

Board of Selectmen  
May 21, 2012

The **Board of Selectmen** held a regular meeting on Monday, May 21, 2012 in the Council Chambers, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT. First Selectman Llodra called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** E. Patricia Llodra, William F.L Rodgers, James Gaston, Sr.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Finance Director Robert Tait, Dr. Howard Kilpatrick of the DDEP, Director of Public Health Donna Culbert and Director of Public Works Fred Hurley, approximately twenty-five members of the public and one member of the press.

**VOTER COMMENTS:** none.

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:** Selectmen Rodgers moved to accept the minutes of May 7, 2012. First Selectman Llodra seconded and corrected the appointment of John Feder made to the Conservation Commission; it is to expire on December 31, 2015 not January 6, 2016 as reported. The amended minutes were accepted by Rodgers and Llodra; Gaston was not present for the meeting of May 7.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** The trustee and attorney involved in the trust relative to animal welfare in town has informed the office that they have accepted the list of capital costs that the town was unable to meet for a total of \$785,848. An amount of \$171,368 has been granted for the dog park. Additionally there is a fund of \$1,385,000 from which \$50,000 per year will be drawn annually to help in operational costs; that will be increased annually by 3%. Remaining family of Frances Hair and Hazel Bouchard will be invited to the opening of the animal control facility. Mr. Hurley reported there is a state solar program. The town is looking for a system for the Middle School. The life of the roof will be consistent with the grant program. There is a removal insurance program so the town is held harmless.

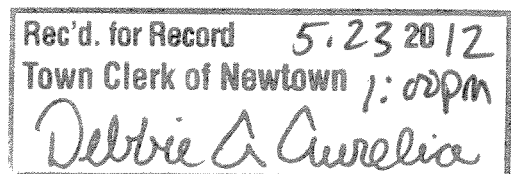
**FINANCE DIRECTORS REPORT:** none.

**ADD TO THE AGENDA:** Selectman Rodgers moved to add a certified resolution to accept the STEAP grant in the amount of \$400,000 as item #12 under New Business. Selectman Gaston seconded. All in favor.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Discussion and possible action:**

- 1. Implementation Plan – Plan of Conservation and Development:** this item will be on the August 6 agenda.
- 2. Tick Borne Disease Action Committee – next steps:** First Selectman Llodra noted that the town will support education but is looking for guidance from the DEEP relative to a deer management program. Dr. Howard Kilpatrick stated that the Tick Borne Action Committee report is thorough, comprehensive and one of the best he's reviewed. The Town of Redding requested help in developing a deer management plan with the purpose of significantly reducing the deer population. The DEEP is conducting a comprehensive evaluation of deer and deer management in the landscape in Redding. Hunters and residents were surveyed with three mailings sent to over half the town residents. Available data on deer, road kill, harvest, population growth, land assessment, land open and closed to hunting, open space and distribution of open space was evaluated. The Redding report is not finalized yet. Recommendations will be made to the town; it is up to the town to choose what to do. The hurdle in deer management is access to land. The DEEP pays for the survey; it is beneficial to the town and also the DEEP because they are learning from it. It is difficult to estimate costs because there are many different variables involved. Studies on four poster devices were convincing. However, the data, graphs and charts are less convincing. Dr. Kilpatrick said there has not been a deer survey to estimate the deer population in Newtown. Reducing deer to 10-12 per square mile will have an impact on the tick borne diseases.



As deer become less abundant it takes more time and effort to remove them. Most scientific studies use a 95% probability in determining a significant difference. The larger the study site the more time complex, difficult and time consuming it is to document over time. In order to craft a plan appropriate for Newtown the DEEP would need to know about the landscape, open space, hot spots where deer are more prominent and how the residents feel about the deer; data specific to Newtown. Generally speaking some use 90% - 95% guideline to measure a significant change. First Selectman Llodra thanked Dr. Kilpatrick saying any decisions made will be combined with the continuing effort to educate the public. (This topic will continue at one of the June meetings.)

**VOTER COMMENTS:** **Pat Boily**, Professor of Biology at West Conn, 19 Sunnyview Terrace said you do not have to have a 95% decrease in incidence for it to be significant; it is a question of probability and comparing the variability between before and after. He does not want the board to have the impression that studies that did not find an effect was because they did not see a 95% decrease in ticks or the incidence of Lyme disease. **Michele McLeod**, 22 Still Hill Road said the board should look at the metric section of the report before signing up for projects. She also suggested looking at sections that recommend the Selectman's office issue messages to the town and look at the results of what's been achieved in other towns. Bernard's Township is essentially geographically identical to Newtown; they have implemented a similar type of plan that the DEEP is proposing and have not been able to decrease the deer population to a level that would decrease tick borne disease, despite aggressive work over ten years. First Selectman Llodra said we will learn a lot from the Redding report; it will give us a sample of what we will be looking at should we go in that direction. The large message, however, is that this is not an either/or. We know we will engage in the education piece. **Kirk Blanchard**, 8 Plumtree Road noted that the State Dept. of Public Health says, in terms of deer control for the prevention of Lyme disease, deer control can play a role in prevention of Lyme disease when used as part of an integrated...program to reduce tick populations. **Neil Chaudhary**, 1 Southbrook Lane said it worth getting a recommendation from the DEEP to at least take a look at. He wonders if we can ask the DEEP for recommendations to reduce tick borne disease and see if that leads to anything different. **Kim Harrison**, 35 Taunton Hill Road noted how horrible tick borne disease is along with the effects on residents and children. She said Newtown has the highest incidence of tick borne disease in Fairfield County. She agrees it is important to get recommendations from the DEEP. **Dave Shugarts**, 19 Wendover Road said that the town specifically asked the DEEP for help in preparing a deer management plan with a goal to 10-12 per square mile. He said informally six out of eleven members would like the option of proceeding with a deer management plan. The goal of 10-12 is a sensible goal as it will achieve a dramatic reduction in tick density. Deer management also helps to reduce deer/vehicle accidents.

3. **Hook & Ladder:** this item will be carried, likely addressed at a meeting in June.
4. **Hawleyville Sewers: June 4** – this item will be carried and addressed at the June 4, 2012 meeting.
5. **Animal Welfare Ad Hoc Committee Language:** Draft language for the Animal Control Advisory Board was discussed. First Selectman Llodra listened to suggestions from Selectman Rodgers and Selectman Gaston relative to the Ad Hoc committee possibly second guessing the decision making board as it relates to policy. First Selectman Llodra will make suggested language changes to be acted on at the next meeting.
6. **Transfer Station Rate Increase follow-up:** First Selectman Llodra proposed a senior citizen discount for landfill stickers. Anyone that wants to use the online process but doesn't have a computer can receive assistance at the Senior Center, Social Services or other town departments. Purchasing a sticker for more than one year is something that may possibly be done at a future point in time. There will be no cash transactions after July1. Selectman Rodgers moved the \$10 landfill sticker discount for senior citizens; \$75 for online purchases and \$80 for all other sticker transactions. Selectman Gaston seconded. All in favor. (Att. A).

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Discussion and possible action:**

- 1. Business Incentive Program – Michael Burton, 107 Church Hill Road:** this item tabled until the next meeting.
- 2. Set time and date for next budget referendum:** Selectman Rodgers moved that a Town Meeting be called for Tuesday, May 29, to act on the Town budget. Selectman Gaston seconded. All in favor. Selectman Rodgers moved that the call of the Town Meeting set for May 29 be modified and that action on the Town budget be sent to referendum on June 5, 2012, between the hours of 6:00am and 8:00pm. Selectman Gaston seconded. All in favor. This action essentially cancels the May 29 Town Meeting.
- 3. Driveway Bond Extension:** Selectman Rodgers moved to extend the driveway bond for Andrew Finlay & Giriaco Russo at 54 Turkey Hill Road, M36, B11, L53 for six months for a new expiration date of November 30, 2012. Selectman Gaston seconded. All in favor.
- 4. Tax Refunds:** none.
- 5. Appointments/Reappointments:** First Selectman Llodra announced there is a vacancy on the Commission on Aging open to a democrat or unaffiliated voter. The last day to submit letters of interest is June 18 with an anticipated appointment date of July 2. If an alternate is moved to a full board member an alternate vacancy will then be created.
- 6. Transfer Station Rate Increase:** follow up and action on this item is covered under Unfinished Business.
- 7. Transfer:** Selectman Gaston moved to transfer \$9,297.16 from 01570-2000 Contingency to 01180-1006 Primaries. Selectman Rodgers seconded. All in favor. Selectman Gaston moved to transfer \$3,926.32 from 01570-2000 Contingency to 01180-1007 Election Workers. Selectman Rodgers seconded. All in favor.
- 8. Transfer:** Selectman Rodgers moved to transfer \$25,000 from 01570-2000 Contingency to 01240-2001 Unemployment Act. Selectman Gaston seconded. All in favor.
- 9. Transfer:** Selectman Gaston moved to transfer \$9,500 from 01500-5080 Capital, \$30,000 from 01570-2000 Contingency, \$7,000 from 01500-2029 Private Roads/Reconstruction TO \$41,500 01500-3050 Repairs, \$2,500 to 01500-2008 Street & Road Sign, \$4,500 to Construction Supplies. Selectman Rodgers seconded. All in favor. (FEMA Update, Att. B). Mr. Tait explained there have been significant transfers to the tree removal account in the area of \$200,000. We were fortunate to have a mild winter and were able to appropriate from winter maintenance.
- 10. Transfer:** Selectman Rodgers moved to transfer \$22,000 from 01650-2017 Fuel Oil TO \$8,000 01650-4001 Contractual Custodian, \$10,500 to 01650-4060 Contractual Services, \$2,000 to 01650-2014 Building Maintenance and \$1,500 to 01560-2011 Supplies. Selectman Gaston seconded. All in favor.
- 11. Resolution:** Selectman Gaston moved the resolution: RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$336,000 FOR THE DEEP BROOK STREAM RESTORATION PROJECT AT DICKINSON PARK TO BE FUNDED FROM A PASS THRU GRANT FROM THE CANDLEWOOD VALLEY CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED (THRU THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$252,000 AND \$84,000 TO BE SUPPLIED BY THE TOWN WITH FORCE ACCOUNT LABOR AND EXISTING MATERIALS. Selectman Rodgers seconded. All in favor.
- 12. Certified Resolution:** Selectman Rodgers moved the certified resolution and the reading of the entire resolution: WHEREAS, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes, Section 4-66g, the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management is authorized to extend financial assistance for economic development projects; and WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of Newtown enter into an agreement with the State of Connecticut for a \$400,000 Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant in order to undertake the installation of certain infrastructure and streetscape elements upon the Fairfield Hills Campus. NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Newtown Board of Selectmen: 1. That is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for the State Assistance imposed by C.G.S. 4-66g, and 2. That the acceptance of State financial assistance by The Town of Newtown in an amount not to exceed \$400,000 is hereby approved

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and that E. Patricia Llodra, First Selectman is directed to execute an agreement with the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management, to provide such additional information, to execute such other documents as may be required, to execute any amendments, decisions and revisions thereto, and to act as the authorized representative of the Town of Newtown, Connecticut. Selectman Gaston seconded. All in favor.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** none.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Having no further business the Board of Selectmen adjourned their regular meeting at 9:26.m.

*Susan Marcinek*  
Susan Marcinek, Clerk

Att. A: Newtown Transfer Station Operational Changes, July 1, 2012  
Att. B: FEMA Update, 5/21/12

## NEWTOWN TRANSFER STATION OPERATIONAL CHANGES

**THE TRANSFER STATION PERMIT:** Beginning July 1, 2012 the permit will be a bar coded sticker rather than the annual color coded sticker currently in use. Attendants will use hand-held bar code readers to validate permits. As is current practice, the general permit allows a resident to deposit household refuse or MSW. Other services such as deposit of construction and demolition material (C&D) or tree limbs over 3" are fee-based to all residents. See below for specific information on the cost to deposit these items. Depositing recyclables, waste oil, metal, etc. continue to be free to all residents. **Senior Citizen Discount:** Our senior citizens are offered a discount on the Transfer Station permit fee. Payment information and the permit application can be found at [www.newtown-ct.gov](http://www.newtown-ct.gov), select Town departments, select Transfer Station, click payment option. (See over for an image of the Transfer Station website.)

### **TO PURCHASE THE PERMIT:**

*On-line:* The transfer station will be connected by fiber optic during May/June which will allow direct connection to the Town computer server and greater use of the Internet both for sales and site security. Cost: \$85.00 (\$75.00 for senior citizens).

*Check:* There are two possibilities for purchasing a permit by check. 1) Go to the Transfer Station and complete the application on site; or 2) Download the application from the web site and mail the application and check to the address indicated. Cost \$90.00 (\$80.00 for senior citizens)

*Credit Card:* To purchase a permit using a credit card, but not using the on-line access point, go to the Transfer Station and complete the application form. Cost \$90.00 (\$80.00 for senior citizens)

*Cash:* cash transactions will not be allowed after July 1.

**Why Change? :** The changes in our Transfer Station Permit process provides three distinct advantages for the Town: a) less administrative work for the transfer station attendants provides more time for these staff to focus on the site operation; b) removing cash from the operation reduces considerably human error involved in those transactions and provides greater certainty that the permits and end uses are properly accounted for; 3) developing electronic data regarding our permits, uses, and costs better enables us to manage and control those costs and to plan ahead.

### **Other services and permit levels:**

The day pass will increase from \$6.00 to \$10.00 and the monthly pass will increase from \$10.00 to \$20.00. Our observations over the past few years have shown massive abuse of the day and monthly pass system. In many cases, enormous quantities of MSW have been delivered for the smaller fee. There is a legitimate purpose for the day and/or month pass. These adjusted fees remain at a very modest and reasonable level to serve that purpose. Check or credit card only.

**Construction and Demolition Waste:** There will be a very substantial increase for "construction & demolition waste" (C&D) climbing from \$39 per cubic yard to \$75 per cubic yard. Last year we took in revenue of \$44,000 for C&D and paid out \$92,000 for disposal. That gap in costs gets passed on to the taxpayers. It is fair that the users of the disposal for C&D pay the adjusted amount to cover our costs. We accept C&D as a service for homeowners and not as a primary dump for what effectively are commercial accounts. Enhanced camera security available from our new fiber optic system will also deter the improper use of the C&D dumping. Check or credit card only.

## FEMA UPDATE 5/21/12

	Actual	75%		
ALFRED				Actual cost to budget line items
Labor	\$ 120,730.80	\$ 90,548.10		Overtime
Equipment	\$ 315,769.00	\$ 236,826.75		Contractors
Rented Equipment	\$ 9,320.30	\$ 6,990.23		Rental
Contractor	\$ 945,804.72	\$ 709,353.54		Materials
	TOTAL \$ 1,391,624.82	\$ 1,043,718.62		TOTAL \$ <b>1,382,308.19</b>
IRENE				
Labor	\$ 71,338.76	\$ 53,504.07		
Equipment	\$ 100,091.63	\$ 75,068.72		
Contractor	\$ 143,057.50	\$ 107,293.13		
Material	\$ 3,509.09	\$ 2,631.82		
Permanent Work	\$ 13,153.81	\$ 13,153.81		
Fire Departments	\$ 18,608.00	\$ 18,608.00		
WSA	\$ 26,470.00	\$ 19,852.50	Goes Directly to WSA	
	TOTAL \$ 376,228.79	\$ 290,112.05		
Total FEMA Reimbursement		<b>\$ 1,333,830.66</b>		Total FEMA Reimbursement
				Total Cost to budget Line Item
				Actual paid by PW Budget
				\$ 1,333,830.66
				\$ 1,382,308.19
				\$ <b>48,477.53</b>