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TOWN OF NEWTOWN

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

**TOWN OF NEWTOWN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2015
NEWTOWN MUNICIPAL CENTER, NEWTOWN, CT**

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

ALSO PRESENT: First Selectman Pat Llodra, Finance Director Bob Tait, Board of Finance Chairman John Kortze Land Use Director George Benson, Public Works Director Fred Hurley, Attorney David Grogins, EDC Coordinator Betsy Paynter, Andrew Deery, and 2 members of the public.

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

VOTER COMMENT: None

MINUTES: MR. FERGUSON MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 18, 2015. MOTION SECOND BY MR. MEROLA. APPROVED.
Mr. Lundquist and Mr. Amaral abstained.

COMMUNICATIONS: Ms. Jacob stated a change was made to the budget calendar. *Attachment*

FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT: Mrs. Llodra shared an update on Sandy Hook School. Updates can be viewed at Sandyhook2016.com. Excavation for the foundation begins this month. Site work is on schedule. The GMP – Guaranteed Maximum Price--is below 50 million. There are 4 parts of the project that were rebid and the new bids came in within budget. Mrs. Llodra updated the storm report. *Attachment* Mr. Hurley reports all equipment is still on the road except for one truck which broke springs today. There have been no accidents. Mrs. Llodra reports the Community Center referendum has been set for April 28 as a question on the budget ballot. On February 28th there was a well-attended information forum on the community center. Additional forums are scheduled for March 7, 10 and 24.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Mr. Knapp reports the ordinance committee met and assigned members to research the 3 new charges. The committee has not taken a vote regarding the tax exemption for 100% disabled veterans. The item will be carried forward.

NEW BUSINESS:

REVISED CIP: MR. CHAUDHARY MOVED TO APPROVE THE REVISED 2015-2016 – 2019-2020 CIP. SECOND BY MR. CARROLL. Mr. Kortze stated per the Councils direction, the Board of Finance is revising the debt policy to reduce indebtedness; as a percentage of the budget, the grand list and per capita. The ratings agencies reports stated the percentage of debt to the grand list and per capita were a little high. The recommended change is to remove one million a year from the Fairfield Hills demolition for three years and add it to capital roads. Mr. Ferguson asked about the Board of Finance's reasons for the change. Mr. Kortze stated this fits the definition of a capital project, and the need to repair roads coupled with low rates, they believe this is the better approach. Mr. Kortze and Mrs. Llodra stressed this is a two prong approach to repair the roads and reach the level of a sustainable program; bonding for three years and building the operational road budget back to two million a year. Mr. Hurley stated there has been a change in the asphalt material mix that will last for 20+ years. The extra funding will return us to the point where we can sustain the road system. Mr. Knapp stated he is very much in support of repairing roads. He expressed concerns about the large amount of work being done at one time, will we be faced with the problem of all these roads failing at the same time. Mr. Hurley stated that is why we are not doing 5 or 10 million a year. This is a sustainable amount of road repair. Mr. Hurley explained there are 3 culprits that destroy pavement; salt, road mix and asphalt binder. They have learned using virgin stone eliminates issues with pavement failure. Mr. Knapp expressed concerns regarding salt on roads and shared an example of artificial freeze/thaw cycle that can damage road. Mr. Hurley stated they will do the necessary maintenance. He noted drains will be installed when repairing roads to keep water and salt off the roads. Mr. Filiato stated he would like to see dirt roads paved. Mr. Hurley noted the majority of dirt roads are such at the request of the residents. He stated part of the budget is to maintain dirt roads. Mrs. Llodra noted many of the dirt roads are private. APPROVED. *Attachments*

REVISED CIP REGULATION: MR. CHAUDHARY MOVED TO APPROVE THE REVISED CIP REGULATION. SECOND BY MR. CARROLL. Mr. Kortze stated this document has been used for many years and 95% of the document remains the same. They are trying to remain consistent with other financials issues and to be more precise in how capital projects are handled. Mr. Kortze stated they worked with Mr. Tait on changes that are more comprehensive, descriptive and more consistent with other financial reporting. This provides a mechanism to address emergencies, requires a more formal process with specific costs and clearer process, and added grants. Mrs. Llodra stated the Capital Projects Process was added to make the process clearer; to avoid confusion such as happened with the High School auditorium. The new language is a step by step process. Mr. Lundquist noted this is an articulation, clarification and improvement of the current process. MOTION WAS WITHDRAWN. MR. CHAUDHARY MOVED TO POSTPONE THE VOTE TO A FUTURE MEETING. SECOND BY MR. FERGUSON. APPROVED. *Attachment*

170 MT. PLEASANT: MR. CHAUDHARY MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE BUSINESS INCENTIVE PROGRAM APPLICATION FOR 170 MT. PLEASANT ROAD. SECOND BY MR. MEROLA. Mrs. Paynter and Mr. Deery presented the planned 30,000 square foot medical building. Mrs. Llodra noted the area has been coined the Medical Mile. APPROVED. *Attachments*

SANDY HOOK SIGNAGE: MR. CHAUDHARY MOVED TO ACCEPT THE FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR SANDY HOOK VILLAGE SIGNAGE AND WAYFINDING DESIGN PLAN. SECOND BY MR. FERGUSON. Ms. Jacob stated this is based on a grant we received. These are decorative directional signs pointing to businesses in Sandy Hook from Exit 10 and 11 and in Sandy Hook Center. APPROVED.

Resolution: Authorize the First Selectman to work with Cohen and Wolf to execute a settlement agreement related to the property at #75 Church Hill Road. Such final agreement to include updated financial information provided by the Newtown tax collector and the water sewer authority. Further, the water sewer authority and the estate of Noie Richards are to be parties to the final settlement agreement. Carried forward to the next meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: MR. CHAUDHARY MOTIONED TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE LEGAL ACTION CONCERNING THE TAKING OF EASEMENT RIGHTS AND INVITE PAT LLODRA, DAVE GROGINS AND FRED HURLEY. SECOND BY MR. FERGUSON. APPROVED. The council entered executive session at 8:55pm.

The council returned to public session at 9:10pm.

RESOLUTION: MR. CHAUDHARY MOVED TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION "RESOLVED THAT THE TOWN OF NEWTOWN ACQUIRE BY THE PROCESS OF EMINENT DOMAIN, AN ALL-PURPOSE UTILITY EASEMENT IN CRESTWOOD DRIVE FOR THE PURPOSE OF SERVICING THE NEW SANDY HOOK SCHOOL AND SUCH OTHER PURPOSES AS MAY BE REQUIRED. SECOND BY MR. FERGUSON. Mr. Hurley noted this is for utilities under the road. It will not affect the property. APPROVED. Mr. Amaral voted No.

VOTER COMMENT: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:17pm.

Carey Schierloh
Clerk

- Attachment A: Updated budget calendar
- Attachment B: Storm Report
- Attachment C: Revised CIP and Revised CIP Regulation
- Attachment D: 170 Mt. Pleasant
- Attachment E: Sandy Hook Signage

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.