

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY BOARD OF SELECTMEN

The Board of Selectmen held a special meeting Wednesday, December 18, 2013 in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Center, Newtown. First Selectman Llodra opened the meeting at 7:0 pm.

**PRESENT:** First Selectman Llodra, Selectman James Gaston, Sr., members of the Legislative Council, Mary Ann Jacob, Neil Chaudhary, George Ferguson, Lisa Romano, Joe Girgasky, Paul Lundquist, Robert Merola, Ryan Knapp, Anthony Filiato, Phil Carroll, Dan Honan and Dan Amaral, members of the Board of Finance John Kortze, Joseph Kearney, John Godin, Harry Waterbury, Jim Filan and Michael Portnoy, members of the Board of Education Debbie Leidlein, Laura Roche, Kathy Hamilton, Michelle Ku, John Vouros and David Freedman, Finance Director Robert Tait, Land Use Director George Benson, Attorney David Grogins, Attorney Monte Frank, twenty eight members of the public, four members of the press.

**ABSENT:** William F.L. Rodgers

**ALSO PRESENT:** Members of the Legislative Council, Mary Ann Jacob, Neil Chaudhary, George Ferguson, Lisa Romano, Joe Girgasky, Paul Lundquist, Robert Merola, Ryan Knapp, Anthony Filiato, Phil Carroll, Dan Honan and Dan Amaral, members of the Board of Finance John Kortze, Joseph Kearney, John Godin, Harry Waterbury, Jim Filan and Michael Portnoy, members of the Board of Education Debbie Leidlein, Laura Roche, Kathy Hamilton, Michelle Ku, John Vouros and David Freedman, Finance Director Robert Tait, Land Use Director George Benson, Attorney David Grogins, Attorney Monte Frank, twenty eight members of the public, four members of the press.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Discussion and possible action:**

- 1. Discussion of budget development for 2014-2015:** Mrs. Llodra stated her report is organized in similar fashion to the Board of Ed with paralleling topics. Major contractual/fixed costs for 2014-15 budget: Wages & Salaries average a 1.75% increase, medical a 4% increase, pension increase of 18%, and insurance a 3% increase. Debt service will increase 2.8%. Total is a 1.9% increase. Efficiencies and reductions to help reduce increases are: unfilled open positions in dispatch and maintenance, one time donation, and adjustment in capital non-recurring for a total of \$287,000. Municipal services increase is 0.6%; with debt service brings it to a 1.2% increase. There are no new positions. Two open positions will not be filled. One is in dispatch and we are looking at regionalizing dispatch for better service and efficiency. A maintenance position will not be filled. Looking to do maintenance more efficiently and will engage in a collaborative study with Board of Ed. A number of positions have not been filled over the last several years. Mrs. Llodra does not want to reduce services. There are no new programs or initiatives, except for personnel for school safety. No increase in budge regarding roads. Two million needed a year but have only funded 1 million a year while costs are increasing. We are fixing drainage before fixing roads which delays process but preserves roads longer. Ms. Romano asked Mrs. Llodra if she is articulating all the services needed. Why not put them in the budget for taxpayers to decide if they want the services. Mrs. Llodra said the pressure on the taxpayer is substantial right now. Mr. Amaral asked how the tech department coming along? Mrs. Llodra said Scott Sharlow took a position elsewhere as did one other person in the department. The IT department is working with an outside company and contracted with them to help keep the department running until new person is hired. We can afford contract by using money from existing salary line. Delay in filling position will pay for outsourcing.

Rec'd. for Record 12-2020 13  
Town Clerk of Newtown 4:13pm  
Debbie Aurelia Halstead

Board of Selectman  
December 18, 2013

Ms. Romano asked if mapping be regionalized. Mrs. Llodra said it would not be to our advantage because we are more sophisticated than surrounding towns. We have partnerships with towns that are at our level. Mrs. Llodra said to develop collaboration between town and school is very complex. It is incremental and we have made great gains. Not everything will be a negative bump to the bottom line. We are pursuing models of greater efficiencies. We have not perfected the big change which is the financial software, but there is an efficiency and access to information that is very good. We are currently working on second step, the human resources module and have now added maintenance to the plate. May not save on costs, but would be more efficient. We will keep moving in that direction.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Having no further business the Board of Selectmen adjourned their special meeting at 11:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



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Susan Marcinek, Clerk