

Board of Selectman
January 7, 2013

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY BOARD OF SELECTMEN

The Board of Selectmen held a regular meeting Monday, January 7, 2013 in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Center, Newtown. First Selectman Llodra called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Finance Director Robert Tait, Tax Collector Carol Mahoney, Tax Assessor Chris Kelsey, six members of the public and five members of the press.

VOTER PARTICIPATION: none.

COMMUNICATIONS: First Selectman Llodra explained that the Council Chamber has been the site of sorting, opening and organizing of all the mail that has been coming in from around the world. There were more than 100,000 pieces of mail and many, many volunteers are coming in to help. Twenty volunteers from the United States Postal Service came in to do large sorting on Sunday. This is an extraordinary service from the workers of the USPS.

FINANCE DIRECTOR REPORT: Mr. Tait reported the processing of cash and checks from incoming mail is going smoothly. The first step is to review the address and make sure they go in the appropriate area. The opened envelopes with cash, checks or gift cards are separated from the other cards. Gift cards are put in one area; the cash and checks are noted on a cover sheet as to where the money is intended to go. Checks/cash go to the finance department for recording and reporting into the financial accounting system. Public purpose benefits police, fire, first responders, education and schools. The private purpose fund is for individuals or scholarship funds. Everything is documented. First Selectman said the extraordinary support of volunteers is heartwarming. It is a reaffirmation of the spirit of volunteerism in the community. We have been hurt badly but we are blessed in many ways. Mr. Tait also reported that the 2013-2014 budget is being worked on.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

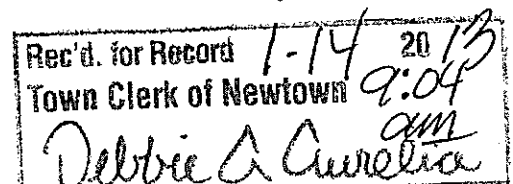
Discussion and possible action:

- 1. Implementation Plan – Plan of Conservation and Development:** Selectman Rodgers reported he met with Mr. Sibley and Mr. Benson for a preliminary discussion. This item will be carried and addressed January 22.
- 2. Education & Prevention committee for Tick Borne Disease – December:** item to be carried.
- 3. Municipal Space Needs:** This item is on hold until the fate and future of Sandy Hook School is decided.
- 4. Policy Statement – Defined Contribution Plan:** item to be carried to January 22.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion and possible action:

- 1. Senior Tax Relief:** Ms. Mahoney said that the senior citizens in town are concerned about being able to continue to live in Newtown. She and Mr. Kelsey are requesting \$275,000 for the senior tax benefit program (Att. A). Mr. Kelsey explained that the circuit breaker program is run by the state through the assessor's office; it is state mandated and state funded. There is a state veterans program and also a local veterans program. All programs are separate and a person can qualify for all four. The circuit breaker is a percentage of a small tax bill but is a fixed amount on a larger tax bill. New to the state program are same sex marriages. There was discussion on tax freezes. They are very rarely used; people don't like them as they involve leans. Selectman Rodgers noted tax freezes adversely affect



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beneficiaries; not a lot of towns do it. First Selectman said it is not a matter of not being willing to take on the tax lean concept, it is a matter of it not being in the best interest of our residents. Ms. Mahoney said the town follows exactly what the state does relative to grant or trusts, as per the town attorney. Properties in trust do not qualify. Selectman Rodgers believes this should be revised. Mr. Tait said that the increase in the proposed program would be covered with a 0.3% increase in the grand list.

2. **Road Alignment – Edmond Road/Commerce Road:** There were two secured federal earmarks, one for Exit 11 & Rte. 84 which was attached to the state project making it enough, combined to do the Church Hill project. The exit 11 project never went forward but the federal money was preserved. The town requested the earmarks be released for the local project to realign Edmond/Commerce Road.

VOTER COMMENTS: Dan and Lisa LaPage, residents of Middletown addressed the board with their idea for a charity motorcycle ride in Newtown as they are members of a law enforcement and military motorcycle club. Riders would pay \$25 and an additional \$15 for passenger, proceeds to benefit Sandy Hook. They are tentatively looking at a day in June. First Selectman Llodra asked them to send something in writing. She spoke of a local sponsor such as one of the fire houses or the police department.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: There is an opening on the Economic Development Commission.

Respectfully submitted,


Susan Marcinek, Clerk

Att. A: TON Newtown Senior or Totally Disabled Tax Relief Program, Jan. 7, 2013.

TOWN OF NEWTOWN
 NEWTOWN SENIOR OR TOTALLY DISABLED TAX RELIEF PROGRAM
 JANUARY 7th, 2013

CURRENT PROGRAM - AUTHORIZED TOTAL TAX CREDIT AMOUNT = \$1,225,000

Income Range	Tax Credit	# Eligible	Total Tax Credit
55,001 - 65,000	1,276	114	145,464
45,001 - 55,000	1,476	144	212,544
0 - 45,000	1,976	414	818,064
odd cases	850	46	39,100
			1,215,172

PROPOSED NEW PROGRAM - AUTHORIZED TOTAL TAX CREDIT AMOUNT = \$1,500,000

Income Range	Tax Credit	# Eligible	Total Tax Credit	Credit Increase	
				\$	%
55,001 - 65,000	1,300	114	148,200	24	1.9%
45,001 - 55,000	1,750	144	252,000	274	18.6%
0 - 45,000	2,525	414	1,045,350	549	27.8%
odd cases	850	46	39,100		
New Applicants			15,350		
			1,500,000		

REQUESTED TAX CREDIT INCREASE = \$275,000

NOTE: Proposing a \$275,000 increase in the Local Homeowners Elderly/Disabled Tax Credit.

It is hoped that this increased tax credit would be funded by an increase in the grand list.

A 0.3% increase in the net taxable grand list would fund this amount which would result in no additional taxes to existing tax payers. The last grand list grew 0.6%.

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ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES: Selectman Rodgers moved to accept the minutes of December 17, 2012 as presented. Selectman Gaston seconded. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion and possible action:

1. **Senior Tax Relief:** Selectman Rodgers moved to recommend the increase and credit as outlined in the Newtown Senior or Totally Disabled Tax Relief Program, January 7, 2013 (Att. A). Selectman Gaston seconded. All in favor.
2. **Road Alignment – Edmond Road/Commerce Road:** no action taken.
3. **Newtown Volunteer Ambulance Association lease:** no action taken.
4. **Driveway Bond Release/Extension:** none.
5. **Appointments/Reappointments:** Selectman Rodgers moved the reappointments as noted on memo dated January 7, 2013 (Att. B). Selectman Gaston seconded. All in favor.
6. **Tax Refunds:** Selectman Gaston moved the January 2013, Tax Refunds #9 in the amount of \$10,781.08. Selectman Gaston seconded. All in favor. ,

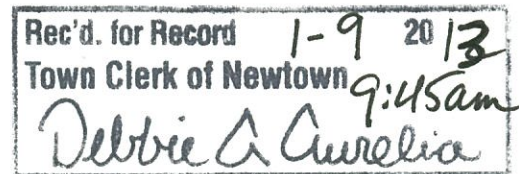
ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business the Board of Selectmen adjourned their regular meeting at 8:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Marcinek
Susan Marcinek, Clerk

Att. A: TON Newtown Senior or Totally Disabled Tax Relief Program, Jan. 7, 2013

Att. B: Reappointments, January 7, 2013



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BOARD OF SELECTMEN – January 7, 2013 Meeting

APPOINTMENT

Conservation Commission

(U) William A. Darrin, Jr., 78 Poverty Hollow Road to fill vacancy to expire 12-31-15

RE-APPOINTMENT

Commission on Aging

(R) Curt Symes, 36 Lake Road 01/06/13 – 01/06/16

Public Building & Site Commission

(I) Roger Letso, 93 Poverty Hollow Road 01/06/13 – 01/06/17

Parks & Recreation Commission

(R) Tom Dinicola, 13 Bristle Lane, Sandy Hook 01/06/13 – 01/06/15

(D) Ed Marks, 3 Sweet Meadow Road 01/06/13 – 01/06/15

Sustainable Energy Commission

(D) Dan Holmes, 6 Farmery Lane 01/06/13 – 01/06/16