

Ryan Knapp, Chair  
Phil Carroll, Vice Chair  
Neil Chaudhary  
Joe Girgasky  
Mary Ann Jacob  
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## TOWN OF NEWTOWN

### Draft Minutes of the Legislative Ordinance Committee Meeting

The Ordinance Committee met on Tuesday August 18th, 2015 in Meeting Room 1 of the Municipal Center, 3 Primrose Lane, Newtown. Committee Chairman Ryan Knapp called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

Present: Ms Jacob, Mr. Carroll, Ms. Bermudez, Mr. Chaudhary and Mr. Knapp.

Absent: Mr. Girgasky

Also in attendance: None.

MINUTES: Ms. Jacob motioned to approve the minutes of the meeting of 7/22/2015. Mr. Carroll seconded. Mr. Chaudhary noted he was absent. Four in favor (4-0) with Mr. Chaudhary abstaining.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

### **Old Business**

#### Review and recommendation regarding term limits on the Sustainable Energy Commission.

Mr. Knapp noted he brought the groups desire for revised language to legal. He read the language proposed.

Ms. Jacob questioned the reference to the charter for minority representation on commissions. The group looked up the charter language which deals with elected positions and is not specific to appointed positions.

Ms. Jacob suggested we reference the statute, 9-167a, instead.

Mr. Knapp will confirm that change with legal.

Ms. Jacob made a motion to approve pending approval from legal. Mr. Carroll seconded. All in favor (5-0)

#### Review of purchasing regulations.

Mr. Knapp informed the group that he Bob Tait is on vacation and then has a conference to go to. Expressed a concern that we do not have much time left if we were to make any changes before this would need to be turned over to the next council.

Ms. Jacob asked that we schedule our next meeting for Thursday the 27<sup>th</sup> pending Bob Tait can make it.

Mr. Knapp said he will reach out.

#### Review and recommendation regarding a possible new alarm ordinance per the charge set forth by the Legislative Council on February 18, 2015.

Mr. Knapp opened the discussion with a draft ordinance revision C based on what was discussed in the previous meeting. The group went line by line through the draft making some major changes mostly related to eliminating or clarifying sections.

The group discussed reducing the number of definitions. Mr. Knapp will do a word search to verify that all are still required.

The group decided to replace "permit" with "registration" as both words have been used interchangeably. The group would like to see the registration and renewal fees in the registration and renewal section rather than referencing across the document.

Mr. Knapp will eliminate 104-3(3) through 1043(7)(d) per discussion, the reason being that the required information on the registration form should be determined at the discretion of the Alarm Administrator as required rather strictly defined in the ordinance.

Some of 104-3 will be moved to duties as they fit better in those relative sections.

104-4 renewal process was discussed. Mr. Knapp felt that it should be more like the transfer station where a notice is mailed with a renewal form. Ms. Jacob felt the burden should be on the alarm user as with dog licensing and mailings are too much to ask of the alarm administrator. Mr. Knapp had concerns that summer is a busy time and people may miss the deadline. He does not want to see penalties dissuade people from operating safety equipment in their homes. Mr. Chaudhary asked if there was something we could do for awareness like is done with dog licensing. The group agreed to write the language in a way that gives the Alarm Admin flexibility to do as they see fit.

Mr. Knapp said that he felt some duties of the alarm company should be left in the ordinance because they are reasonable expectations and best practices that encourage safety.

The group discussed the hearings with the police commission for a suspension of response and felt that could, with a police commission meeting being public information, alert a possible intruder to a potential target to which police will not respond. Will ask legal if those discussions should be executive session as they pertain to security issues.

Mr Knapp noted the limit we can fine by statute is \$250.

Mr Knapp will make the changes. Once we have a working document, the committee will circle back with the Chief and legal.

Review and recommendation regarding a possible unsolicited mail ordinance per the charge set forth by the Legislative Council on February 18, 2015.

Mr. Knapp received information back from legal. There is a possibility of modifying the litter ordinance but it would have to be very narrow and still would be subject to challenges.

Ms. Jacob made a motion to recommend no action regarding a possible unsolicited mail ordinance. Mr. Chaudhary seconded. All in favor (5-0)

An amendment enabling the municipal option of Public Act No. 13-224, providing a tax exemption for One Hundred Percent Disabled Veterans as referred to the Ordinance Committee by the Legislative Council during the regular meeting of January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

Mr. Knapp reported legal's recommended enabling language.

Ms. Jacob made a motion to send the recommended enabling language to the full council for implementation. Mr. Chaudhary seconded. All in favor (5-0)

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

Ms. Bermudez motioned to adjourn at 10:10pm. Mr. Chaudhary seconded.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ryan W. Knapp  
Ordinance Committee Chairman