

**Town of Newtown Legislative Council Meeting  
Wednesday, January 4, 2012  
3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT**

**PRESENT:** Jeffrey Capeci, Mary Ann Jacob, Paul Lundquist, George Ferguson, Bob Merola, Joseph Girgasky, Daniel Honan, Kathy Fetchick, Dan Wiedemann, Dan Amaral, Mitch Bolinsky, **ABSENT:** Phillip Charroll

**ALSO PRESENT:** First Selectman Pat Llodra, four members of public, two members of press

Chairman Jeffrey Capeci called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**VOTER COMMENT:** None noted

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Upon motion by Ms. Jacob, the minutes of the 12/7/11 meeting were unanimously approved.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** A request was received from the Board of Education for a special appropriation in the amount of \$150,000 from the capital non-recurring fund to complete several building and site maintenance projects (copy attached).

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Committee assignments were sent to all members. After this meeting, each committee will meet briefly to elect a Chairman and Vice Chairman.

**FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT:** Ms. Llodra reported that monies to local contractors for clean-up after Tropical Storm Irene amounted to \$145,000. To date, the October snow storm has totaled \$375,000, however, we expect a 75% reimbursement from FEMA. We also expect to receive additional reimbursements for using local contractors.

Newtown Transload has withdrawn from the Housatonic RR site in Hawleyville. This concludes a five year initiative of the Town in expressing concern about the activities there creating a significant environmental impact.

Regarding the number of brownfields we have in town, Ms. Llodra suggests inviting EDC Director Elizabeth Stocker to report on the economic impact of taking these large parcels out of the revenue stream and the long term charge to put them back.

The United Water proposal to extend water from the Newtown aquifer to the Greenridge area of Brookfield (which includes five Newtown residences) has been changed to a different plan with Aquarion. It is anticipated that the Greenridge homes should have clean water, sourced in Brookfield, by the end of January.

The move to a self-funding health insurance program has saved a considerable amount of money. The RFP for a Plan Administrator has now been sent to vendors with a due date of 1/6/12. We expect to choose a vendor early in February.

A STEAP (Small Town Economic Assistance Program) Grant in the amount of \$400,000 has been received for infrastructure improvements in the "duplex" area at Fairfield Hills. Kevin's Community Center is no longer considering this site but there are plans for the ambulance garage to relocate there.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Ordinances** – Ms. Jacob moved that the Legislative Council charge the Ordinance Committee with unfinished ordinances that were in process during the term of the previous Council, including the Cat Ordinance, Anti-Blight Ordinance, and an amendment to Ordinance 79 (Assessment Exemption for Volunteer Fire, Ambulance and Underwater Rescue personnel). Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

Ms. Llodra reminded that the new animal shelter will be opening this spring and asked that the Cat Ordinance be a priority.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

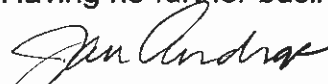
**Transfer** – Ms. Jacob moved to transfer \$8,500 from 01570-2000 Contingency to Account 01330-4060 Contractual Services. Motion seconded and unanimously carried. This transfer is to fund the change from a limited Code Red contract to one with unlimited usage minutes for the period 10/30/11 to 10/29/12. Mr. Lundquist asked if any of these Code Red "minutes" could be used for non-emergency reminders to residents. Ms. Llodra replied that Code Red is for emergency use only.

Ms. Llodra reported that after this transfer, there is \$254,852 remaining in the Contingency account. We try to maintain at least \$225,000 for any additional resources needed for winter storms.

**Registrars of Voters – Redistricting** – The Registrars will be presenting their recommendations for new district lines at the next Council meeting.

**Goals of the Legislative Council** – Ms. Jacob moved to approve the Legislative Council Goals and Objectives for the coming year as outlined (attached). Motion seconded. There were several comments and suggestions for amendments. One suggestion is to call these the "Guiding Principles" of the LC. Chairman Capeci suggested any feedback from this discussion be sent to him for a subsequent meeting. Ms. Jacob moved to TABLE the motion until the next Council meeting. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

  
Jan Andras, Clerk

att.

*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 at which they were corrected.*



**NEWTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
3 PRIMROSE STREET  
NEWTOWN, CT 06470**

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BUSINESS OFFICE  
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December 22, 2011

Mr. John Kortze, Chair  
Board of Finance  
52 Cobblers Mill Road  
Sandy Hook, CT 06482

Subject: Special Appropriation Request from Non Recurring Fund

Dear John:

At its December 20, 2011 meeting, the Board of Education approved the following motion:

- That the Board of Education request a special appropriation to the Board of Finance for \$150,000 to complete several building and site maintenance projects. These requested funds shall come from the capital non recurring fund.

We ask the Board of Finance to include this action on its next agenda. The list of projects is attached. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janet Robinson". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Janet M. Robinson, Ph.D.  
Superintendent  
Enclosure

cc: Jeff Capeci  
Pat Llodra  
Bob Tait  
Board of Education  
Ron Bienkowski

Projects to be Completed with Capital Non Recurring Fund

<u>HAWLEY SCHOOL</u>				
DOOR REPLACEMENT-PHASE III	SECURITY/SAFETY	H	\$	20,000
<u>SANDY HOOK SCHOOL</u>				
CARPET/FLOORING REPLACEMENT PROGRAM	VERY WORN	H	\$	20,000
<u>MIDDLE GATE SCHOOL</u>				
CARPET/FLOORING REPLACEMENT PROGRAM	VERY WORN	H	\$	20,000
<u>MIDDLE SCHOOL</u>				
CARPET/FLOORING REPLACEMENT PROGRAM	VERY WORN	H	\$	30,000
STRIP AND REFINISH A GYM FLOOR TO BLEND REPAIR	WATER DAMAGED	H	\$	15,000
<u>HIGH SCHOOL</u>				
REPLACE FLOORING AT LOBBY	WORN	M	\$	35,000
INSTALL GATES AT TWO STAIRWELLS	SAFETY/SECURITY	H	\$	10,000
<u>Total</u>			\$	150,000

Note: The Initial source of the requested funds was from the Board of Education's remaining year-end balance on June 30, 2010, which was \$155,762.

## Guiding Principles of the Legislative Council

Capital Expenditures: Limit capital expenditures to those items that are essential to the needs of the town and prudent based upon current financial environment.

Budgeting: Sound, fiscally responsible budgets that are understandable and acceptable to the taxpayer shall be presented at referendum. Budgets and the budgeting process shall be transparent to the taxpayer. In an effort to reduce the burden of property taxes, the council shall play an active role petitioning our state legislators to eliminate unfunded mandates and to seek alternate, less burdensome tax policies.

Economic Development: Responsible, focused economic development shall be encouraged that is: complementary to our municipal plans, aimed at broadening our tax base and increasing revenues without burdening scarce municipal resources.

Charter Review: Review the Charter of the Town of Newtown and recommend to the voters the few important changes that will make government leaner, more efficient and responsive to voters.

Per Charter section 5-01c Review purchasing regulations.