



John L. Salomone  
Town Manager

# TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET  
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

**MAYOR STEPHEN WOODS**

## MINUTES

**NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Conference Room L-101 Lower Level – Town Hall**  
**7:00 P.M.**

**June 23, 2015**

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The meeting was called to order by Mayor Woods at 7:00 p.m.

### **I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **II. ROLL CALL**

Councilor Banach  
Councilor Borjeson  
Councilor Castelle  
Councilor DelBuono  
Councilor Klett  
Councilor McDonald  
Councilor Marocchini  
Councilor Nagel  
Mayor Woods

### **Staff Attendees:**

John Salomone, Town Manager  
Chris Schroeder, Fire Marshal  
Stephen Foresi, Chief of Staff, Newington Public Schools  
Jaime Trevethan, Asst. to the Town Manager – Administration

### **III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL (In Person/Via Telephone: 860-665-8736)**

John Bachand, 56 Maple Hill Avenue: Mr. Bachand expressed concern over the charge of the Town Hall Renovations Project Building Committee and stated that the Committee may be going off-task by considering a plan to demolish and rebuild Town Hall. He indicated that the Committee's charge may have to be amended if it continues to move in that direction. Mr. Bachand also expressed concern over the rising anticipated cost of the project – from \$29 million to \$44 million and inquired as to how the Committee came to this point. He remarked that the committee is at a dysfunctional crossroads with this capital project.

Steve Silvia, 45 Basswood Street: Mr. Silvia stated that he will speak about the Town Hall renovation project when it appears on an upcoming Council agenda. He indicated that the Digital Content Specialist

position with the Board of Education does not need to be a full-time position, as the work can be outsourced at a lower cost.

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive, Ms. Lyons expressed concern about the direction of the Town Hall Renovations Project Building Committee. She stated that there needs to be better communication between the Committee and the Town Council and remarked that she is not sure that the current direction of the Committee is in agreement with the Committee's charge. Ms. Lyons reiterated that there needs to be more discussion between the Committee and the Council.

Scott Greczkowski, 46 Miami Avenue: Mr. Greczkowski expressed concern about the increase in the Town Hall project budget from \$30 million to \$44 million. He stated that this is not accomplishing anything and stated that someone needs to step in to provide the Committee with some direction.

#### **IV. CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS (Action May Be Taken by Waiving the Rules)**

##### **A. Contract Extension for Ambulance/Paramedic Service for the Town of Newington (Action Requested)**

Town Manager Salomone explained that the Council is being asked to waive the rules to approve a one-page agreement between Newington Emergency Medical Services (NEMS, formerly NVA), American Medical Response (AMR) and the Town to extend the contract between the parties for one year, effective July 1, 2015. He stated that this will allow the three parties to continue discussions on a potential new arrangement between NEMS, AMR and the Town. He indicated that the extension will allow the status quo to remain in place while the parties are in discussions and more importantly will prevent a gap in paramedic/emergency response coverage to the Town.

Councilor Castelle inquired whether there are any issues with the status quo situation. Town Manager Salomone replied in the negative and stated that he is comfortable with extending the current arrangement for an additional year. He stated that he would be uncomfortable with rushing into a new arrangement prior to the June 30, 2015 contract expiration, thus the request for an extension. He stated that the proposed new arrangement is complex and will require further discussion in the coming months.

Councilor McDonald inquired about the pros and cons of extending the current agreement. Town Manager Salomone stated that extending the current agreement is not a problem. He indicated that there has been some disagreement about response times, however, he indicated that this needs to be worked out between the three parties as the definition of response times can vary depending on various factors. He stated that the extension is important to allow ample time to work out the important details of the new agreement and to make a satisfactory transition. He stated that the goal is to provide even better service to the Town in the future in a meaningful and economically viable way.

Councilor Klett inquired as to when the discussions between the parties started. Town Manager Salomone indicated that the discussions began in late winter or early spring. Councilor Klett expressed concern about the timeframe and the request for the Council to waive the rules at the current meeting. She also expressed concern about item #2 of the proposed agreement. She reiterated her concern about being asked to approve the agreement without understanding this item. Town Manager Salomone replied that the Council is only being asked to approve an extension of the current agreement in order to allow time for a new agreement to be put in place. He stated that it is in the Town's best interest to extend the contract, otherwise the Town risks losing paramedic coverage on July 1. He stated that the question regarding the late responses really pertains to how the responses are timed, which needs to be agreed upon between the parties. He stated that he will not endorse anything beyond the status quo until the parties come to a resolution of the late response issue and indicated that this will be done by November of this year. Councilor Klett inquired as to how much AMR has been fined for late call responses. Town Manager Salomone replied that the total is approximately \$50,000 and stated that the Town does not budget for the collection of the fines.

Councilor Borjeson stated that the Council needs to extend the contract in order to maintain coverage for the Town. He inquired about the issue of response time and the definition of a late response. He inquired as to whether the new agreement will save the Town money and whether a one-year extension is enough to create the new agreement. Town Manager Salomone replied that it is a complex issue and stated that he requested that both sides retain an attorney to assist with the negotiations. He stated that

the timing of the requested extension is unfortunate, however, the Town only received the extension a few days prior to the Council meeting. He reiterated that the extension merely maintains the status quo and indicated that he would not ask the Council to vote on an all-new contract without ample notice.

Councilor Nagel inquired about the collection of the \$50,000 in fines and whether the collection of such will be included in the upcoming contract. Town Manager Salomone replied that the key is to agree on the definition of response times and stated that collections of the fines would depend on the definition and the agreement. He stated confidence that the parties will work this out prior to November 1, as it is the best interest of all parties to do so. Councilor Nagel inquired as to whether there are other components to the negotiations. Town Manager Salomone replied that there will need to be agreements pertaining to the integration of NEMS.

Scott Woods, Chair of the Newington EMS Committee spoke in favor of the one-year extension and stated that NEMS, AMR and the Town have worked together well and that the extension is in the best interest of the community. He stated that the Committee has not received any public complaints regarding response times or patient outcomes for either NEMS or AMR. He stated that the one-year extension will allow all parties to work out a favorable agreement. He noted that the Town pays essentially no money towards either the NEMS or AMR agreements and stated that the ambulance services attend to approximately 3,800 calls per year in the Town. He indicated that call response concerns account for less than 4% of the total calls and stated that the extension is to take a look at emergency medical response from a larger scope. Councilor Klett inquired about any standards of practice for emergency medical response, as exist in other areas of the medical field, and expressed concern that any new agreements meet such standards of service. She also reiterated questions on collections of fines when those standards are not met. Mr. Woods replied that in like other fields, the standards are always changing and may vary based on the needs of the community. He stated that the current standards are 9 minutes for emergencies and 15 minutes for non-emergencies but stated that the disagreement is to whether the response time should include time for dispatch to process the call.

Councilor Nagel thanked Mr. Woods for the explanation. Councilor Marocchini stated that it is important to extend the contract in order to preserve emergency medical response for the Town. Councilor DelBuono stated that she is in favor of the extension and requested that the Town Manager keep the Council updated of the status of the negotiations as they progress so that the Council is well informed when it comes time to make a decision. Town Manager Salomone agreed and stated that the extension was created once it became apparent that there wouldn't be enough time to come to a new agreement. Councilor McDonald noted that negotiations are a sensitive and confidential subject and stated that extending the current agreement is a no-brainer.

Councilor Banach inquired whether it is a common occurrence for a volunteer service to take the place of a professional service. Town Manager Salomone stated that it can go either way – some towns have dissolved volunteer services due to a lack of resources while others have moved towards full-time volunteer services. Mr. Scott Woods indicated that it is a complex situation that involves various regulatory agencies. He stated that the EMS Committee is concerned about what is best for the community as a whole. Mayor Woods agreed.

Motion to waive the rules by Councilor Marocchini. Motion seconded by Councilor Castelle.  
Motion to waive the rules passed 9-0.

Councilor Borjeson moved the following:

**RESOLVED, that the Newington Town Council hereby authorizes the Town Manager to execute the attached contract extension between the Town of Newington, Newington Emergency Management Services, Inc. and American Medical Response Connecticut, Inc., to provide ambulance/paramedic services to the Town of Newington from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.**

Motion seconded by Councilor Banach.

Mayor Woods called for public participation on the motion. (none)

Motion passed 9-0.

## B. Discussion: Fire Department Bid Waiver – Rescue Truck

Town Manager Salomone stated that during the process of determining the specifications of the new fire rescue apparatus it became apparent that there is one manufacture that produces a truck that meets the Fire Department's specific needs. He stated that there Council is therefore being asked to consider a bid waiver to purchase the truck.

Fire Commissioner Gallagher and Fire Marshal/Chief Schroeder addressed the Council on the item. Mr. Schroder stated that the Department is requesting a waiver to purchase the apparatus from Peirce Manufacturing. He stated that the current truck is 21 years old and indicated that the Department currently utilizes Pierce equipment. He stated that the equipment is designed to be identical in terms of tool and pump locations and stated that repairs are done locally and quickly in Rocky Hill. He stated that the Department has been very satisfied with the Pierce equipment and would like to continue with the manufacturer. Mr. Schroeder noted that this is similar to the Highway Department having a specific set of specifications for its dump trucks, but noted that Highway equipment is part of the State bid, whereas fire apparatus is not covered under the State bid. He noted the importance of maintaining consistency with equipment and remarked that going out to bid may result in the purchase of equipment that doesn't suit the Department's needs.

Councilor Borjeson stated that this is similar to the last request for a fire apparatus bid waiver and stated that he is in favor of such waiver. Mayor Woods remarked that this item will be on the next agenda for action. Councilor Marocchini agreed with Councilor Borjeson and noted that continuity is important when it comes to fleet maintenance. Councilor Nagel noted that he attended the recent Board of Fire Commissioners meeting on the topic and concurred with the waiver.

Councilor Castelle inquired whether there are any assurances that another manufacturer wouldn't have a better price or quality to compensate for the inconvenience of having apparatus from another manufacturer. Mr. Schroeder replied in the negative. Mayor Woods noted that in addition to consistency in maintenance, it is important that the tools and equipment within the truck will be the same among all of the trucks. Commissioner Gallagher concurred and stated that consistency in positioning of equipment is very important. Mr. Schroeder spoke of the high quality of the Pierce equipment and stated that the Department has looked into other manufactures and is confident that Pierce produces the best quality.

Councilor Klett inquired as to why this process is different from the police or ambulance services, why they do not ask for similar bid waivers. Town Manager Salomone replied that police and ambulance bids piggyback off of State bids, however there are no State bids in place for fire apparatus. Councilor Klett inquired as to why the police and ambulance services don't have the same need for consistent equipment. Town Manager Salomone stated that both departments do generally prefer a certain type of equipment but reiterated the existence of the State bid. He also noted that the equipment in patrol cars is relatively simple compared to that of fire trucks. Mr. Schroeder agreed and noted the very specialized equipment necessary for each piece of apparatus, many of which are specifically designed according to the needs of the Department. He noted that the Highway Department foreperson agrees with maintaining consistency from a maintenance standpoint.

Councilor Banach noted the Department's high level of service and response and stated that if the current arrangement works then the Council should support it. Mayor Woods indicated that this item will appear on the next Council agenda for consideration.

## C. Job Description: Digital Content Specialist (A-4, Board of Education)

Town Manager Salomone explained that the Town Council is approving the job description only, as required by the Town Charter. He stated that the Council does not approve the budgeting or hiring of Board of Education positions.

Stephen Foresi addressed the Council on the proposed Digital Content Specialist job description. He stated that this position was approved by the Board and Administration as part of its annual PLANS review process. Councilor Banach inquired about who would generate the digital content and whether the content is ever copyrighted. Mr. Foresi stated that content is generated by educators and staff in the school system and stated that they are looking into the option of copyrighting. Councilor Banach

suggested that content is copyrighted as a part of the Town's investment. Town Manager Salomone stated that this will be on the next Council agenda for consideration.

**V. RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS (Action May Be Taken)**

Councilor Banach moved the following:

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the resignation of Kenneth Leggo as a member of the Board of Parks and Recreation and a member of the Town Plan and Zoning Commission, in accordance with correspondence dated June 6, 2015.**

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the resignation of Brian Andrzejewski as an Alternate member of the Town Plan and Zoning Commission, in accordance with correspondence dated June 22, 2015.**

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Newington Town Council hereby makes the following appointment(s):**

**Town Planning and Zoning Commission**

**11 members  
4 yr term**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Replaces</b>
<b>Brian Andrzejewski</b>	<b>107 Faith Road</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>Immed. – 11/30/17</b>	<b>K. Leggo (resigned 6-2015)</b>

Motions seconded by Councilor McDonald. Motions passed 9-0.

Councilor Borjeson moved the following:

**RESOLVED: that the Newington Town Council hereby makes the following appointment(s):**

**Central Connecticut Health District Board of Directors**

**4 members, 3 year term  
Party Max: 3**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Replaces</b>
<b>Kristine Nasinnyk</b>	<b>50 Theodore Street</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>7/1/15 – 6/30/18</b>	<b>Self (term expires 6/30/15)</b>

**Motion seconded by Councilor DeIBuono. Motion passed 9-0.**

**VI. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (Action Requested)**

**A. Regular Meeting, June 9, 2015**

Councilor Nagel moved to accept the minutes from the June 9, 2015 meeting as submitted. Motion seconded by Councilor Castelle. Motion passed 9-0.

**VII. WRITTEN/ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER, OTHER TOWN AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS, OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS AND THE PUBLIC**

Town Manager Salomone distributed information regarding a State public hearing regarding the State's route 175 bridge project, tentatively scheduled for July 9, and indicated that staff has requested that the State reschedule the hearing to a later date in order to discuss the Alumni Road intersection in addition to the bridge project. He also reported that there is a leak in the Churchill Park pool; staff will investigate.

**VIII. COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilor Nagel indicated that he met with the Mayor, Town Manager and a resident to discuss the formation of a new Open Space Committee. He indicated that the group will ask for input from the Town Attorney and will then come back to the Council for a recommendation to dissolve the current Open Space Committee and form a new one.

Councilor Borjeson stated that he has received four responses from the other Councilors regarding the Town Manager's annual performance evaluation and urged the remaining Councilors to complete their evaluations as soon as possible.

**IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL (In Person/Via Telephone: 860-665-8736)**

John Bachand, 56 Maple Hill Avenue: Mr. Bachand reiterated his earlier comments about the Town Hall renovations project and stated that it would be a good idea to have the Town Hall Committee meet with the Council. He also inquired about whether the funding for the Route 175 bridge is related to the State FastTrack funding and inquired about the age of the bridge to be replaced.

John Slusarski, 40 Grandview Drive: Mr. Slusarski stated that he was surprised at the requested bid waiver for the new fire truck and asked why the current truck can't be kept in use longer. He agreed with Mr. Bachand's concerns about the Town Hall renovations project. He also commented about the police pension plan and questioned whether the Town can afford to fund the plan in the future, and inquired about the newly hired Police Chief's pension, since the Chief is a retired Newington Police Officer.

**X. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS**

Councilor Borjeson congratulated the newly graduated members of the CERT team and noted that the Town has approximately 2,500 volunteers.

Councilor McDonald agreed with Councilor Borjeson, indicated that she attended the recent Newington High School graduation, and congratulated the graduating class.

Councilor Klett noted a recent bridge naming ceremony for Sgt. Callahan and stated that there was a great turnout. She also requested that the Council discuss a possible change to the blight ordinance to address dumpsters on residential properties. She also asked for an update on the route 175 bridge State project at a future Council meeting. Councilor Klett noted some recent resident concerns about the condition of the Mill Pond Park playground and asked for an update.

Councilor Nagel stated that he also attended the CERT graduation and thanked the volunteers. He stated that he was told that a demolition of the Town Hall would be considered a renovation and remarked that he is not sure he understands that concept. Councilor Marocchini stated that the Committee and Council will discuss several points of the Town Hall renovation, including the cost and the Committee's charge at the next Council meeting. Mayor Woods stated that the Council and Committee can have a lengthy discussion and a full report from the Committee in July and stated that he would like to schedule a series of public hearings regarding the project.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

Councilor McDonald moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. and was seconded by Councilor Borjeson. The motion passed 9-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jaime Trevethan  
Asst. to the Town Manager – Administration