

**TOWN OF NEWTOWN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2014
NEWTOWN MUNICIPAL CENTER, NEWTOWN, CT**

PRESENT: George Ferguson, Ryan Knapp, Neil Chaudhary, Mary Ann Jacob, Phil Carroll, Dan Honan, Anthony Filiato, Joe Girgasky, Paul Lundquist, Dan Amaral, Lisa Romano, Bob Merola

ALSO PRESENT: First Selectman Pat Llodra, Finance Director Bob Tait, and Board of Finance Chair John Kortze. Four members of the public and 1 press.

Ms. Jacob called the meeting to order at 7:18pm.

VOTER COMMENT: None

NEW BUSINESS: MR. CHAUDHARY MOTIONED TO ENDORSE THE REGIONAL PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE PROGRAM. MOTION SECOND.

MR. CHAUDHARY MOTIONED TO WAVE THE READING OF THE PROPOSAL. SECOND BY MR. FERGUSON. MOTION APPROVED.

Mr. Tait reported the State Office of Policy Management has money to be used for the Regional Performance Incentive Program. The grant is for shared information technology services; connection to and use of the Nutmeg Network, which is the state's network, their "cloud". The state is inviting towns to connect. All Boards of Ed are already on the network. They are providing money so we can connect. In addition to notifying the state of our intent to apply, they require a resolution from the Legislative Council endorsing the Nutmeg Network connection application. The state will pay for the connection. We use space on the network saving space on the town servers.

Mr. Lundquist asked if this is file storage. Mr. Tait said that is correct and it has the ability to share data.

Mr. Chaudhary asked if it will affect speed of access to information. Will our website and GIS be on the network? Mr. Tait said that is still to be determined. We determine what data will be stored on the network

Ms. Jacob asked if we are moving forward with this without an IT person because of the grant deadline. Mr. Tait said that is correct, and we have Atrion helping with this.

Mr. Ferguson asked if the capital costs and operating costs are the amounts we are asking for with the grant. Mr. Tait said that is correct.

Mr. Filiato asked if it works. Mr. Tait said this is the network the state uses and all Boards of Ed in Connecticut.

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Ms. Romano asked if Mr. Tait is satisfied with the privacy aspects. Mr. Tait said yes it has been established for a long time. Mrs. Llodra noted this network was started 20 years ago, funded by the Federal Government, as a way to provide support and services to schools and libraries. Then Police Depts. were connected. In the past 5 years municipalities began asking to be fully connected. It is the Broadband Network for Connecticut renamed the Nutmeg Network and is federally funded.

Mr. Lundquist asked how it saves us money. Mrs. Llodra said part of the savings is they will be installing the fiber. Currently we lease space on fiber from Charter. There will be a reduction in use costs. Mr. Tait said a CCM reports states; it is a reliable connection to the internet, faster bandwidth, faster response time, better technical support, improved security, and greater mobility of IP data.

Mr. Merola said a few months ago there was an initiative from the White House called Education Connect to connect colleges and school districts. He asked if this is related. Not known.

Ms. Romano asked if towns will be connected in a way that is useful. Mr. Tait said town financial data can be shared.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:28pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carey Schierloh
Recording Secretary

Attachment: Nutmeg Network and grant information

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.