

**Town of Newtown Legislative Council Special Meeting
Wednesday, July 11, 2012
C. H. Booth Library, Newtown, CT**

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

ALSO PRESENT: First Selectman Pat Llodra, Fred Hurley (DPW Director), Amy Mangold (P&R Director), Ed Marks (PRC Chairman), Carl Samuelson (Asst. Director), Town Clerk Debbie Aurelia, 12 members of public, Jan Andras, one member of press

Chairman Capeci called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. There was no American flag in the room.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Ms. Jacob moved to approve the minutes of the 6/20/12 regular meeting. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

Ms. Jacob moved to approve the minutes of the 6/27/12 special meeting. Motion seconded. Ms. Fetchick offered amendments (attached). Motion seconded and minutes unanimously approved as amended.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT – Under New Business

NEW BUSINESS

Oakview Playing Fields – Ms. Llodra invited Mr. Hurley, Ms. Mangold, Mr. Samuelson and Mr. Marks to give a report on this project since questions were asked by a Council member.

Parks & Recreation Commission Chairman Ed Marks advised that 12 years ago, the commission envisioned improvements and parking area enlargement at the Oakview fields. Delay included waiting years for the State to turn over the property title to the Town, and there were issues about water supply. The solution fell into place with the renovations to the high school. During that work, DPW Director Fred Hurley arranged to have a waterline extended down to that area. In addition, the high school project had top soil that was moved to the Oakview fields.

Last year, the P&R Commission approved the use of funds from the surcharge fees for the project. These are additional fees collected from each participant in a recreation program and placed into a capital fund. This project was intended to start early fall but was delayed by the weather. Mr. Samuelson stated that \$48,000 was budgeted from the surcharge account. To date, \$18,331.08 has been spent for leasing of equipment and it is anticipated that the project will be completed within the budget. A large screener was leased because it could screen the 8,000 yards of top soil in one step,

rather than four steps required by the small town-owned machine. Public Works employees did all of the heavy equipment work, which also gave them an opportunity for training. A large area roller was also leased, on an hourly basis, to compact the subsoil. The rates only applied while the machine was actually in use, not when sitting on the property.

The playable area of the field, due to removal of slope, will now allow for one regular size soccer field or two cub size fields. The field is planned to open in the Fall of 2013, after being allowed to settle for two growing cycles.

Ms. Llodra stated that this project is taking awhile to complete but it is being done with in-house staff and equipment, as much as possible. If the economy were different, this would probably be out-sourced. Ms. Mangold pointed out that 10 years ago, this project was estimated at \$330,000.

When asked about the Town's purchase of a bulldozer, Mr. Samuelson advised that since it was purchased in October, it has been used 382 hours. A rental would be \$70/hour so this machine, which is shared with Public Works, should pay for itself within 2-3 years.

OLD BUSINESS

Charter Revision Commission: Mr. Wiedemann moved that the Legislative Council adopt the Charter Revision Commission charge unanimously approved by the Charter Revision Charge Committee on June 14, 2012. Said charge should be given to a Charter Revision Commission upon appointment. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

The Commission must complete its work by August 20 in order to put this on the November Presidential ballot. The charge is to address difficulties with the passing of the budget, as time permits. At a later time, it is suggested forming another Commission to look at any additional issues.

Mr. Lundquist moved that the Legislative Council appoint a Charter Revision Commission consisting of nine voting members and that the following nine citizens of Newtown be appointed as members of said commission. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

Charter Review							
First_Name	Last_Name	Middle_Name	St_No	Street	City	State	Party
George	Coleman	A	50	Pole Bridge Road	Sandy Hook	CT	D
Michelle	Embree Ku	E	28	Platts Hill Road	Newtown	CT	D
Anthony	Filiato	R	24	Washbrook Road	Newtown	CT	R
John	Godin	D	4	Quarry Ridge Road	Sandy Hook	CT	R

Charter Review

First_Name	Last_Name	Middle_Name	St_No	Street	City	State	Party
Robert	Hall	H	5	Nettleton Avenue	Newtown	CT	R
Craig	Lehecka		7	Brandywine Lane	Sandy Hook	CT	D
James	Ritchie	J	81	High Rock Road	Sandy Hook	CT	U
George	Schmidt	W	12	Old Castle Drive	Newtown	CT	R
Allan	Song	Y	12	River Edge Drive	Sandy Hook	CT	U

Mr. Lundquist advised that the committee met with 22 highly qualified candidates over the past few weeks. These final 9 represent 3 "experienced" residents, 2 former charter revision commission members, and 6 newly involved residents.


Ms. Jacob moved that the Legislative Council establish a Charter Revision Commission in accordance with CT General Statutes and the Charter of The Town of Newtown Consisting of nine members: George Coleman, Michelle Embree Ku, Anthony Filiato, John Godin, Robert Hall, Craig Lehecka, James Ritchie, George Schmidt and Allan Song and charged with a dated June 14, 2012 as presented by the Charter Charge Committee as adopted by the Legislative Council. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

Town Clerk Debbie Aurelia then swore in 8 of the new members who were present. Chairman Capeci then asked them to pick their first meeting date, which he will notice and attend to facilitate the election of a chairperson.

VOTER COMMENT: None noted

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mr. Capeci announced that if tomorrow's referendum approves the FY 2012-2013 Budget, the Council will call a special meeting on Friday at 8:00 a.m. to set the mill rate.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.


Jan Andras
Recording Secretary

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.

Changes to LC Minutes of 6/27/2012:

Page 3, 5th paragraph: Starting with “Debbie Leidlein,...” – need to strike “copies of Board of Education Potential Adjustments” replace with “copy”.

Page 3, 5th paragraph: In the sentence beginning with “Ms. Fetchick distributed copies of”, add “Board of Education Potential Adjustments”. Also, add “She clarified the following with Ms. Leidlein, 1) bus aides will be removed only if they do not have a corresponding PPT; 2) lines 28 & 29 are student activity accounts which have a year end balance; 3) lines 37, 38 & 39 are reductions due to enrollment; In total, these adjustments minus the items already taken voted on by the BOE are about \$350,000.”

Page 4, 2nd paragraph: Ms. Fetchick spoke about the importance of the fund balance for long term planning. We have a policy and should follow.