

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY BOARD OF SELECTMEN

The Board of Selectmen held a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 19, 2010 at the Newtown Municipal Center, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown. First Selectman Llodra called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

PRESENT: First Selectman E. Patricia Llodra, Selectman William F.L. Rodgers, Selectman William F. Furrier.

ALSO PRESENT: Finance Director Robert Tait (8:40pm), eight members of the public and one member of the press.

ADDITION TO AGENDA: For discussion only, #6: discussion of the budget development dates and process. #7: discussion of the committee charge for review of the Fairfield Hills Master Plan. #8: discussion for possible training seminars for Town officials. Selectman Rodgers moved the addition of the three items under New Business. Selectman Furrier seconded. All in favor.

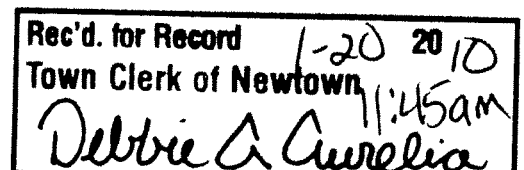
First Selectman Llodra noted that negotiations will be added to the Executive Session. Selectman Furrier moved to add negotiations to Executive Session. Selectman Rodgers seconded. All in favor.

VOTER PARTICIPATION: **Ruby Johnson, 16 Chestnut Hill Road** complimented the Board on the CIP format and believes it is a result of common ground and fresh minds. Ms. Johnson asked the why a town as small as Newtown would want to become involved in economic development. She suggested a return on investment analysis. Fairfield Hills is beautiful open space, how much will become black top for parking? A 1999 report showed the needs of the police department; reports are being ignored. Fairfield Hills should be kept for town needs.

Bob Merola, 22 Ashford Lane spoke of the Planimetrics report saying the report assumed many more homes would be built in 2007, 2008 and 2009. The student projections are unrealistic when the fastest growing demographic in Newtown are the seniors. Generalizations should not be taken as fact.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES: Selectman Rodgers moved to accept the minutes of January 4, 2010 as presented. Selectman Furrier seconded. All in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS: First Selectman Llodra reported that Newtown's Wastewater Treatment Plant has been selected as a 2009 Regional EPA Wastewater Treatment Plant Excellence Award recipient. Mrs. Llodra praised Julio Segarra, saying he has done an outstanding job in creating systems and protocol. A letter from the Board of Ethics was read stating that the Board found no violation had occurred as a result of a complaint filed against Debbie Aurelia, Town Clerk. First Selectman Llodra shared a press release sent to the Newtown Bee, Voices and the News Times siting the level of improvements and the capacity to serve the hearing impaired. The level of technology



has been cited as a model in serving the hearing impaired at a level beyond what is presently in operation at any municipal building in surrounding town. Mrs. Llodra thanked Ruby Johnson for being the voice behind the issue. First Selectman Llodra stated the Policy and Procedure for the Newtown Animal Control Facility and Volunteers is now an official policy; passed by the previous Board of Selectman, implemented by the present one.

OLD BUSINESS:

Discussion and possible action:

- 1. Senior Center Room fees:** no action taken.
- 2. Grant Report:** no action taken

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion and possible action:

- 1. Driveway Bond Releases/Extension:** Selectman Rodgers moved the release of the driveway bond in the amount of \$1,000 for Rooster Ridge Associates, LLC, Rooster Ridge Road, Newtown, M7, B3, L2a. Selectman Furrier seconded. All in favor.
- 2. Bond Reduction:** Selectman Furrier moved the bond reduction for Anthony Ridge Road, "Hanover Heights" Subdivision from \$550,000 to \$275,000 which represents a 50% reduction. Selectman Rodgers seconded. All in favor.
- 3. Appointments/Reappointments:** Selectman Furrier moved the re-appointments and appointments as noted in Att. A. Selectman Rodgers seconded. All in favor. Selectman Furrier stated it was good to see so many people interested in volunteering their time and highly recommended serving on a board or commission.
- 4. Special Appropriation, \$45,000:** Finance Director Bob Tait explained that the Board of Education was advised to go through a 20% schematic design to get a solid estimate on the Middle School roof replacement. The project itself would reimburse the capital non-recurring fund. Selectman Rodgers moved the appropriation of \$45,000 from the capital and non-recurring fund, fund #44 for use to partially fund obtaining a schematic design fee for the Middle School. Selectman Furrier seconded. All in favor. Selectman Rodgers noted that the Board of Selectman was aware that this would probably be the number one priority on the Board of Educations CIP and the Selectmen, in essence, considered it a priority over any project on the Town CIP. First Selectman Llodra stated the project itself should bear the responsibility of cost.
- 5. Set Time for Town Meeting to consider and act upon the resolution:** Mr. Rodgers moved that a Special Town Meeting be held on Thursday, January 28, 2010 at 6:30PM, at the Senior Center, to consider and act upon a recommendation by the Legislative Council to adopt the resolution entitled "Resolution With Respect To The Authorization, Issuance And Sale Of Not Exceeding \$3,500,000 Town Of Newtown General Obligation Refunding Bonds". Selectman Furrier seconded. All in favor. Selectman Furrier noted that a 3.5 million was authorized and spent without Town approval for a capital improvement and feels this is a clear and obvious charter violation. There were legal opinions and the Board of Selectmen thought it was the right thing to do. Rebonding is something we want to do to lower the cost to the Town

but we should find out what happened and how to fix it. First Selectman Llodra tried to clarify the action the Town Meeting will be addressing. There are several processes in place to address the practice of negative leases, in the right forum. The Fairfield Hills ordinance will also be reviewed, along with the Fairfield Hills Master Plan. She requested the concern about what has happened in the past not be attached to the specific request to refund this bond to save the Town a substantial amount of money. Selectman Rodgers stated there will be appropriate forums to discuss the underlying reason for the refunding. He stated he does not believe the Town Attorney would recommend a course of action in blatant violation of the charter. One of the concerns was that the Town would be in violation of an existing lease if the problem was not addressed. Appropriate phrases within leases could remedy this problem. First Selectman Llodra said there was an understanding, when coming forward to refund, there would be exposure to criticism, fair or not. There will be opportunity to discuss what happened but it shouldn't be mixed up with the opportunity to save the town money. Selectman Furrier said the problem should be fixed because the trust of the people of the Town has not been earned. He said there is a structural balance that led to the improper funding of \$3.5 million. First Selectman Llodra pointed out this is a financial transaction. Selectman Furrier stated he was satisfied that the First Selectman will address the issues successfully.

6. Budget Dates and Process: First Selectman Llodra purposed a modification in the budget deliberation dates: January 26, January 28 and February 1, with the possibility of adding an additional date after February 1, keeping in mind the budget will be presented to the Board of Finance on February 8. The budget meetings will begin at 7:00pm. The budget schedule (Att. B) is broken down into document review and budget detail. The document review budgets have been reviewed by the First Selectman and the Finance Director and will be presented to the Board with a recommendation to pass. The budget detail budgets require discussion and a level of analysis beyond the document review stage.

7. Discussion of Committee Charge for the Review of the Fairfield Hills Master Plan: First Selectman Llodra purposed this item be discussed on February 1. The Board should come to the table with thoughts about what will be in the charge and be prepared to put these thoughts into something more concrete at the meeting of February 16. What do we want a group to accomplish in this review and identify what the outcome should look like and what the time frame is?

8. Training for Town Officials: Selectman Rodgers suggested bringing training to town officials, such as CCM or Freedom of Information to address process, substantive and procedural issues so board and commissions can have a further understanding of the rules and regulations.

VOTER COMMENT: Karen Pearce, 10 Chestnut Hill Road, thanked Selectman Rodgers, as a new member of a board, for suggesting training.

Barbara O'Connor, Little Brook Lane, asked for clarification on unfinished business being carried on the agenda. Ms. O'Connor doesn't understand why an architect has to get involved with the Middle School roof, saying reputable roofing firms must have qualified engineers on staff that could give an evaluation and proposal. Selectman Furrier suggested there is state reimbursement on many construction projects and

Board of Selectmen
January 19, 2010

there may need to be approval by the State School Facilities Unit; to get reimbursement there needs to be some design and plans.

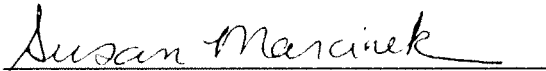
Ruby Johnson, 16 Chestnut Hill Road, likes the budget process and Selectman Rodgers idea for training. The Middle School question was a good one and the state reimbursement should be confirmed.

Executive Session: Selectman Rodgers moved to enter Executive Session to discuss Legal Matters and Negotiations. Nobody was invited to attend. Selectman Furrier seconded. All in favor. Executive Session was entered at 9:00pm and returned to regular session at 9:30pm. No motions made.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: none noted.

ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business the Board of Selectman adjourned their regular meeting at 9:30pm

Respectfully submitted,



Susan Marcinek, Clerk

Att. A: Appointments 1/19/10

Att. B: Budget Schedule

BOARD OF SELECTMEN – January 19, 2010 Meeting

Att. A

RE-APPOINTMENTS

Cultural Arts

(D) Robert Kaiser, 25 Glen Road, Sandy Hook

01/07/10 – 01/07/13

Public Building & Site Commission

(D) James Juliano, 36 Hundred Acre Road, Newtown

01/06/10 – 01/06/14

Constable

(R) Andrew Buzzi, Jr., 122 Hanover Road, Newtown

01/06/10 – 01/06/12

(R) Thomas Catalina, 59 Butterfield Road, Newtown

01/06/10 – 01/06/12

Tax Collector

Carol Mahoney, Diamond Drive, Newtown

02/01/10 – 02/01/14

APPOINTMENT

Lake Zoar Authority

(R) William I. May, 60 Housatonic Drive, Sandy Hook

01/06/10 – 01/06/13

Sustainable Energy Commission

(D) Benjamin J. Roberts, 1 Riverside Road, Sandy Hook

01/19/10 – 01/06/12

Cultural Arts Commission

(I) Donna Monteleone, 4 Erin Lane, Sandy Hook

01/19/10 -01/06/13

Public Building & Site Commission

(D) Robert Edwards, 79 Mile Hill Rd South, Newtown
(vacated by a democrat)

term expiration 01/06/11

(I) Roger Lesto, 93 Poverty Hollow Road, Newtown

01/19/10 – 01/06/13 (**alternate**)

Parks & Recreation Commission

(D) Jan Brookes, 38 Hundred Acre Road, Newtown

01/19/10 – 01/06/12

Hattertown Historic District Commission, (alternate)

(D) Mark Alexander, 69 Aunt Park Lane, Newtown

01/19/10 – 06/30/15

Cyrenius H. Booth Library, Board of Trustees

(D) Bill McCarthy, 18 Elana Lane, Sandy Hook
(vacated by a democrat)

term expiration 07/01/11

Commission on Aging

(R) Carol Mattegat, 12 Budd Drive, Newtown

01/19/10 – 01/06/13

(D) Anna Wiedemann, 13 Clearview Drive, Sandy Hook

01/19/10 – 01/06/13

