

AMENDED MINUTES

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY BOARD OF SELECTMEN

The Board of Selectmen held a special meeting Monday, January 23, 2012 in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Center, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown. First Selectman Llodra called the meeting to order at 7:32pm.

PRESENT: First Selectman Llodra, Selectman William F.L. Rodgers, Selectman James Gaston, Sr.

ALSO PRESENT: Finance Director Robert Tait, Parks & Recreation Director Amy Mangold, Assistant Director of Parks Carl Samuelson, Assistant Director of Recreation RoseAnn Reggiano, Parks & Recreation Chairman Ed Marks, Director of Public Works Fred Hurley, Mike McCarthy and members of NUSAR, Director of Communications Maureen Will, Police Chief Michael Kehoe, Capt. Joe Rios, Police Commission members Brian Budd, James Viadero, Joel Faxon, and Andrew Sachs, Board of Fire Commission Chairman Kevin Cragin and firefighters Michael Burton, Joe Farrell, Mark White, Rob Manna, Ernie Descheneaux, ten members of the public and three members of the press.

VOTER PARTICIPATION: none.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES: no action taken.

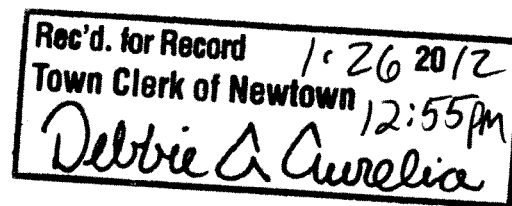
COMMUNICATIONS: none.

FINANCE DIRECTOR REPORT: none.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Discussion and possible action:

1. Town of Newtown 2012-2013 Budget:



Selectman Rodgers moved the **Building Department** bottom line of \$397,257. Selectman Gaston seconded. All in favor.

Mr. Hurley said that electricity increased as a result of actual consumption based on the current rate. The generation/supply rate is fixed but there is no control over the delivery side. The new animal control facility will add a full, larger building which will add to the electricity increase also. No staff has been added. (Att. A, Building Maintenance Budget Breakdown). Selectman Gaston moved the **Public Building & Maintenance** bottom line of \$687,474. Selectman Rodgers seconded. All in favor.

Mr. Hurley stated new bins will not be in this budget. An RFP for curbside pickup of recyclables will go out; the vendors will have the option to provide the bins and implement the automated system. The percentage of recyclables has increased. Selectman Rodgers moved the **Landfill** bottom line of \$1,495,894. Selectman Gaston seconded. All in favor.

First Selectman Llodra suggested investing \$25,000 per year in the capital non-recurring account to use toward cars. There was also money captured within the Highway Department salary account when vacant positions went unfilled. Repairs will be part of the work order system and easily tracked. Selectman

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Gaston moved the **Car Pool** as zero as recommended. Selectman Rodgers seconded. All in favor.

Selectman Rodgers moved the **Winter Maintenance** bottom line of \$707,637. Selectman Gaston seconded. All in favor.

Mr. Hurley said there will be a re-organization at the garage and a move to a fully automated system will be implemented. Costs and actual jobs will be tied together through a work order system. There will not be real numbers on equipment fuel until February; the budgeted amount is at current prices. Three positions were cut to two positions; with the technology advancements the two will be able to do the job well. There is not an increase in the tree removal line item because FEMA is reimbursing at a 75% and CL&P is also cutting and trimming. The drainage line item increased because a lot of work is being done in house and the cost of material is increasing. Selectman Gaston moved the **Highway** bottom line of \$6,022,894. Selectman Rodgers seconded. All in favor.

Mr. Marks stated that the over the last six budgets the percentage spent on Parks & Recreation has gone from a high of 1.96% to last year's amended budget of 1.77%; over that period of time, the dollar amount associated with that reduction is almost \$800,000, impactful for the capital items and capital expenditures. Mr. Samuelson explained they operate day to day on a labor shortage and are constantly looking at ways to increase efficiency. The administrative aspect of supervisor positions has been sacrificed because labor was needed. A park maintainer was hired to replace someone that left. The department is cutting the lawns of the larger areas and contracting out smaller areas, representing a savings and made for more efficient use of labor and equipment resources. The amount of locations Parks& Recreation is responsible for has grown 93% since 2002; the amount of locations they are responsible to plow has grown by 81% since 2002, the staff has grown by 27% and the vehicle fleet has grown by 25% in the same time period. The 2002 pickup truck no longer fits the need of the department; a more robust, heavier duty vehicle is needed. Mr. Samuelson explained the problems with vandalism and the electrical infrastructure of the lighting at the Dickinson Town Park pavilion. Mr. Marks said if this is not addressed this year then it will be next year and they may incorporate it into the CIP process. First Selectman Llodra noted the pool hours will remain reduced but there is a modest increase in the lifeguard line item because even with the reduced hours the account came up short. The dog park volunteers were recognized for their hard work raising money. Selectman Rodgers moved the **Parks & Recreation** bottom line of \$2,195,469. Selectman Gaston seconded. All in favor.

Selectman Gaston moved the **Emergency Management/NUSAR** bottom line of \$51,267. Selectman Rodgers seconded. All in favor.

Chief Kehoe presented an overview of staffing. There are 46 sworn officers, 44 are unionized workers. Three of the 44 are school based officers, one is with the state narcotics task force, two make up the traffic unit and three are detectives. Calls for service between 2010 and 2011 totaled 25,207 representing a 10% increase. Selectman Gaston would like to see a repair cost sheet for vehicles and how long each car was out of service. Police reports can be retrieved online through the police website. There is a built in 7%-8% increase per year in the New World Systems computer operation, which is standard within in the industry. Selectman Rodgers moved the **Police** bottom line of \$5,931,470. Selectman Gaston seconded. All in favor.

Selectman Gaston moved the **Canine Control** bottom line of \$154,289. Selectman Rodgers seconded. All in favor.

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Selectman Rodgers moved the **Lake Authorities** bottom line of \$49,708. Selectman Gaston seconded. All in favor.

Selectman Gaston moved the **NW Safety Committee** bottom line of \$9,783. Selectman Rodgers seconded. All in favor.

Selectman Rodgers moved the **Emergency Medical Services** bottom line of \$270,000. Selectman Gaston seconded. All in favor.

Selectman Gaston moved the **NW CT EMS Council** bottom line of \$250.00. Selectman Rodgers seconded. All in favor.

Selectman Rodgers moved the **Emergency Communication** bottom line of \$1,056,912. Selectman Gaston seconded. All in favor.

Selectman Gaston moved the **Library** bottom line of \$1,062,858. First Selectman Llodra seconded. Gaston & Llodra in favor; Selectman Rodgers recused himself as his wife is a member of the library board.

Mr. Tait had not put in the most recent debt service schedule for the February 2012 bonding. The reduction reduces the debt service increase to 4.42%. The impact on that change and the \$25,000 that was added to capital non-recurring changes the total budget increase from 1.97% to 1.85%. The wages, salary and benefits increase for fiscal 2013 is \$295,588; the debt service increase for fiscal 2013 is \$501,538. Together those categories total \$797,126 (3.22%). Looking at capital, contingency and contributions to other agencies reflect a decrease of \$55,771 (-.44%). Selectman Rodgers moved to reduce the **Debt Service** bottom line from \$10,223,931 to \$10,152,282, which represents a savings of \$71,649. Selectman Gaston seconded. All in favor.

Mr. Cragin said the command vehicles have been requested by the companies over the years and cut at the Board of Fire Commissioner level. First Selectman Llodra said we cannot manage two command vehicles and a Fire Marshal vehicle. One strategy is to capture any money left at the end of this fiscal year in the Board of Fire Commissioners budget and replace the Fire Marshal vehicle. Mr. Burton said that command vehicles are used by the officer in charge in place of taking out a pumper truck. It has an air pack, hand tools and chain saw for wire down or tree down calls and is useful for picking up fire hose at the scene after a large fire. Without a command vehicle the volunteers use their own vehicles or the pumper trucks. Mr. Cragin pointed out the companies are willing to forgo their capital budgets. Chief White of Dodgingtown Fire Department said the department currently uses a 1994 suburban that was privately purchased with limited funds; it is the only 4 wheel drive vehicle in the department. There is a desperate need for these vehicles; the company gave up their budget and insurance budget in order to request a command vehicle. The vehicle is used for sand bags, ropes, hoses, road barricades among other things. Chief Farrell of Hawleyville Fire Department stated they also gave up their capital budget. They have requested a command vehicle for five years. It would be used as a first responder vehicle. Hawleyville has grown to include Maplewood and Liberty and future Toll Brothers project; medical calls will increase. Defibrillators are carried on bigger trucks. Mr. Burton stated the recent storm events showed the clearer need for a command vehicle, allowing the bigger trucks to stay at the station. First Selectman Llodra believes there is a viable strategy to do one vehicle; it does not have to be the Fire Marshals vehicle; it would be up to the Board of Fire Commissioners to prioritize who gets a vehicle. After further discussion which included possible further savings within the budget process and the carpool account Selectman Rodgers moved the **Fire** bottom line of \$1,214,806. First Selectman Llodra suggested moving the bottom line with a

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recommendation going forward because more will be known on the economics of the current budget when it is at the Legislative Council. Selectman Rodgers moved to modify his motion to move the Fire bottom line of \$1,214,806 with the recommendation to the Board of Finance and the Legislative Council that we investigate adding to the capital fund of the Board of Fire Commissioners an amount to purchase a command vehicle if further savings are found during the process. Selectman Gaston seconded. All in favor.

Selectman Rodgers moved the Board of Selectman proposed bottom line budget of \$38,278,353. Selectman Gaston seconded. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion and possible action:

1. Transfer: Selectman Rodgers moved the \$16,000 transfer from 01570-2000 Contingency to 01320-2029 Fire Hose. Selectman Gaston seconded. All in favor.

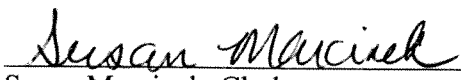
2. Appointments/Reappointments: Selectman Gaston moved the appointment of Herb Rosenthal to the CT Coalition for Justice for Education in Funding (CCJEF). Selectman Rodgers seconded. All in favor.

VOTER COMMENTS: none.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: There is an opening on the Conservation Commission to any registered voter. February 21 is the last day to apply with an anticipated appointment date of March 5.

ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business the Board of Selectmen adjourned their special meeting at 11:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Susan Marcinek, Clerk

- Att. A: Building Maintenance Budget Breakdown
- Att. B: Highway Budget
- Att. C: Parks & Recreation Capital request
- Att. D: Police Budget
- Att. E: Fire Budget