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TOWN OF NEWTOWN

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

TOWN OF NEWTOWN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2016 NEWTOWN MUNICIPAL CENTER, NEWTOWN, CT

PRESENT: George Ferguson, Phil Carroll, Chris Eide, Judit DeStefano, Ryan Knapp (7:40), Paul Lundquist, Mary Ann Jacob, Dan Amaral, Tony Filiato, Dan Wiedemann, Dan Honan.

ABSENT: Neil Chaudhary.

ALSO PRESENT: First Selectman Pat Llodra, Finance Director Bob Tait, Charter Revision Commission Committee members Robert Hall and Deborra Zukowski, Newtown Police Chief James Viadero, Lieutenant David Kullgren, Police Commission members Joel Faxon, Brian Budd, Dan Rosenthal, 6 members of the Police Department, Newtown School District Director of Facilities Gino Faiella, Newtown Board of Education Chair Keith Alexander, Newtown Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joseph Erardi, Newtown Board of Education Director of Business Ron Bienkowski, 2 members of the public.

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Jacob called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:31 pm.

VOTER COMMENT: None.

MINUTES: MR. FERGUSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 16, 2016 REGULAR MEETING. SECOND BY MR. CARROLL. ALL IN FAVOR. 1 Abstained. (Ms. DeStefano).

COMMUNICATIONS: Ms. Jacob referred to letters received regarding the Board of Education reconfiguration of public school system, Board of Education Financial Report, Edmond Town Hall videos U.S. Census data. (Attachment)

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Mr. Ferguson reports that the Finance Committee has had preliminary conversations and sent to the Board of Finance and will wait to hear back from the Board of Finance. Ms. Jacob recognized the efforts put forth by Ms. DeStefano and the Charter Revision Committee.

FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT: Ms. Llodra shared a copy of the December 5, 2016, Bridge, Road and Project Report. (Attachment) Ms. Llodra referred to the November 29 Livable Communities presentation. There will be further discussion with the Board of Selectman and Mr. Boccuzzi regarding this program, the consideration of signing on to the program, and if it is applicable to the community. Ms. Llodra shared the Board of Selectman Fiscal Year to Date Budget. (Attachment) Mr. Tait indicated that we are half-way through the fiscal year and are on budget. Transfer requests, department distribution, noted within the budget report. Mr. Tait will be happy to answer any questions after this meeting.

Rec'd. for Record 12-15 2016
Town Clerk of Newtown 11:47
am
Debbie Aurelia Halstead

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

NEW BUSINESS

Charter Revision Commission, Ms. Zukowski and Mr. Hall reviewed the Summary of Newtown Charter Amendments Relevant to Members of the Legislative Council. (Attachment)

THE PROCESS BY WHICH NEW CAPITAL PROJECTS ARE PRIORITIZED FOR REFERENDUM OR LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL APPROVAL IF OVER ANNUAL COUNCIL APPROVAL LIMIT: MR. LUNDQUIST MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROCESS BY WHICH NEW CAPITAL PROJECTS ARE PRIORITIZED FOR REFERENDUM OR LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL APPROVAL IF OVER ANNUAL COUNCIL APPROVAL LIMIT. SECOND BY MR. EIDE. ALL IN FAVOR.

OLD BUSINESS

APPOINTMENT OF A CLERK: MR. LUNDQUIST MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF A CLERK, JUNE SGOBBO. SECOND BY MR. EIDE. ALL IN FAVOR.

2017-2018 to 2021-2022 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN: No action tonight, under discussion. (Attachment)

Presentation by Chief James Viadero on the Newtown Police Department Facility Needs Assessment & Validation. Chief Viadero showed a PowerPoint presentation that identified the need for a new facility. (Attachment) After the presentation, Mr. Ferguson expressed support for the new facility and suggested to include the ramifications and impact on the citizens and how to better serve the community. Chief Viadero added that it is very important to the Police Department to provide service to citizens within the facility, public service events for example. Ms. Jacob inquired as to probable location. Ms. Llodra shared that recently the process of moving forward hinged on the BOE decision, now that NMS is off the table, Fairfield Hills will be the likely location. The footprint of the Cochran Hall site could be the most appropriate location. Mr. Knapp looked at number of \$320 sq. ft. for the Hook & Ladder location to Bethel \$458 sq. ft. Chief Viadero provided costs of fire department construction. Next logical step would be to determine where this would be. Ms. Llodra indicated that there is money in the CIP for \$ for Cochran Hall site. The initial project plan is \$500,000 in year one to move forward to engage with consultants, designers, engineers. This will allow us to have a real budget number for the overall project with drawings. Chief Viadero extended an invitation to tour the facility. Ms. Jacob offered to help organize a tour with Legislative Council members.

Gino Faiella, Ron Bienkowski, Keith Alexander, Joseph Erardi reviewed the CIP Summary Sheet. Includes Hawley School roof replacement in Year One as well as Middle School improvements, boiler replacement, and High School Auditorium Phase II project, which grew by \$850,000 because of some ADA requirements, plus rigging, lighting and other structural amenities that were not included originally. Dr. Erardi explained that the renovation went from an auditorium renovation to an auditorium/theater renovation, becoming a completely different project, a stage improvement project. January start date, 9 months to completion. Submittals to the state for reimbursement discussed. Grant reimbursement is 36.43%. Year Two includes Middle Gate roof replacement and Hawley School boiler replacement.

FIRST SELECTMAN'S SALARY: MR. FERGUSON MOVED TO MAINTAIN THE FIRST SELECTMAN'S SALARY AT THE CURRENT SALARY FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS. SECOND BY MR. RYAN. Discussion of salary. (Attachment) MR. FERGUSON WITHDREW MOTION. MS.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

DESTEFANO MOVED TO WITHDRAW THE MOTION TO MAINTAIN THE FIRST SELECTMAN'S SALARY AT THE CURRENT SALARY FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS. SECOND BY MR. WIEDEMAN. ALL IN FAVOR. Discussion of salary. MR. WIEDEMAN MOVED TO INCREASE THE FIRST SELECTMAN'S SALARY TO 2 ¼% FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS. SECOND BY MR. CARROLL. Discussion of salary. MR. FERGUSON MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION TO INCREASE THE FIRST SELECTMAN'S SALARY OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS FROM TO 2%. SECOND BY MS. DESTEFANO. MOTION APPROVED: 9 IN FAVOR. 2 OPPOSED (MR. WIEDEMANN, MR. FILIATO). MR. EIDE MOVED TO INCREASE THE FIRST SELECMAN'S SALARY TO 2% FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS. SECOND BY MS. DESTEFANO. MOTION APPROVED: 8 IN FAVOR. 3 OPPOSED (MR. WIEDEMANN, MR. KNAPP, MR. CARROLL).

BUDGET CALENDAR: MR. LUNDQUIST MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2017 BUDGET MEETING CALENDAR. SECOND BY MR. EIDE. ALL IN FAVOR.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CALENDAR: MR. LUNDQUIST MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2017 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CALENDAR. SECOND BY MR. EIDE. ALL IN FAVOR.

VOTER COMMENT: Deborra Zukowski 4 Cornfield Ridge Road – clarified a misunderstanding regarding the Legislative Council may increase the budget with a vote of 6 members, up to the original Board of Finance recommendation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Ms. Jacob asked to plan on the December 21st Legislative Council meeting included will be the fire apparatus process.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:53 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

June Sgobbo

Attachments: Correspondence (5), Edmond Town Hall videos, U.S. Census Data, December 5, 2016, Bridge, Road and Project Report, Board of Selectman Fiscal Year to Date Budget, Summary of Newtown Charter Amendments Relevant to Members of the Legislative Council, Board of Finance CIP, Newtown Police Department Facility Needs Assessment & Validation, Newtown Board of Education Monthly Financial Report October 31, 2016, CCM 2015 Salary Survey Data, Legislative Council 2017 Meeting Schedule, Legislative Council Budget Calendar.

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.

On Dec 2, 2016, at 5:56 PM, Mary Ann Jacob <mjacob4404@charter.net> wrote:

Please include in the united for our next meeting

Begin forwarded message:

From: Erin Arcario <earcario@gmail.com>
Subject: Fwd: Building Newtown
Date: December 2, 2016 at 1:23:11 PM EST
To: okjt@aol.com, Aaron Carlson <Aaron4newtown@gmail.com>, John Godin <jgodin1312@gmail.com>, sandyroussas@gmail.com, kellejtjohnson@gmail.com, george-ferguson@earthlink.net, chriseide4newtown@gmail.com, juditnewtownlc@gmail.com, paul lundquist <lundquist.paul@gmail.com>, Ryan Knapp <ryan.w.knapp@gmail.com>, danielthonan@gmail.com, mjacob4404@charter.net, dgw0135@yahoo.com, amaralpoggy@aol.com, nkc@4newtown.com, tonyfiliato@ymail.com, Phil Carroll <ppcarroll13@gmail.com>, pat.llodra@newtown-ct.gov, SuqrBrk@aol.com, herb.rosenthal@newtown-ct.gov

Dear Board and Council Members,

In light of the upcoming decision on a potential school closing, I shared my thoughts with the Board of Education (below). I want to share them with you as well as my wish for Newtown is to focus on building our town - encouraging new businesses to set up, find ways to generate revenue and make Newtown the desirable town it used to be.

If our President-elect is going to "make America great again" - how are we going to step and ensure we make Newtown great? And, does closing a school make Newtown great? I don't think it does. And can we shift our focus to making us great?

I recognize it is a difficult task to solicit new businesses and leverage Fairfield Hills to it's full and amazing potential, however, we are all behind you in this effort. We support making Newtown great.

Thank you,
Erin Arcario
10 Butternut Ridge

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Erin Arcario <earcario@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Nov 30, 2016 at 2:57 PM
Subject: Building Newtown
To: newtownboe@newtown.k12.ct.us

Dear Members of the Board of Education,

As you approach the date to vote on whether or not to close a school, I'd like to express my thoughts on this topic.

We moved to Newtown 11 years ago and, at the time, had a 3 year old daughter. Our real estate agent detailed the school format, which seemed like a lot of transition for students compared to a more "standard" model of K-5, 6-8 and 9-12. She insisted that when we approached the transition years we would be grateful for the set up.

We are indeed. We now have an 8th, 5th and 3rd grader in three schools and have seen the tremendous value in having the school transitions. I would urge Newtown BOE to keep building up our schools and putting our students first.

Putting education as a top priority in the town extends to building home values and encouraging new families to move into town. We need growth in our town; we need prosperity.

I would urge Newtown BOF, Fairfield Hills Council, Legislative Council and other groups to focus on building our town - create new business opportunities, create facilities to host events and bring revenue in to the town. Instead of cutting, let's focus on building. In building, everyone wins. We have a great town but cannot sustain greatness through massive cuts.

I work in an industry that is facing serious financial challenges and price pressure. We have to be creative in how we use our resources and how we can expand our product offerings and services to build new lines of business. We need to have a business-mindset to building Newtown.

Thank you for reading and I appreciate the challenges that lie ahead for your team. I trust you will do what's best for our students. A modest savings (at best) for taxpayers is not worth the negative impact closing a school will have. In fact, it may only drive more families away from Newtown, reducing any potential savings.

Best Regards,
Erin Arcario

Good Evening Dr. Erardi , fellow Board members, friends and Neighbors of Newtown. Before I get started I would like to thank the board for this opportunity to speak tonight in a public forum. My name is Michelle Garrity, I have been a resident of Newtown for 14 years. I currently have 3 children in the Newtown school system. I can stand here before you tonight and go on and on and tell you why I am against the 8th graders going into the high school but really let's face it I am not an expert but a mom and resident who only wants the best for my child and his fellow classmates. To get my point across I will share with you tonight the research I have collected.

As we are all aware the middle school years are in fact just what the name implies, children too old for elementary school too young for high school but fall somewhere in the middle. It is a time where dramatic changes occur, on the brink of adolescence, bodies changing, acceptance by peers, peer pressure and the uncertainty and anxiety of these new changes. According to the association for Supervision and Curriculum Development based in Virginia. Middle schools are needed to provide students in early adolescence with an environment that can help them negotiate the impact of puberty on their intellectual, social and emotional lives. Educators need to understand the developmental needs of young adolescents, and in particular their neurological, social emotional and metacognitive growth. Some of these developmental needs are ignored or subverted by inappropriate educational practices such as large impersonal schools. Practices at the best schools honor the developmental uniqueness of young adolescents.

In 2010 two towns went through the same situation that Newtown is in right now, that is a proposal to put 8th grade into the high school. One of these towns being our neighboring town of Monroe and the other was in Monson Massachusetts. I had the pleasure of interviewing former Monroe PTA president Fran and had an email correspondence with Monroe's 1st Selectman Steve Vavrek in regards to this topic. Both stated due to declining enrollment, Chalk Hill was going to close and just like Newtown the proposal was to put 8th graders at Masuk High. Fran stated parents were so up in arms and felt 8th graders did not belong in high school due to the age difference from incoming 8th graders versus seniors, parents felt the 8th graders were just too young for high school. Ultimately Chalk Hill did close but the decision to send the 8th graders to the high school was voted down. Monroe elementary schools went

back to k-5 system and middle school 6th thru -8th. However, Monroe did reconfigure their plan and added a stem academy program at the high school, which gave parents an option via lottery system to have their child attend the high school at their own discretion. In doing this the children who did attend the high school were still considered Jockey Hollow students and had a home base school to go back to and belong to. Per 1st selectman Vakverk the closing of Chalk Hill was also due to the fact that the town did not want to spend money to renovate the school. However for Newtown we did renovate NMS which brings up an entirely different argument of why did we spend almost 800 thousand dollars last year to put a new roof on a school if we are now closing it. If we do not repurpose this school who pays back the state and if we need to re-open the school because enrollment projections show an increase in the next 5 -6 years where is the money coming from to get the school up to code or are we talking we need to now re build a whole new school? Hence wasting all those dollars on a new roof!! One other point that was brought up during these interviews enrollments projection are just that projections, Monroe's enrollment was projected to decline when in fact it increased according to the Monroe Courier there were 3,215 students enrolled district wide this year versus 3,167 last year. Milone and MacBroom the company hired to study and predict trends said the enrollment would drop and anticipated 3,092 students. Why is this so important to us? Because this is the same exact firm who did our enrollment study and anticipated our enrollment will continue to drop 200 students for the next 5- 6 years. Are we really going to uproot our system on a bunch of what ifs?

My other interview was with the superintendent's secretary Karen from Monson High School in Monson Mass. In 2010 they proposed moving 8th graders from the middle school to the high school. I asked Karen what was the reason for the proposal she said it was to offer a variety of curriculum and had nothing to do with the budget cuts, declining enrollment or closing of schools. I asked Karen why the parents were so upset she told me the parents felt the age difference was too drastic and there was a huge difference in the maturity level between 8th graders and 12 graders. There were also concerns about 8th graders dating seniors. The decision was voted down and currently the school system houses pre k- through 4th in elementary school, grade 5th grade through 8th in middle school and 9th-12th in high school.

I spent this past Sunday morning at Starbucks with you my fellow Newtowners , As soon as I asked the question what do you think about the 8th graders being housed at the high school almost everyone had the same immediate response, they have no business being there, developmentally, mentally, physically. Almost everyone would love to see the 5th grade go back to elementary school and Reed house 6th 7th and 8th grades. I started a petition which I have here tonight with close to 400 signatures and over 100 comments voicing their concerns on why the 8th graders should not be housed at the high school.

I ask the board to please reconvene, and come up with other alternatives and or another grade configuration plan. Suggestions and questions I would like to see the board address before coming to their final decision would be to think about adding portables to either the elementary schools and or Reed to make room to keep 8th graders out of the high school. Are you absolutely certain that enrollment trends are steadily going to decrease that drastically and how are you going to prepare yourself if they are wrong? I would like to know what is the plan to repurpose the Middle school? How are we paying the state back for the roof if the building is not re-purposed? How do you intend to get the building up to code once we need to re-open it again or are you planning on rebuilding a whole new school which in the long run will save no one money.

To take our children out of their comfort zone and put them where they are clearly not developmentally ready for saving a few dollars seems trivial when all is said and done when in a few years just like it was seen with Roger Ludlowe and Andrew Warde in Fairfield we will have to re-open NMS anyway. I urge you to please look at other grade configuration options and keep our 8th graders out of the high school until they belong there, as freshman. Our children grow up so fast in this world as it is, can we just let them be kids a little while longer. Thank you

From: "Mary Ann Jacob" <mjacob4404@charter.net>
To: "Dana Los" <dana_los@hotmail.com>
Cc: "June Sgobbo" <june.sgobbo@charter.net>
Date: Wednesday December 7 2016 12:09:14PM

Re: Thank you, Board of Education

Thank you for your email, I've copied our clerk so she can include in the public record.

Mary Ann

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 7, 2016, at 10:44 AM, Dana Los dana_los@hotmail.com wrote:

Members of the Board of Education -

Thank you for your dedication, time, thoughtfulness in your examination of the proposal to reconfigure our public school system. I'm so pleased with the outcome of last night's vote to reject the closure of our middle school. I was very proud of our town's participation and obvious passion about keeping our schools configured as they are.

I also believe that the parents of this town have shown that the education our children are getting is a topmost priority and that we will continue to support that priority through the budget season and into the fall when electing our government leaders for the future terms.

You will have my family's support on your continued efforts on behalf of our children.

Thank you!

Dana Los

10 Cobblestone Lane

From: Laura Brennan <brennanla@hotmail.com>

Subject: Newtown Middle School

Date: December 2, 2016 at 7:02:24 PM EST

To: "NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us" <NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us>

Cc: "erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us" <erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us>, "okjt@aol.com" <okjt@aol.com>, "Aaron4newtown@gmail.com" <Aaron4newtown@gmail.com>, "jgodin1312@gmail.com" <jgodin1312@gmail.com>, "sandyroussas@gmail.com" <sandyroussas@gmail.com>, "kellejtjohnson@gmail.com" <kellejtjohnson@gmail.com>, "george-ferguson@earthlink.net" <george-ferguson@earthlink.net>, "chriseide4newtown@gmail.com" <chriseide4newtown@gmail.com>, "juditnewtownlc@gmail.com" <juditnewtownlc@gmail.com>, "lundquist.paul@gmail.com" <lundquist.paul@gmail.com>, "ryan.w.knapp@gmail.com" <ryan.w.knapp@gmail.com>, "danielthonan@gmail.com" <danielthonan@gmail.com>, "mjacob4404@charter.net" <mjacob4404@charter.net>, "dgw0135@yahoo.com" <dgw0135@yahoo.com>, "amaralpoggy@aol.com" <amaralpoggy@aol.com>, "nkc@4newtown.com" <nkc@4newtown.com>, "tonyfiliato@ymail.com" <tonyfiliato@ymail.com>, "ppcarroll13@gmail.com" <ppcarroll13@gmail.com>, "pat.llodra@newtown-ct.gov" <pat.llodra@newtown-ct.gov>, "SugrBrk@aol.com" <SugrBrk@aol.com>, "herb.rosenthal@newtown-ct.gov" <herb.rosenthal@newtown-ct.gov>, "morettic@newtown.k12.ct.us" <morettic@newtown.k12.ct.us>, "davilaj@newtown.k12.ct.us" <davilaj@newtown.k12.ct.us>, "ubertia@newtown.k12.ct.us" <ubertia@newtown.k12.ct.us>, "rodrigue@newtown.k12.ct.us" <rodrigue@newtown.k12.ct.us>, "einhornt@newtown.k12.ct.us" <einhornt@newtown.k12.ct.us>, "mabrennan.01@dartmouth.edu" <mabrennan.01@dartmouth.edu>

Newtown Board of Education,

We write today to express our opposition to the remaining school configuration under discussion that would result in the closure of the Newtown Middle School for the 2018/2019 school year. We have been following the work of the Future Forecast Committee closely and we believe that closing the Newtown Middle School and the resulting impact on student learning is not in the best interest of Newtown. We believe this option is unsustainable, will ultimately cost the town far more than it will save, has no academic benefits for the students and will sacrifice the great character of our Newtown education.

We have been reviewing Option I, "the last option standing," in regards to sustainability and we ask that you consider the following. Grades 5-7 have been projected through the 2024/2025 school year. Using the "High Enrollment Projections," the projections which best fit our current enrollment numbers, the grade 5-7 enrollment at Reed in 2024/2025 would be a comfortable 758 students. In that same year, grades 1- 3 have a projected total of 941 students and grades K-2 have 966 students. If we play that forward, those respective 1-3 and k-2 grades will be cohorts at the Reed School in the 2028/2029 and 2029/2030 school years. Mrs. Uberti's October 11, 2016 presentation at the Future Forecast Committee Meeting illustrated that a 3-grade Reed School with a total enrollment of 895 students is "extremely tight". In short, if these projections hold, Reed will be far over capacity by the 2028/2029 school year

With a maximum 10-years of sustainability, the best case scenario savings is \$829,690 in the first year and \$1,356,838 for the following 9 years resulting in a total savings of \$13,041,232. In this scenario, the Newtown Middle School would no longer be owned by the town of Newtown. \$13MM will hardly make a dent in the cost of an addition to an existing school or the cost to build a new school to accommodate the students just 10 years from now.

In considering the potential impact of this decision, we must begin by reviewing the historical facility and enrollment decisions that have been made here in Newtown. From 1997-2009 our Newtown schools went through a major growth spurt. In 1997, the most recent addition to Hawley School was completed. In the fall of 1997, the first of two major renovations and additions to Newtown High School began with the second being in 2009. In January of 2003 The Reed Intermediate School celebrated its grand opening. The investment in Newtown education was not only to accommodate our students in space and access to appropriate math and science facilities but to provide them with a cutting-edge educational experience as Newtown embraced the Intermediate School teaching and learning philosophy.

By the summer of 2010, with the 2nd construction project at Newtown High School down to punch-list items, the Board of Education reviewed the enrollment report created by Hyung Chung of H. C. Planning Consultants which predicted a 10-year enrollment decline. After a series of discussions which considered closing an elementary school (Hawley School because it is central and the easiest from a districting perspective, Head O' Meadow because it is the smallest and Middle Gate because it is the easiest to reopen), the committee made a sensible but difficult recommendation: [If a school must close, focus on Reed](#) (*click to see article*). The committee, comprised of members of the BOE as well as the Legislative Council, recognized that a temporary closing of the Reed School could save the town up to \$3MM/year for the 10 years of enrollment decline, or \$30MM over 10 years. The school could seamlessly be reopened for use as soon as it was needed. If the enrollment decline did not materialize, the school was available. If the decline persisted past 10 years, the building could easily be re-purposed by the town. Though it was difficult to recommend the closing of our brand new school, this recommendation made sense both from a financial and an enrollment forecast perspective while maintaining a traditional educational model in Newtown that would in no way compromise the education of the Newtown students.

The enrollment discussion was sensitively put on hold until 2014 while the town overwhelmingly supported the reconstruction of a larger Sandy Hook Elementary School. In 2014 the Milone and MacBroom study confirmed what the 2010 study predicted, significant enrollment decline was underway. The 2014 recommendation of the Facility and Enrollment Committee to close Hawley Elementary School was rejected by the town as unsustainable, long-term financially disadvantageous and reckless to the historic character of Newtown.

In 2015, the Future Forecast Committee picked up where the Facility and Enrollment Committee left off. Surprisingly, a basic assumption of their work was that the Reed Intermediate School would not be considered for closing due to its status as a "premier teaching and learning facility," the same surprising assumption made in 2014. Given this, the committee concluded that the only option that could not be deemed infeasible was Option I: the "last option standing".

Unlike the 2010 recommendation, this option is 6-years too late, has a mere 10-year sustainability, is financially disadvantageous long-term and presents, at best, a configuration that is an educational experiment that would be conducted upon Newtown's most vulnerable students. It is critical to note that the Future Forecast Committee reported that the optimal capacity for learning at the Reed School is 850 students, with the maximum having attended being 915 students when, Mrs. Uberti (FFC member and Reed School Principal) indicated, "learning was being conducted in the hallways". With the implementation of Option I, the Reed School is projected to have several years exceeding 915 students. It is therefore compulsory to ask, as one Future Forecast Committee member so aptly did at their Oct 12th meeting, "What is the benefit of a 'premier teaching and learning facility' that is overcrowded with learning taking place in the hallways?"

While the building-boom in our Newtown School district created significant sunk-costs to the Town of Newtown, and the past 6 years represent enormous financial missed opportunity cost savings to the town as enrollment has declined, Option I mitigates neither of these unfortunate circumstances. True leadership does not make decisions based on sunk costs nor missed opportunity costs. True leadership is the courage to make the strategic decisions that will lead us into the future.

As a Board of Education, a "yes" vote to closing the Newtown Middle School on Tuesday night represents a vote "yes" for a model that is endorsed by no one. Parents in Newtown have significant concerns about the social-emotional impact on the 8th graders at Newtown High School. School officials have concerns about how grade 5-7 students will fit at Reed Intermediate as the enrollment numbers climb in the coming years. Throughout this community there is uneasiness about our traditional family town experimenting with a non-traditional 8-12 high school. Even a member of the Board of Education has expressed concern about the merits of the educational model and stated at the November 15th BOE meeting that "we have not done the work to define what the educational model is going to look like." A vote "yes" by the BOE to this model is doing so having admitted that the work has not been done to give confidence to the Board itself that an 8-12 model is a success model. A "yes" vote on Tuesday would represent a vote unilaterally endorsed exclusively by the 7-member Newtown Board of Education; the town and its students would be owed a thorough explanation of the BOE's rationale for doing so.

We urge you to listen carefully to the silence of the Future Forecast Committee for in that silence is a powerful message. That silence is a lack of endorsement for the only configuration that cannot be categorically deemed unfeasible. Our outstanding educational team remains silent, though their voices were strong in Future Forecast Committee meetings.

The Newtown Middle School is perfectly positioned as a rite-of-passage from which students take to the streets after-school, walking the historic borough and visiting our local businesses. This unique freedom to experience our historic New England town from its epicenter is a privilege granted to all Newtown students of which there is immeasurable intrinsic value.

Further consideration of the traffic and parking situation that an 8-12 model will present at Newtown High School, of the extra-curricular impact of separating 7th from 8th graders and the risk of keeping our 7th graders young and then boosting them straight to high school are serious and must be part of the decision-making process.

While political posturing, fears of budget-season and a sense that action is a better resolution than inaction are surely weighty issues, the best decision for the students of Newtown rests upon none of these.

We urge you to listen to the reticence of the Future Forecast Committee who has extensively researched this issue. We urge you to listen to the voices of the Newtown community, and we urge you to consider the impact on our great town and on its students. Option I “the last option standing,’ just as the 2014 FFC Hawley School closing recommendation preceding it, remains unsustainable, financially disadvantageous long-term and reckless to both the educational and historical character of Newtown. We urge you to vote “no” to closing the Newtown Middle School.

Thank you for your service to Newtown and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Laura and Michael Brennan
7 Fallen Leaf Lane
Newtown, Connecticut

From: "Keith Alexander" <alexanderk_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us>
Subject: School reconfiguration decision
Date: December 7, 2016 at 1:14:21 AM EST
To: "Pat Llodra" <pat.llodra@newtown-ct.gov>, "Mary Ann Jacob" <mjacob4404@charter.net>, "Jim Gaston" <okjt@aol.com>
Cc: "Erardi, Joe" <erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us>
Reply-To: <alexanderk_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us>

Hello Board Chairs,

I wanted to let you know that the Board of Education voted not to reconfigure the schools at Tuesday's meeting. This completes the Board's Facilities consideration as the Board felt that the existing configuration is the best at this time for the Education of the Students of Newtown.

Our committees considered and brought forward all options related to declining enrollment. The Board reviewed those options and received input from Elected Officials and Community Members as part of the decision-making process in order to recommend what we think is best for our students and community.

I appreciate the patience shown by your membership in allowing the Board of Education the time to work through all of information before coming to a decision and I look forward to our renewed focus on Inspiring Each Student to Excel.

--Keith
BCC: NBOE

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Respectfully,

Keith Alexander
Chair, Newtown Board of Education
<http://www.newtown.k12.ct.us/>

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Begin forwarded message:

From: ETH Manager <manager@edmondtownhall.org>

Subject: Edmond Town Hall Videos

Date: November 16, 2016 at 4:24:34 PM EST

To: "Llodra, Pat" <pat.llodra@newtown-ct.gov>, okjt@aol.com, mjacob4404@charter.net

Cc: Anna Wiedemann <aroosterw@yahoo.com>, "Jennifer Chaudhary (ETH)"

<JenETH@4newtown.com>, Jim Juliano <jtjuliano@aol.com>, Margot Hall <margotshall@earthlink.net>,

Marie Smith <james_smith181@yahoo.com>, Mary Fellows <mflmf@aol.com>, Wes Thompson

<wbt@prodigy.net>, Diane Wardenburg <diane@lathropschoolofdance.com>, Sabrina Post

<sabrina@sabrinascencoreproductions.com>, twylahk@gmail.com, Mark Swigart

<swigart11@gmail.com>, lauren.mcaulay@ct.gov, warren.stamp@ct.gov, Don Gamsjager

<don@dnrprod.com>, Sarah Grant <sarahgrant24601@gmail.com>

Dear Pat, Mary Ann and Jim,

I would like to share with you some work I developed this past summer working with an intern from the University of New Haven that was referred to us by the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services and with the help of members of our community.

For quite a while I had been wanting to develop video footage to help me accomplish four things:

- promote the building and its services by providing easy to use video footage of the spaces/services we provide;
- increase business awareness/revenue through video footage on our theater advertising screen;
- tell the story of what makes this place special, based on what I hear from the patrons here;
- establish a You Tube channel for Edmond Town Hall where we can have video footage reside.

By working with intern Patrick Downey we were able to acquire the needed videography and editing skills and additional support from Coach Mark Swigart to make this possible. Moreover, as is often the case with Edmond Town Hall, the project became a community effort. Town resident Twyla Hafferman agreed to be our director and she graciously allowed us to use her husband's music and her son's music editing skills. Lathrop School of Dance came through for us with actors and so did Sabrina's Encore Productions. Even members of our Board (Thank you Anna Wiedemann!) made it possible to include our three youngest (and cutest!) actors. Our vendor DNR Laboratories graciously allowed us to borrow the necessary video camera and even Ben's Lighthouse and their camp's children made a cameo appearance!

I hope you will enjoy what our community produced here along with the help of Patrick and BRS. I think it's a testament to what makes this building and community special when people come together in support of those things they love. What's more, through the BRS internship program, we were able to produce this with no additional cost to our budget. Let me know your thoughts and please share with your respective members!

1. 'Edmond Town Hall Virtual Tour' (3 mins) - This has already become a great tool in helping potential customers decide what to rent and helping them learn about our building. I use it regularly.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SpkclQZo6RA>

2. **'Make Memories Here' (3 mins)** - An emotional video showing potential customers why this is a special place to hold an event. It will reside on our web site and You Tube and we will play it on our screen during holidayvacation week:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_zhjml1ENQM

3. **A brief video commercial featuring our spaces.** It airs between movies and at our recent Arts Festival I received unsolicited feedback from a customer who said that the video commercial is so much better than our previous slide presentations that used to be on our movie screen. While staffing our booth at this year's Arts Festival I received unsolicited feedback from theater patrons saying how much they enjoy seeing the video commercial.

 [Edmond Town Hall 45 Sec Tour.mp4](#)

4. **Edmond Town Hall Concession Ad - (45 secs)** We hope to raise awareness of the place the concession stand plays in supporting the building, not to mention the delicious offerings!

 [Edmond Town Hall Concession Ad SR.mp4](#)

5. **Edmond Town Hall Happenings - (45 secs)** Brief commercial for our screen showing the types of events and happenings that occur at Edmond Town Hall!

 [Edmond Town Hall Happenings Ad.mp4](#)

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Sheila E. Torres, Operations Manager

Edmond Town Hall - Board of Managers

45 Main Street, Newtown, CT 06470

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manager@edmondtownhall.org

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9 - 2:30 p.m.

Building Hours: Monday - Sunday 8 - 11 p.m

Visit us at: www.edmondtownhall.org

From: "Keith Alexander" <alexanderk_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us>
Subject: RE: U.S. Census Bureau Corrects Major Flaw in Population Projections
Date: November 19, 2016 at 10:39:21 AM EST
To: "George Ferguson" <george-ferguson@earthlink.net>
Cc: "Joe Erardi, Ed.D." <erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us>
Reply-To: <alexanderk_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us>

Hello George,

I've BCC'd everyone to avoid starting a conversation but I wanted to let you know that the District was in touch with Milone and MacBroom regarding the Census data you have referenced. They were aware of the changes to the Census Bureau data but as they do not rely on this data for their projects, the adjustments had no effect on the models they used for our report.

Thank you for forwarding the reports along so we could get that verification.

--Keith

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Respectfully,

Keith Alexander
Chair, Newtown Board of Education
<http://www.newtown.k12.ct.us/>

From: George Ferguson [<mailto:george-ferguson@earthlink.net>]
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2016 12:17 PM
To: Joe Erardi, Ed.D. <erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us>
Cc: Keith Alexander <alexanderk_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us>; Pat Llodra <first.selectman@newtown-ct.gov>; James Gaston <okjt@aol.com>; Mary Ann Jacob <mjacob4404@charter.net>; Debbie Leidlein <debbie.leidlein@gmail.com>; John Vouros <vourosj_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us>; Michelle Embree Ku <michelleku.boe@gmail.com>; Rebekah Harriman-Stites <harriman-stitesr_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us>; Daniel Cruson, Jr <crusond_boe@newtown.k12.ct.us>; Godin, John D (GE Comm Fin) <jgodin1312@gmail.com>; Aaron Carlson <Aaron4Newtown@gmail.com>; Sandy Roussas <sandyroussasBOF@gmail.com>; Kelley Johnson <kellejtjohnson@gmail.com>; Mark Boland <bolmark@aol.com>; William F. L. Rodgers <sugrbrk@aol.com>; Herb Rosenthal <herb.rosenthal@newtown-ct.gov>; Dan Honan <danielthonan@gmail.com>; Dan Amaral <amaralpoggy@aol.com>; Dan Wiedemann <dgw0315@yahoo.com>; Paul Lundquist <lundquist.paul@gmail.com>; Phil Carroll <ppcarroll13@gmail.com>; Neil Chaudhary <nkc@thechaudharyfamily.com>; Anthony Filiato <anthony.filiato@signal-ct.com>; Ryan Knapp <ryan.w.knapp@gmail.com>; Judit Destefano <judit.destefano@gmail.com>; Chris Eide <chriseide4newtown@gmail.com>
Subject: Fwd: U.S. Census Bureau Corrects Major Flaw in Population Projections

Hi Joe,

Here are the links to the U.S. Census Bureau's Press Release and Revised Data Set that we discussed last night.

Here U.S. Census corrects a "Major Flaw in Population Projections."

The info came out after the enrollment consultant completed its work for Newtown

"they include the first projections by nativity to be published in 14 years."

Personally, I think we (the Town) should have the enrollment report revised based on the new data.

George

P.S. At the time the CT Dept of Transportation was using the old flawed data as well.

Here are the links:

<http://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2014/cb14-tps86.html>

<http://www.census.gov/population/projections/data/national/2014.html>

**Census Bureau Corrects Major Flaw in Population Projections
- Projects Fewer Births**

The Census Bureau's new population projections correct a major flaw in the previous set of numbers released two years ago--the failure to account for the ongoing baby bust.

The new forecast incorporates the baby bust, adjusting births downward by 200,000 to 400,000 a year over the projection time period. The numbers add up.

From 2015 to 2060, the bureau forecasts nearly 15 million fewer births than in the previous series. Here's a comparison of the projections for 2015...

Number of births projected for 2015

New projections: 3,998,730

Old projections: 4,290,077

According to the new projections, the annual number of births will exceed 4 million again in 2016. But births will not surpass the 2007 record of 4,316,233 until 2044. The old projections had that record being broken in 2017.

<http://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2014/cb14-tps86.html>

<http://www.census.gov/population/projections/data/national/2014.html>



TOWN OF NEWTOWN
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

December 5, 2016, Bridge, Road and Project Report

Bridges:

Walnut Tree Hill Bridge: The project was formally bid and the low bidder was Nagy Brothers of Monroe. The Federal and State partners are completing their administrative reviews and formal award to the contractor. Operationally, there is a delay based on the need to move utility poles before actual construction can begin. Frontier has indicated that they will not have internal funding and authorization to proceed with the move until late spring. The Town is exploring acceleration of that timetable by carrying the charges for moving the poles with reimbursement by the project later on.

Toddy Hill Bridge: The Right of Way taking by the Town has been formalized and agreed to by the property owners with payment to follow. The State has some design changes it wants to discuss with the Town to facilitate the follow up projects for the new entrance to I-84. These changes will affect the Town Toddy Hill Bridge Project by requiring a raising of the overall bridge to meet the new elevations of a widened Route 34. The widening of Route 34 is in anticipation of the new lanes created for the new approach ramp to I-84. Our bridge project should be advertised in 2017 and completed no later than 2018. There will be no disruption of traffic as the new bridge will be constructed parallel to the existing structure. The State projects will stretch into 2019-2020.

Improvement Projects:

Route 302 Culvert: This project is adjacent to Ram's Pasture and the Police Station and is a State Project. It is going through real estate and easement acquisition. It should be advertised in 2017 and in construction by 2018.

Edmond Road / Commerce Road / Church Hill Road Improvement Project: This Federal, State and Local improvement project is scheduled for advertising in the fall of 2017. Currently right of way and design issues are being resolved.

Pecks Land / Route 25 Road Improvements: This State project is currently in the real estate acquisition stage and is scheduled for advertising in the fall of 2017.

Roads:

In addition to the attached, we are finishing up as much patch paving as possible with asphalt plant closure at the end of the week. One notable repair/maintenance project which we are in the middle of is the attacking of some delamination on Riverside in an area paved 7 years ago before we starting the current asphalt mix. If this effort proves successful it will give us a method to correct failures on other roads with the older asphalt mix. We are milling the affected areas, coating the cut and the edges with tack and then performing regular overlay.

2016-2017 ROADWORK SCHEDULE

| Contractual Drainage | Budget | | Start | Finish |
|-------------------------------------|---------|---------|-------------------|-----------|
| Alpine | 30,000 | D-P-C-L | Complete | |
| Mile Hill South | 165,000 | D-P-C-L | Complete | |
| Orchard Hill Road | 60,000 | D-P-C-L | 12/5/2016 | 12/9/2016 |
| Overlays: | | | | |
| Cadey Lane | 28,000 | D-P-C-L | Complete | |
| Crestwood Drive | 17,000 | P-C-L | Carried Forward | |
| Ethan Allen Bridge Deck | 80,000 | P | Complete | |
| Oakview Road | 17,000 | P-C-L | Carried Forward | |
| Route 34 | 28,000 | N/A | Complete | |
| Washington Avenue | 80,000 | P-C-L | Carried Forward | |
| Road Improvements - Public: | | | | |
| Birch Hill Road | 120,000 | D-P-C-L | Complete | |
| Bonnie Brae | 235,000 | D-P-C-L | Complete | |
| Brassie Road | 40,000 | D-P-C-L | Complete | |
| Brushy Hill Road | 200,000 | D-P-C-L | Complete | |
| Cannon Drive | 60,000 | D-P-C-L | Complete | |
| Dinglebrook Road | 40,000 | D-C-L | Spring | |
| Edgewood/Woodbine | 50,000 | P-C-L | Complete | |
| Glover Avenue | 48,000 | P-C-L | Complete | |
| Hanover Road | 125,000 | P-C-L | Complete | |
| Hundred Acres | 80,000 | D | Complete | |
| Johnny Appleseed | 180,000 | D-P-C-L | Complete | |
| Keating Farm Road | 100,000 | P-C-L | Spring | |
| Monitor Hill | 60,000 | P-C-L | Carried Forward | |
| Morgan Drive | 50,000 | D-P-C-L | Complete | |
| Mt. Nebo Road | 100,000 | D | Complete | |
| New Lebbon | 100,000 | D-P-C-L | Complete | |
| Newberry Road | 165,000 | D-P-C-L | Complete | |
| Park Lane | 60,000 | P-C-L | Spring | |
| Pheasant Ridge | 85,000 | D-P-C-L | Complete | |
| Phyllis Lane | 100,000 | D | Complete | |
| Pond Brook/Obtuse | 100,000 | S-G-D-P | Complete | |
| Riverside Road | 100,000 | P-C-L | Complete | |
| School House Hill | 100,000 | D-P-C-L | Complete | |
| Sugar Hill Lane | 70,000 | D-P-C-L | Complete | |
| Swamp Road | 135,000 | P-C-L | Complete | |
| The Boulevard | 82,000 | P-C-L | Complete | |
| Whippoorwill Hill | 40,000 | D | Complete | |
| Road Improvements - Private: | | | | |
| Lakeview Terrace | 100,000 | E | Pending Easements | |
| Edge Lake Design | 25,000 | E | Complete | |

C-CURBING

P-PAVING

F-FINAL PAVING

L-LANDSCAPING

B-BINDER

E-ENGINEERING

G-GUIDERAIL

D-DRAINAGE

S-STREAM BANK STABILIZATION

Public Works/Budget/2016-2017 Expenditures/roadwork schedule