

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY BOARD OF SELECTMEN

The **Board of Selectmen** held a regular meeting on Monday, July 2, 2012 in the Council Chambers, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT. First Selectman Llodra called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

PRESENT: E. Patricia Llodra, William F.L Rodgers.

ABSENT: James Gaston, Sr.

ALSO PRESENT: One member of the public and three members of the press.

VOTER COMMENTS: none.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: Selectman Rodgers moved to accept the minutes of June 18, 2012. First Selectman Llodra seconded. All in favor. Selectman Rodgers moved to accept the minutes of the special meeting of June 29, 2012. First Selectman Llodra seconded. All in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS: First Selectman Llodra shared documents relative to the budget (Att. A, B, C & D). The budget proposal, as it stands now, requires an additional \$55 per year on an average \$8,000 tax bill. Of this, the debt service at .36% of the overall increase amounts to about \$26 of the \$55. Debt service is a contractual commitment from years past.

FINANCE DIRECTORS REPORT: none.

ADD TO AGENDA: Selectman Rodgers moved to add as item #3 under New Business, discussion and possible action on a Driveway Bond. First Selectman Llodra seconded. All in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

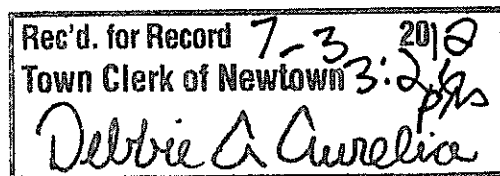
Discussion and possible action:

- 1. Implementation Plan – Plan of Conservation and Development:** this item will be on the August 6 agenda.
- 2. Tick Borne Disease Action Committee:** A letter was sent to Howard Kilpatrick of the DEEP (Att. E). An email was sent to Donna Culbert and Judy Blanchard relative to education and tick borne diseases (Att. F)
- 3. Hook & Ladder:** this item will be carried to the August 6 meeting.
- 4. Hawleyville Sewers:** this item will be on the August 6 agenda.
- 5. Municipal Space Needs:** Draft language was submitted for discussion with a request to be prepared to act on this item at the August 6 meeting. (Att. G).

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion and possible action:

- 1. Tax Refunds:** Selectman Rodgers moved to accept the June 2012 Tax Refunds, No. 17 in the amount of \$13,633.77. First Selectman Llodra seconded. All in favor.



2. Appointments/Re-appointments: Selectman Rodgers moved the appointment of Joanne Fatse Davis (U) from an alternate member of the Commission on Aging to a full board member with a term expiration of January 6, 2013. First Selectman Llodra seconded. All in favor. Selectman Rodgers moved the appointment of Anne Rothstein, (D) as an alternate member of the Commission on Aging with a term expiration of January 6, 2013 and the re-appointment of Mary Kelley to the CH Booth Library, Board of Trustees with a term expiration of July 1, 2015. First Selectman Llodra seconded. All in favor.

3. Driveway Bond Release/Extension: Selectman Rodgers moved the driveway bond for Charter Residential Development, LLC, Crosswind Court, M2, B9, L1.21 in the amount of \$1,000. First Selectman Llodra seconded. All in favor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: none.

VOTER COMMENTS: Michele McLeod appreciates the boards attempt to act on the recommendations of the Tick Borne Diseases Action Committee. She does not believe the community education has gotten to the intended audience and suggests the persons in charge of the education portion of tick borne diseases meet with her, Dr. Grossman and Dr. Chaudhary to determine where we, as a community, can do better. First Selectman Llodra will ask who Ms. Culbert and Ms. Blanchard think should be part of the group in addition to who the Selectmen choose. Dr. McLeod thinks it is a good idea to educate the community prior to conducting the survey; the results would be educated opinions as opposed to an uninformed opinion on the deer and tick borne disease relationship in Newtown. First Selectman Llodra stated the charge of the committee will not be to educate the community on the relationship between deer and tick borne disease but rather educating the public as to what they need to do to protect themselves against these diseases. Dr. McLeod again asked the board to look at the metrics portion of the report. Selectman Rodgers suggested with greater education there will presumably be less of a need for deer management efforts. First Selectman Llodra said it is the wrong strategy for any town to reduce the number of deer with the singular purpose of reducing the incidence of tick borne disease.

ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business Selectman Rodgers moved to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Selectman at 8:45pm. First Selectman Llodra seconded. All in favor.



Susan Marcinek, Clerk

- Att. A: R. Tait, 7/2/12 budget document
- Att. B: July 12, 2012 budget referendum legal notice
- Att. C: Extended hours at the Municipal Center
- Att. D: Questions recently asked that are relevant to the current budget conflict
- Att. E: Kilpatrick letter, June 21, 2012
- Att. F: email to D. Culbert & J. Blanchard, June 25, 2012
- Att. G: Municipal Space Needs (DRAFT)

tax increase	1,286,481	
grand list contribution	<u>(640,000)</u>	
increased tax burden	646,481	
municipal services	(130,000)	-0.14%
debt service	337,396	0.36%
BOE	384,367	0.41%
Decline in other revenues	<u>54,718</u>	0.06%
	646,481	0.69%
prior year tax	93,452,178	
increase		0.69%

ANNUAL BUDGET REFERENDUM LEGAL NOTICE
NEWTOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL, 11 QUEEN STREET
JULY 12, 2012 • 6AM – 8PM

TOWN OF NEWTOWN BUDGET SUMMARY FISCAL YEAR 2012 - 2013

PROPOSED BUDGET ADOPTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (TOWN CHARTER 6-14)
 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ADOPTED BUDGET June 27, 2012

<u>SUMMARY OF REVENUES</u> & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES:	
<u>PROPERTY TAXES</u>	96,248,905
<u>ALL OTHER REVENUE</u>	9,997,933
<u>TOTAL REVENUES</u>	
<u>& OTHER FINANCING SOURCES</u>	<u>106,246,838</u>
<u>SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES</u> & OTHER FINANCING USES:	
<u>GENERAL GOVERNMENT</u>	3,987,469
<u>PUBLIC SAFETY</u>	8,593,726
<u>PUBLIC WORKS</u>	9,259,247
<u>HEALTH AND WELFARE</u>	1,372,297
<u>LAND USE</u>	581,631
<u>PARKS AND RECREATION</u>	3,234,434
<u>CONTINGENCY</u>	250,000
<u>DEBT SERVICE</u>	10,059,789
<u>OTHER FINANCING USES</u>	452,451
<u>BOARD OF EDUCATION</u>	<u>68,355,794</u>
<u>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</u>	
<u>& OTHER FINANCING USES</u>	<u>106,146,838</u>

TAX INFORMATION:

	<u>2011 - 2012</u>	<u>2012 - 2013</u>
<u>NET TAXABLE GRAND LIST</u>		
	3,869,990,324	3,896,056,159
<u>AMOUNT OF REVENUE TO BE RAISED BY</u>		
<u>CURRENT TAXES</u>	93,452,078	94,738,559
<u>ASSUMED TAX COLLECTION RATE</u>		
	99.10%	99.10%
<u>TAX LEVY</u>	94,300,785	95,598,950
<u>MILL RATE</u>	24.37	24.54
<u>MILL RATE PERCENT INCREASE</u>	1.53%	0.69%
The proposed .69% tax increase will increase the average annual tax bill by \$55 (assuming a \$8,000 current annual tax bill)		

The detailed budget for the Town is on the Town website at www.newtown-ct.gov
 The detailed budget for the BOE is on the BOE website at www.newtown.k12.ct.us
 Budget summaries, both revenues and expenditures, are also available on the website and in the Town Clerk's Office in the Newtown Municipal Center.

Extended Office Hours at the Municipal Center.

The First Selectman has scheduled extended office hours in order to meet with any resident who has questions or concerns about budget proposed by the Legislative Council due for referendum on July 12.

The notice of the extended office hours has also gone to the chair and vice chair of the Legislative Council, Board of Finance, and Board of Education with an invitation to be present if they so choose to also respond to resident questions.

As least some of those board members will be available along with Mrs. Llodra to answer questions and hear concerns.

Sunday, July 1, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, July 4, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Friday, July 6, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 7, 2:00 – 3:00

Monday, July 9, 5:00 – 6:30

Tuesday, July 10, 5:00 – 6:30

Wednesday, July 11, 5:00 – 6:30

Questions recently asked that are relevant to the current budget conflict.

1. **Why not send out tax bills with last year's mill rate and then send out supplemental bills when a mill rate is adopted?**
 - Many property owners pay their taxes with an escrow account provided by their mortgage provider. The mortgage banks will use the initial tax bill amount to calculate the tax payment paid to the Newtown tax collector. The supplemental tax bill will also be sent to the mortgage bank. Our previous experience with this process led to confusion with the mortgage banks because they had to recalculate the tax escrow payment. This led to late tax payments and liens placed on properties which led to angry tax payers. It took many months, staff and mailing costs to make the situation right for the affected property owners.
 - We have 280 persons on the State elderly property tax credit program. We will have to hold those tax bills until we get an adopted mill rate. The State will not calculate the tax credit with last year's mill rate (they require the adopted mill rate).
 - The resulting supplemental bills for personal property taxes will be very small amounts. It is the tax collectors policy not to send out tax bills less than \$3 because it costs more to process and collect. These amounts will be collected if we wait for an adopted mill rate. Otherwise these small amounts add up to significant amounts which would result in a loss of tax revenue to Newtown.

(Per Carol Mahoney, Tax Collector, and Robert Tait, Finance Director)

2. **Are salaries for Town workers included in any projects that are bonded?**

The answer to this is unequivocally NO. Bonds for projects specify very clearly what can be funded by those monies. Salaries for town workers are NEVER included in that bond issue. Sometimes, as with the Animal Control Facility project currently underway, the amount of money approved by the town government for bonding is insufficient for the whole project. When that happens, public works personnel or parks and recreation department have to take on some of the tasks, such as site work. The salaries for these workers are always paid out of the approved town budget and are never part of bonded costs.

3. **What actions has the town taken to reduce overhead?**

The Town has reduced operational costs by eliminating employees, deferring/delaying necessary expenditures, and seeking lowest cost for all services and commodities such as fuel, electricity, etc. Director of Human Resources Carole Ross reports that Town employees in 2008 numbered 174. Current staffing is at 164. Most recently, the BoS reduced the PD by 3 positions, PW by 1 position, the Tax office by 2 positions and Land Use by 1.5 positions. Further, the BoS eliminated the contract for private management of Fairfield Hills. More detail is available for any interested party.

4. **How much do we pay for salt per ton? Do we have a stockpile? Can we further reduce that budget line?**

Newtown uses treated salt, as does most of Connecticut, because of the environmental impact of salt/sand on our roads that then leaches into soils and waterways. We are in consortia of approximately 60 other towns in order to get best price in volume discounts. Our price per ton is \$80.37. We have an inventory of tonnage left from our very mild winter of 2011-2012. The budget line for salt for this upcoming winter is \$100,000 less than what was spent in 2010-2011. Hopefully, the inventory of salt will help us get through this coming winter season without having to make additional purchases beyond what is budgeted. Calendar year usage is as follows: 2009 – 5221 tons; 2010 – 4866 tons; 2011 – 4786 tons and 2012 year to date – 1419 tons.

Newtown Municipal Center
3 Primrose Street
Newtown, Connecticut 06470
Tel. (203) 270-4201
Fax (203) 270-4205
first.selectman@newtown-ct.gov
www.newtown-ct.gov



Att. E

E. Patricia Llodra
First Selectman

TOWN OF NEWTOWN
OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN

June 21, 2012

Howard Kilpatrick
Franklin Wildlife
391 Route 32
North Franklin, CT 06254

Dear Mr. Kilpatrick,

Thank you very much for joining our Board of Selectmen meeting on May 21, 2012 to discuss the opportunity for Newtown to engage with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection in the development of a deer management program. We three selectmen especially appreciate your forthrightness and clarity in responding to our questions.

The information you provided helped to guide our decision-making when we returned to the question of 'where do we go from here?' at the Board of Selectmen meeting Monday, June 18. Ultimately, the Board unanimously agreed that the DEEP partnership in this effort presented some real benefits, especially in updated information about the extent of the deer population and in opportunities to learn more about community opinions via the survey.

So, please know that we want to go forward with DEEP in this initiative. We thank you very much for your patience with our protracted decision-making process. As you surely know, it is important to be careful and cautious, especially with an issue such as this, one that generates elevated passions and which has well-informed and articulate constituencies, albeit with diametrically opposed points of view.

Please let me know what to do next.

Sincerely,

E. Patricia Llodra
First Selectman

Municipal Space Needs

In 1999, a Space Needs Committee completed an analysis of municipal program needs and facilities usage. The committee prepared a series of proposals and options specifically related to Edmond Town Hall, Newtown Hook and Ladder Fire Station, Town Hall South, the Gordon Frasier Building, and Watertown Hall. Some of the needs identified in the 1999 review have been or are being addressed, while others have not and new needs and issues have come to the fore. Some preliminary planning has been done to prepare for construction of a Community Center; seniors are increasingly calling for construction of an expanded facility; and the police department continues to serve from a building that has innumerable deficits and was classified in the 1999 study as inadequate. Further, a space needs review of education buildings suggests the possibility of closing a school (Reed) and with that consideration comes the potential for reuse of the school building.

It is time now, before we embark on a plan for construction of additional buildings at considerable cost to the community, to analyze again our program needs and facilities usage. The charge to the committee, then, is to analyze the current and future space needs of identified municipal programs; understand the space capacity, infrastructure, and quality of usage of identified municipal buildings; and then develop a series of options and strategies that successfully 'marries' the needs with the facilities.

Facilities and program needs for review in this Space Needs Assessment:

- 1) Town Hall South - Police/Communication services
- 2) Multipurpose building - Senior Center
- 3) Parks and Recreation - Community Center
- 4) Social Services
- 5) Other