

## SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

September 17, 2009

A Special Town Meeting of the Town of Newtown was held in the Meeting Room at Town Hall South, 3 Main Street, Newtown, CT, on Thursday, September 17, 2009. The meeting was called to order by Town Clerk Debbie A. Aurelia at 7:33 p.m. with 18 persons in attendance, after which she read the warning of the meeting. Paul Mangiafico nominated First Selectman Joseph E Borst as Moderator, seconded by Selectman Daniel Amaral.

Hearing no other nominations Selectman Borst started the meeting.

Mr. Borst then read a communication, To receive a communication from the Board of Selectmen with respect to a resolution entitled "Resolution Providing For A Special Appropriation In The Amount Of \$2,419,000 For Various Public Improvements For The Fiscal Year 2009-2010 And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$2,419,000 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriation And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purpose".

First Selectman Borst then read the breakdown of monies to be spent;

Police Radio Enhancement \$ 494,000

Renovate Treadwell Pool \$ 405,000

Park & Recreations Maintenance Facility – Interior Renovations \$ 350,000

Dickinson Park – Infrastructure Renovations \$ 620,000

Pumper Truck 221 Replacement – Dodgingtown \$ 550,000

Selectman Paul Mangiafico made a motion to waive the reading of the resolution, second by Herb Rosenthal.

### DISCUSSION:

Daniel Amaral of 41 Elm Drive said he understands that this bond needs to be approved as a whole but in the future we should vote on these projects individually. He sees the shortfalls that no new businesses are coming and some are leaving and that this will ultimately have to be made up by the taxpayer. Mr. Amaral said we do need good parks, good roads and good schools but we spent a lot of money last year and this year and more to come in the future. Can we afford these projects, is it a necessity? Mr. Amaral said that our Playscape at Dickinson was built by volunteers and asked that we could possibly get help again.

First Selectman Joe Borst read the following communication:

**Police Radio Enhancements**

**\$494,000**

Upgrade the existing police radio communications system through the use of digital technology and improve the radio transmission sites through improvements in building house structures.

The upgrade is necessary to improve radio security; business confidentiality and sensitivity. It is necessary for mutual aid compatibility. Parts removed will be stockpiled for use later if necessary. Improvements to radio transmission site buildings/structure will promote greater useful life, less maintenance costs and repairs.

Mr. Borst sited the approval of the Dinglebrook Lane tower and this would improve the blackout areas around that location.

**Renovate Treadwell Pool**

**\$405,000**

Update old fixtures, plumbing, electric, ventilation for more efficient operation. Reconfigure to meet current code and ADA requirements. Make bathrooms accessible to outside usage (other than pool). Replace filtering equipment and renovate mechanical room and distribute city water through entire park.

The existing number of outside facilities is not sufficient and is faulty due to overuse. By reconfiguring the pool building, which would open the bathrooms to the whole park, we would have sufficient facilities to service the general public. The filtering equipment is currently beyond its useful life and we are experiencing regular failures. Addition of city water will reduce dependency on existing wells, alleviating current sediment and pressure issues, causing unsanitary bathroom conditions.

Amy Mangold, Director of Parks and Recreation, stated the public restroom facilities outside the pool area are not adequate when the pool is closed and the Park is in use for functions and the field sports.

**Parks & R Maintenance Facility – Interior Renovations** **\$350,000**

Design and Engineering and interior renovations for Maintenance Facility at Fairfield Hills.

The existing facility is a building that was part of the original Fairfield Hills campus. Although it is being used now it is in dire need of renovations which includes the designing and engineering for this maintenance facility. This building will house equipment, supplies and the maintenance office.

**Dickinson Park – Infrastructure Renovations** **\$620,000**

Repair five tennis courts, which are in very poor condition, repair basketball court which is also in poor condition, repave existing rear parking lot and distribute city water throughout entire park.

Existing courts have numerous cracks and are becoming unsafe for play. Existing dilapidated parking lot is rapidly becoming a safety concern and has been patched numerous times. Extension of existing water line to service bathrooms and fountains. This will reduce dependency on existing wells, avoiding continual health concerns and testing expenses.

**Pumper Truck 221 Replacement – Dodgingtown** **\$550,000**

Replace a 20 year old pumper truck used as the first engine response in district and as mutual aid to surrounding districts as well as out of town.

Mr. Borst said that is a fixed price for the Pumper Truck.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Amaral asked if there would be any other money spent to fix the Parks and Recreation facility. Amy Mangold stated that the original amount was \$700,000, they received \$350,000 to fix the interior repairs and now need the rest of the monies originally requested in order to finish the interior renovations.

Motion to approve Bond issue made by James Mooney seconded by Paul Mangiafico. UNANIMOUS.

Hearing no other public participation the motion was made to accept the resolution.

UNANIMOUS

OBJECTIONS-None

Selectman Herb Rosenthal made a motion to adjourn meeting seconded by Paul Mangiafico.

Debbie A Aurelia

Town Clerk

(full text of resolution follows and is considered part of these minutes)