fact is they need to dedicate additional time and energy to the pursuit of economic development including targeting appropriate commerce for those areas.

Mr. Belden said he supports the amendment and indicated that he believes EDC is sufficiently funded without the extra \$5,000.

Mrs. Llodra commented that the EDC was created for a reason. She added that it's a mistake not to invest in the community. She added that the reason the Board of Selectmen supported the \$5,000 for the EDC was to help the community grow.

Ms. Fetchick noted that people have been searching for years to increase the tax base and nickel and dime the EDC. She added that is not money well spent.

Chairman Capeci agreed with what Ms. Fetchick said, noting that the Council charged the Board of Selectmen with cutting \$320,000 and they came back with \$334,000. He indicated that he would have to go with their opinion on where to cut.

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Amendment # 2 - Mr. Fitzgerald moved to reduce the reduction by \$20,000 for parks and recreation to keep the pool and cove to open an extra hour each night. Mr. Davis seconded.

Amendment #1 to the original motion passed 7-5 in a roll call vote. Mr. Ferguson, Ms. Fetchick, Mr. Merola, Ms. Jacob and Chairman Capeci voted against.

Amendment #2 failed 2-10 in a roll call vote. Mr. Fitzgerald and Mr. Belden voted in favor.

Amended original motion – Mr. Spragg moved to adopt the 2011/2012 budget of the Board of Selectman as a amended - a proposed reduction of \$334,000 plus \$5,000 for a total increased reduction of \$339,000. For a total amended budget of \$37,583,648. Ms. Fetchick seconded. The amended motion was approved in a roll call vote 10-2. Mr. Merola and Mr. Amaral voted against.

Ms. Fetchick moved to amend the 2011/2012 Board of Education bottom line from \$68,824,427 to \$67,971,427 for a net reduction of \$732,000. Mr. Spragg seconded.

Ms. Fetchick told the Council that Newtown needs a plan for Education and that is the responsibility of the Board of Education. She added that most commonly people don't have confidence in how the administration is spending their money. Ms. Fetchick noted that this is the primary reason why the budget failed.

Ms. Jacob noted that the Board's reason not to eliminate the position of the Assistant Principal (AP) was that there was a lot of support for it due to increased enrollment for next year. She questioned this reasoning, noting that the actual enrollment as of October was 1,729 students where the projected enrollment was 1,744 suggesting an increase of only 15 students. Furthermore, Mrs. Jacob questioned the need of a \$123,000 position plus benefits for 15 students over the need for 23 EAs.

Mr. Hart told the Council that Newtown is not seeing the high school enrollment drop off anytime soon. He noted that the feeling on Board is that they are seeing consistent declines in enrollment on the elementary level. Mr. Hart indicated that Newtown has been "behind the eight ball" at the high school for the last several years by not adding an AP. He noted that an extra AP plays an essential part working with teachers and students and added that the AP handles the toughest situations. Mr. Hart concluded that it was not an easy choice, choosing to keep the AP position over the EA positions.

Ms. Jacob stated that she disagrees that one more person will make a significant impact at the high school. She suggested that the Boards method was a tactic to enrage people. She believes the reduction of the AP position is reasonable.

Mr. Hart noted that as far as the five positions added last year, they were added within the salary budget which in fact was less. Ms. Jacob suggested that this is "Scope Creep," meaning that the positions being added will have to be put up with later on even when the need no longer exists.

Mr. Hart indicated that the school system has a set of needs that's evolving and that every one of those positions gets re-justified. He added that he doesn't think anyone is comfortable with taking out the positions of the EAs.

Mr. Spragg agreed with Ms. Jacob that the \$224,000 reduction for EAs won't help get the budget approved. He questioned how the Board of Education is getting the \$150,000 from the CAP reserve fund

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and what authorization moved it to the CAP reserve fund originally. Mr. Tait indicated that right now it is not in the CAP reserve fund

Mrs. Llodra explained that the Board of Finance supported the Board of Education's efforts to hold aside those funds for capital purchases and noted that more funds were referred at the end of the year. The First Selectman indicated that the \$150,000 never developed and no transfer was ever made. She stated that the obligation was there just not the process to transfer it to the CAP reserve.

Mr. Spragg questioned whether or not the Council was part of the process and indicated that he was not in agreement with this. He added that the \$150,000 should not be given back to the school board, adding that the Police Department, Parks and Recreation, and others have turned back money. Mr. Spragg stressed he will not be support funding of the \$150,000 to go back to the school board's operating account.

Mrs. Llodra backed the School Board Chairman indicating that what Mr. Hart stated was reflected by the Board of Finance.

Mr. Hart reminded the Council that he was not the Board's Chairman at that time that this agreement was made.

The Chairman suggested it was part of the First Selectman's report last year.

Mr. Woycik echoed Ms. Jacob's comments regarding the EAs and the AP, and asked what roll if any the principal play in any of the activities or responsibilities that the AP's have with regard to interacting with the students getting involved in one on one disciplinary situations and things of that nature.

Mr. Hart indicated that the principal can get involved in all those things, and he added that the all the administrators have functions particularly with administrative duties such as PPTs. He added that the principal has less time to get involved with those activities.

Dr. Robinson added that some of the responsibilities overlap. She noted that the principal's team has made it a point that every teacher has an evaluation. In addition, the Superintendent noted that the AP's job is to coach every teacher in class two days a week.

Mr. Woycik asked what rolls the AP will take. Dr. Robinson indicated that having the AP will allow the Principal more time to be available for classroom situations. She stressed that they are currently on overload and in crisis management.

Mr. Woycik asked if the current staffing of the assistant principals is functioning to their satisfaction and Dr. Robinson said yes.

Mr. Woycik questioned the need of one person (AP) at \$123,000 for 14 additional students, and he asked what happens in the "out" years when Newtown sees a decrease in population. Dr. Robinson stressed it is not just 14 students and indicated that the high school has needed an AP for at least five years. She noted that in the event there is a decrease in population, the school system has a good strong track record of eliminating those positions. Mr. Hart added that they have no contractual obligations to keep the AP's on.

Mr. Woycik informed the Council that he attended the Board of Education meeting last night and noted that in the audience there was a lot of "jaw dropping" and a moment of silence when the number of

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EAs' cut were announced and the Board continued to support the staff reductions. He suggested that time when kids would benefit the most from people coming into their lives is when they are coming into kindergarten, and noted that he is trying to understand the logic to dedicate a resource to something that has less payback.

Dr. Robinson explained that the schools need a certified guidance counselor to intervene and help families and children that are having difficulties. Mr. Woycik indicated that he understood that but wonders why Newtown couldn't dedicate a resource to the young rather than remediating.

Changing the subject briefly, Ms. Jacob indicated that she had found the letter regarding the CAP reserve fund from Rep. Liddy dated July 2010. In the letter Rep. Liddy addresses Section 32 of Public Act 10-8 of the State Statutes, also referred to as the School Construction Bill. According to Rep. Liddy, the state statutes indicate that the decision to establish such a fund is up to the Board of Finance and is based on Board of Education having unspent funds at the end of the year. Additionally, the amount deposited into the fund in any one year cannot exceed 1% of the budget for the prior year however the funds total amount is left without a cap.

Mr. Spragg suggested that they are not using that State Statute process, and Mrs. Llodra indicated that there is no process. Chairman Capecci indicated that this was predating the statute.

Referring to the \$150,000 that was put into the CAP fund, the First Selectman noted that the Board of Finance said it thinks it's a good idea to instruct the Board of Education to save in some reasonable way for a future expense and that they have to find a way to do it.

Mrs. Fetchick stated that she agrees with everything everyone has said about the AP. She believes that the decision the Board of Education is making to staff administrators over teachers in the classroom that directly affect the children is completely wrong.

Furthermore, Ms. Fetchick expressed her concern about the reduction to the supply budget indicating that it was done last year, too.

Mr. Fitzgerald expressed his concern about the level of support of early childhood in the school and inferred that it would make more sense to fund 6, 7 or 8 EAs rather than one AP so that they don't have the costs through expulsion.

Mr. Fitzgerald asked Mr. Tait "historically after the first round of referendum failures how much has the education budget been cut on average the first round." Mr. Tait said he wasn't sure and noted that he hasn't been there long enough. Mr. Fitzgerald suggested that it has never been more than \$500,000 that the education budget has been cut the first round and wondered how come they are looking to cut so much this first round. He questioned why they looking to a \$1.1 million reduction when they've never looked to reduce the Board of Education budget by more than half a million dollars in the past.

Mr. Fitzgerald said he wished to amend the motion to reduce that reduction to allow the Board of Education to provide resources others will be missing. He recommended an amendment to reduce the total number by \$300,000. Mr. Davis said he would second the motion but said he would prefer to change that number to \$244,000 primarily to try and save the EAs.

With Mr. Davis' friendly amendment, Mr. Fitzgerald proposed an amendment to the original motion reducing the total reduction by \$244,000 replace the monies removed by the Board of Education for the Educational Assistants (EA). Mr. Davis seconded.

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Ms. Fetchick indicated she was against the motion because the Board of Education totally ignored the EAs when it decided to fund the AP.

Ms. Jacob questioned why the supervision at the high school should be more than any other levels and Dr. Robinson indicated that they do evaluations. Ms. Jacob stated isn't that what department heads do.

Dr. Robinson stated that it was a lot of work saving kids and Mrs. Jacob stated how about saving all the elementary kids that need saving.

Mr. Davis noted that the Board of Education decides the spending and the Council decides the amount. He indicated that the question at hand is the value of the AP versus the value of the EAs. Mr. Davis surmised that the Board seems to want the AP and the Council is providing the option for those who have concern for the EAs to put that money back in.

Mr. Merola told the Council that a number of constituents have come up to him concerned that there are never any cuts at the high school. He indicated that in 2005/2006 there were 688 high school students and in 2010/2011 there are 729, and added that during that time there were 15 teachers hired. Mr. Merola noted that there will be fewer students by graduation and questioned whether the high school really needs an AP.

He continued expressing his concern that the number of students at the high school is peaking and then it will be going down. He suggested that typically from the 8th grade to the 9th grade the number of students drops.

Mr. Merola said he didn't support the amendment and suggests that the school do more with less by possibly reducing the number of electives and concentrating more on the core curriculum.

Mr. Ferguson thanked the Board of education for coming back with its numbers and indicated that he thought it was excellent work. He stated that he did not support the amendment but supports the underlying motion. Mr. Ferguson said he was troubled because no one was happy He suggested that they all get on board and support the budget as proposed.

Mr. Belden indicated that he has been listening to the discussion around the EAs. He reminded fellow Council members that they passed a resolution about a cut that was supposed to come back to them and thought that taking that big of a chunk out of that betrayed what they have done. Mr. Belden noted he couldn't support the amendment.

Mr. Woycik stated that he came away with the question regarding the \$150,000 and stated that it is really uncertain. Chairman Capeci indicated it was not part of the budget reductions, and Mr. Hart noted that if it can't make that work, the Board of Education will be faced with how to fund that.

Chairman Capeci called for a roll call vote on Mr. Fitzgerald's amendment and the amendment failed 1-11 with Mr. Fitzgerald voting in favor.

With the idea the \$150,000 would be discussed outside the budget and that they were making a recommendation to send the amended budget to referendum, Mr. Spragg supported the main motion regarding the school's budget.

Ms. Fetchick asked if the school board had a list of priorities of things they would reduce if something changes. Mr. Hart said the top priority is to have the right teachers in the classroom. The next most important thing is to have projects and prioritize differed projects.

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The main motion to amend the school board budget was approved in a roll call vote 9-3. Mr. Fitzgerald, Mr. Amaral and Mr. Woycik voted against the motion.

Mr. Spragg moved to approve the bottom line 2011/2012 budget of \$105,555,075 and recommend for approval by the voters. Ms. Fetchick seconded.

Mr. Davis reminded the Council members that last year they had discussed getting into the budget issues during the summer months. He noted that although they are making budget reductions that night they should remind people that they are not going to stop there.

Chairman Capeci agreed with Mr. Davis and believed it was continuing and will continue. He reassured Mr. Davis it will be on the next agenda.

Ms. Fetchick pointed out that they are doing this and that a consultant was hired to look at Town and School overheads and combining landscaping. She suggested that Mr. Davis was grandstanding on what is already being done.

Mr. Fitzgerald suggested that they are overhauling what is being done and that he is all for that. He added that they need to take it on now.

Mrs. Llodra asked what that looked like. She asked the Council if their roll was telling the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education what choices to make. The First Selectman stated that there is a clearly defined roll that the Council plays, the Board of Education plays, and the Board of Selectmen plays. She noted that she appreciates the Council's attention and initiative, but suggested that members must understand it is being brought to them.

Chairman Capeci called for a roll call vote and the motion to approve the bottom line was passed 9-3. Mr. Woycik, Mr. Fitzgerald, and Mr. Amaral voted against.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion and possible action on: A request to convey an easement on town property on Lake Trail in Sandy Hook –

Ms. Jacob moved to approve an easement from the Town of Newtown to Elizabeth Varga for an existing septic system located on Town of Newtown property adjacent to 31 Laurel Trail as designated on a certain map entitled "Plan of Survey of Properties Known as Lots 43-47 and 50. Map of 'Beardsley Heights at Riverside' (a.k.a.) 31 Laurel Trail, Newtown (Sandy Hook), CT. prepared for Elizabeth Varga" dated March 21, 2011. The easement is designated on the map as Proposed Septic Easement (225+/- square feet). Mr. Merola seconded.

Mrs. Llodra noted that both Mr. Grogins and Mr. Bolmer recommended that the Council approve the easement.

Joseph Varga informed the Council on how the easement came to pass. He indicated that when a septic system had been installed, it was inadvertently put on town owned land.

After a brief discussion, Chairman Capeci called for a roll call vote and the motion was unanimously approved. Ms. Andras was not present for the vote.

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The meeting was adjourned at 10:43 pm.

Ted Swigart, Clerk

Budget Reductions and Impact statements

Tax Department: Elimination of a position will result in increased work load for remaining staff. Assessor department and tax collector department will be restructured to accommodate the reduction in staff. (\$27,254)

Police Department: Elimination of a clerical position will result in increased work load for remaining staff and will likely delay the completion, recording, and filing of non-essential tasks. (\$35,841)

Police Department: Savings in salary account; senior officers replaced by new hires. (\$61,914)

Land Use: Elimination of a half-time position in zoning enforcement will result in reduced and/or delayed oversight and follow-up regarding compliance with zoning regulations. Further impact may be felt in other initiatives such as the POCD and the sidewalk plan. (\$19,000)

~~Senior Services: Reduction of a full-time clerk position to part-time status will result in greater work load for remaining staff and may incur the need to 'cover' the facility during periods of vacation and trips using staff from other departments. (\$16,000)~~

Employee Benefits: Reduction in cost for medical benefits and FICA due to position eliminations and reduction. (\$26,991)

Fairfield Hills Authority: Consolidation of the landscaping contract (Fairfield Hills Campus; school fields; municipal properties; some cemeteries; NYFS; ambulance garage...) under Parks and Recreation will result in increased work responsibilities for the P&R staff. (\$86,000)

Parks and Recreation: Hours of operation for the pool at Treadwell and the swim area at Eichler's Cove will be modified for a 7:00 PM closing instead of 8:00 PM thus reducing access by one hour per day from the end of June through to Labor Day. (\$20,000)

Library: Likely reduction in community access to this service, possibly in the form of later opening hours. (\$8,000)

Edmond Town Hall: Town Finance Office will take over ETH BoM accounting function. (ETH staff vacancy may then be filled at less cost.) (\$5,000)

Town Clerk: Reducing this account will impact the office ability to employ 'short-term' workers needed to cover during vacations and/or to execute special projects, such as indexing. (\$7,500)

Police Department: Modifying the patrol car replacement schedule to allow for 3 rather than 4 annual replacements will cause vehicles to accrue more mileage (which may result in an increase in repair costs.) (\$30,000)

Communications: Miscellaneous reductions. Department supervisor has confirmed that she will manage these reductions. (\$6,500)

~~Total: \$350,000~~ Total: \$334,000

- Any increase in unemployment benefits will be taken from contingency.

Board of Education Meeting, May 2, 2011

Resolved: After review of the proposed budget to date and after review of proposed reductions as set forth in the approved amended list to said budget it is hereby resolved that the Board of Education shall consider the proposed reductions to the existing budget when a final budget is approved by the citizens.

Modified by Board Chair, May 3, 2011

Use of Capital Non-reoccurring funds	(\$150,000)	
Efficiency Study	(\$30,000)	
2 Behavior Therapists	(\$48,000)	
Supplies	(\$60,000)	
Equipment	(\$33,000)	
Furniture	(\$10,000)	
Projects	(\$95,000)	
Social Worker	(\$69,000)	
MG grade 3 teacher	(\$57,000)	
Hawley grade 1 teacher	(\$57,000)	
EA's	(\$244,000)	
Total Reduction	(\$853,000)	
Additional Information:		
Additional budget needs since 3/8/11	\$121,000 (tuition & tutors)	
BOE Net Reduction	(\$732,000)	69%
Town Proposed Reduction	(\$334,000)	31%
Recommended LC Amount	(\$1,066,000)	100%

Board of Education Budget Reductions and Impact Statements

Capital Non-reoccurring Fund: \$150,000 will be used to purchase capital items in the proposed budget.

General Services: Reduction of \$30,000 from Superintendent's office for the joint efficiency study with the Town. The selected firm proposed a cost of \$39,480. Our budget contained \$70,000 for this purpose.

Special Education: Reduction of \$48,000 for 2 behavior therapists. Because these positions were assigned to students who have been placed out of district there will be no negative impact.

Pupil Personnel: Reduction of \$69,000 from Reed and the Middle School social worker. Direct service (special education) caseload including both group and individual counseling will be transferred to the existing pupil services staff at both Reed and the Middle School. Existing pupil service staff will assume all other duties for the social worker including attendance at Planning and Placement Team meetings, liaison activities with outside service providers and agencies, home visits, crisis intervention, consultation with staff and parents, completion of functional behavior assessments, and development of behavior plans.

All Cost Centers: Reduction of \$60,000 or 5% of all supply accounts. Reduced materials for student learning for three years in a row.
Reduction of \$33,000 for all new equipment in the district. No program continuation of Project Adventure and setback to music program losing 6 new instruments.
Reduction of \$10,000 from district furniture allotment, results in minimal ability to replace damaged/broken student furniture.

Plant Operation: Reduction of \$95,000 for maintenance projects, essentially deferred maintenance and a backup of needs on our 5-year internal plan.

Elementary Education: Reduction of \$57,000 for a Hawley 1st grade teacher bringing class size to 4 classes of 21, one above the guidelines, contingent upon no additional 1st graders.
Reduction of \$57,000 for a Middle Gate 3rd grade teacher bringing class size to 1 at 23, and 3 at 24.

All Schools: Reduction of \$244,000 for regular educational assistants. Amount to include allowance for unemployment and benefits if applicable. Classrooms, library supervisory and office assistance will all be diminished. There will be no media help when media specialist is teaching, no teacher assistance and more use of voice mail in office with delays in all required paperwork.

Total Reduction	\$853,000
Additional Needs/Deductions since 3/8/11:	
Special Education out of district tuition	\$115,000
Special Education Homebound Tutors	65,000
Dental rates 9% to 4.6%	- 35,000
Social Security and Medicare	- 24,000
Current Needs	\$121,000
Net Board of Education Reduction	-\$732,000

Approved by BOE 5/2/11

Budget Reductions...some other considerations.

Why not Police Department (sworn personnel)?

- Full staffing of the PD is 47 sworn personnel
- One position was eliminated last year for a 'new' full staffing of 46 sworn officers
- Currently we have a staffing of 45, but only 38 available for duty
 - Three (3) new hires are in the Academy
 - Academy training is 22 weeks; our three officers will complete training in August
 - Field training then takes another 6 months, after Academy completion
 - Three officers are school-based
 - One officer is on the Ct state-wide drug task force
- PD asked to take on additional role regarding Fairfield Hills Campus: manage security contract; supervise security personnel; establish engineer's house on Trades Lane as a 'security station'.

Why not Parks and Recreation?

- This department has taken on additional work: 1) full responsibility for Eichler's Cove; 2) oversight of the landscaping contract (all municipal property) with additional mowing tasks;
- Department is short staffed with medical absence of a crew chief through August.

Why not Public Works?

- Current level of staffing stressed to manage existing work load;
 - Town added 42 miles of road since 1990, with only 2 additional crew
 - Lack of funds and personnel have taken a toll on road upkeep
 - Demanding level of equipment repair and maintenance tasks
- PW staff asked to take on additional projects
 - Trenching for Sandy Hook water line
 - Trenching for utilities at duplex area (KCC)
 - Road and parking lot improvements (KCC; Farmer's Market, etc)
- Some restructuring of work and new planning requirements
 - Road maintenance plan in place
 - Culvert assessment project underway this summer
 - Organizational analysis initiative (Blum & Shapiro) includes building maintenance (school and town) – may lead to further department redesign.

Why not Town Clerk?

- Reduction of funds for indexing places that additional responsibility on existing staff
 - Documents and materials archived at ETH are relocated to the Municipal Center and must be indexed
 - Summer work eliminated last year.

Why not Capital Non-Recurring? There is \$225,000 in the Capital Non-recurring account. Funding this account signifies the Town's intention to save toward known capital and program costs, such as the planned Town revaluation scheduled for late 2012 with a projected cost of \$350,000, the replacement of the Public Works Sweeper at a cost of \$200,000, and fire equipment scheduled for replacement for approximately \$1.8 MM.

Plan-full use of the Capital Non-Recurring account will reduce the need for long-term borrowing and is an important part of the overall financial strategy to reduce debt.

Why not Fund Balance? Annual use of our savings account for operational costs constitutes a structural imbalance in how the municipality is funded and has become a focal point of interest among our ratings agencies. This budget proposal completely weans us from non-emergency use of fund balance, a necessary step to preserve our bond rating. Newtown sells bonds annually in order to fund infrastructure and facilities projects. The cost of borrowing money is a direct function of the bond rating. Town government, including the BoS, BoF and the LC, is committed to eliminating our 'routine' use of fund balance. Further, we are committed to refining and updating our fund balance policy to better reflect best practice and to set reasonable levels of reserves.

Why not the Pension account? Newtown government is committed to funding the Pension plans according to the recommendation of the Pension Board and Fund Manager. As of 2011, our pension plans are funded at the 89% level for the Police Pension Plan and the 96% level for the Municipal Pension Plan. In 2010/2011, the BoS directed a recalibration of the Plan(s) assumptions, reducing the performance level from 8% to 7.75% and the annual wage gain from 6% to 4.5%. These recalibrations will have some effect on funding requirements in fiscal 2012. It is unwise to underfund pension plans at any time, but particularly unwise at this time when the impact of the recalibrations are unknown.

Why not Contingency? The contingency account for fiscal 2012 is set at a level lower than 2011. That account will be used to fund new contracts (Police and Parks & Recreation) and serves as back-up support for unanticipated costs, such as those related to weather and litigation. For the past few years, we have ended the fiscal year with very little money in Contingency. If we do not fund that account sufficiently, then we will likely face a situation that will require a mid-year elimination or reduction of a planned and approved expense.