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## TOWN OF NEWTOWN

### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

#### TOWN OF NEWTOWN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2015

NEWTOWN MUNICIPAL CENTER, NEWTOWN, CT

**PRESENT:** George Ferguson, Joe Girgasky, Eva Bermudez, Paul Lundquist, Bob Merola, Ryan Knapp, Mary Ann Jacob, Dan Amaral, Phil Carroll, Dan Honan.

**ABSENT:** Neil Chaudhary, Tony Filiato

**ALSO PRESENT:** First Selectman Pat Llodra, Finance Director Bob Tait, 1 public and 10 press.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Ms. Jacob called the meeting to order at 7:30pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**VOTER COMMENT:** None

**MINUTES:** MR. AMARAL MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 7, 2015. MOTION SECOND BY MR. FERGUSON. APPROVED.

**Disposition of Property at 36 Yogananda:** MR. MEROLA MOTIONED TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN TO DEMOLISH THE HOUSE AT 36 YOGANANDA ST. SECOND BY MR. LUNDQUIST. Mrs. Llodra stated the decision to demolish was a result of outreach to victims and neighbors. The next step will be deed restrictions; in the event the property is sold, the proceeds should benefit the victims. Specific wording will be addressed at a future Council meeting. If demolition is approved tonight, it will go back to the Board of Selectmen, who will set a town meeting date. This process is required by Charter. Cost of demo is estimated to be \$29,000, the cost of demolition of house on Great Hill. Mr. Tait stated the money will come from the Sandy Hook Insurance Recovery Fund. We received 1.1 million and have spent \$724,000. There is \$210,000 planned for Chalk Hill Security Officer, leaving \$232,000. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Mr. Knapp attended a CCM workshop on Municipal Budgeting. Attached

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** None

**FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT:** Mrs. Llodra highlighted the goals of the proposed operating budget. She believes they can be accomplished with this budget.

Mr. Knapp asked the status of sharing IT services with the Board of Ed. Mrs. Llodra stated we have had a complete turnover in IT and there were other priorities ahead of IT.

Having the School District and Town on the same Finance Package was first and it is completed. Second is Human Resources/Personnel policies and data. It is still being worked on. The tech people are saying the functions between school and town are so different, combining them would create a new position, a department head.

Mr. Tait shared his Annual Salary Report for town and school employees. Salaries are also listed in the Selectman's budget. He spoke with the ratings agencies and they have confirmed our current ratings. The Ratings Reports, Selectmen's proposed budget and Salary Report can be viewed at:

[http://www.newtown-ct.gov/Public\\_Documents/NewtownCT\\_Finance/index](http://www.newtown-ct.gov/Public_Documents/NewtownCT_Finance/index)

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Council 2015 Budget Calendar:** Ms. Jacob distributed the Councils budget meeting calendar. Attached.

### **Transfers:**

MR. FERGUSON MOTIONED TO TRANSFER: \$49,603 FROM CONTINGENCY TO FEES & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES. SECOND BY MR. HONAN. Mr. Ferguson noted the town will implement the cost saving measures on energy efficiencies as identified. This will cost less than entering into a service contract. APPROVED

MR. FERGUSON MOTIONED TRANSFER: \$50,000 FROM CONTINGENCY TO SELECTMAN PROFESSIONAL SERVICES-LEGAL. SECOND BY MR. CARROLL. Mrs. Llodra noted this is for anticipated expenses of known situations for the balance of this year. APPROVED.

MR. FERGUSON MOTIONED TRANSFER: \$7,000 FROM CONTINGENCY TO IT EQUIPMENT. SECOND BY MR. MEROLA. Mrs. Llodra stated this is the state's Nutmeg system, used by school districts, libraries, police departments and municipalities. It provides interconnectivity among users and was partially federally funded. It is a fiber optic system which makes us less dependent on Charter. APPROVED.

MR. FERGUSON MOTIONED TRANSFER: \$30,000 FROM CONTINGENCY TO IT SOFTWARE/HARDWARE MAINTENANCE FEES. SECOND BY MR. CARROLL Mrs. Llodra stated this will improve the permit process, be more accurate and create digital files. The permit process can now be started from home. The cost came in lower than anticipated. APPROVED  
Transfers Attached.

**Recommendation to Board of Finance Regarding Debt Policy Review:** MR. FERGUSON MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS THE TOWN OF NEWTOWN IS WELL ON ITS WAY TO MEETING ITS GOAL OF REDUCING DEBT SERVICE PAYMENTS TO 9% OF TOTAL EXPENDITURES; AND  
WHEREAS TAXPAYERS HAVE MATERIALLY BENEFITED FROM ONGOING PRUDENT FISCAL PRACTICES INCLUDING A REDUCTION IN BORROWING; AND  
WHEREAS FURTHER REDUCING THE TOWN OF NEWTOWN'S DEBT CAP COULD YIELD GREATER BUDGETARY FLEXIBILITY AND AN IMPROVED FINANCIAL POSITION; AND  
WHEREAS A FULL UNDERSTANDING OF THE IMPACT OF SUCH A MOVE IS NEEDED PRIOR TO MAKING A DECISION;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: THAT THE NEWTOWN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL REQUESTS THAT THE BOARD OF FINANCE CONSIDER DIFFERENT BORROWING CAP REDUCTION SCENARIOS AND REPORT ON THEM TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION. SECOND BY MR. MEROLA. APPROVED.

VOTER COMMENT: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Carey Schierloh, Clerk

*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.*

ATTACHMENT A: CCM Workshop Summary

ATTACHMENT B: Budget Calendar

ATTACHMENT C: Transfers