



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 9, 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  
Dr. Williams Collins, Superintendent of Schools  
Dena Tompkins, Director of Student Services  
Jaime Trevethan, Asst. to the Town Manager – Administration  
Linda Irish-Simpson, Clerk of the Council

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

John Bachand, 56 Maple Hill Avenue: He was concerned about Senate Bill 1 and considered it a ponzy scheme, which they should still watch out for. He stated the Governor had said the busway was a success in a short amount of time and said the Town had signed a contract that stated transit oriented development had to be placed in the area near the busway. Mr. Bachand said a solution to what should be placed in the area would be a 1,000 car parking garage which the State should build and the Town get the revenue from it. That would satisfy the requirement for TOD at the site.

Steve Silvia, 45 Basswood Street: He said the Town should be aware of the trend in the business world to use Cloud technology. When applications reach renewal stages, the service could be bought for \$4,400 a year, which would be a savings to the Town. No support costs or infrastructure would be needed. He stated he had read about Connecticut wanting to create a 1 gigabyte network and urged the Town to take advantage of it. It was like having a superhighway through Town that was all network.

John Slusarski, 40 Grandview Drive: He was concerned the pension fund was only 54% funded and it was on a downward trend. He felt there were many assumptions made in the presentation that was made to the Council like mortality rate, investment return, etc.

**IV. CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS (Action May Be Taken)**  
**A. Pension Funding Policy**

Councilor Castelle moved the following:

**RESOLVED:**

**In accordance with Government Accounting Standard Board (GASB) Statement No. 67 & 68 the Newington Town Council hereby adopts the attached Pension Funding Policy and shall contribute the amount recommended by its actuary each fiscal year.**

Councilor Borjeson said the Council needed to move forward on the funding but was concerned about the future and the need to grow the grand list in Town.

Councilor Castelle asked for one of the exhibits to be corrected. The page listing Historical Funding indicated that the fund was 84% funded for the year but actually was 120%. He said that as changes were made to various rates the chart would be updated annually. Mr. Salomone indicated the fund had been funded at 53.9% for the latest year which was an increase and did not feel the Town was kicking the can down the road. Councilor Klett congratulated Councilor Castelle on the hard work he had done on the committee over the years.

Mayor Woods asked about the increase of contributions and did it assume the rate was static. Mr. Salomone indicated it assumed only what currently existed and as inroads were made and the status quo changed, the numbers would change. The Mayor indicated the Town could no longer afford the type of retirements that were around 15-20 years ago. He said they needed to look at it from a long term perspective and hopefully in 20-30 years it would be where it needed to be.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Klett and passed 9 – 0.

**B. Year End Transfers**

Councilor Borjeson moved the following:

**CERTIFICATION:**

**In accordance with Section 808 of the Town Charter, I hereby certify that there exists, free from encumbrances, in the following appropriations in the General Fund, the amounts listed below:**

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>
350	Sanitation	\$42,500
962	Town Council Contingency	\$90,000
	Total	\$132,500

*Ann J. Harter, Director of Finance*

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Newington Town Council hereby transfers the above-certified funds in the General Fund to the following accounts in the General Fund:**

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>
120	Town Manager	\$11,500
160	Town Attorney	\$30,000
320	Highway Department	\$90,000
460	Conservation Commission	\$1,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$132,500</b>

The motion was seconded by Councilor Banach and the motion passed 9 – 0.

**C. Suspense List**

Councilor Borjeson moved the following:

**RESOLVED:**

**The Newington Town Council hereby authorizes transfers in the amount of \$73,131.80 to the Suspense Tax Book for the years 2012-2013 through 2013-2014. This action is being taken upon the recommendation of the Revenue Collector and as shown in a report dated June 4, 2015.** Councilor Nagel asked to receive previous lists from 2000 for his own information and if others wanted copies, Jamie could get them to the Councilors.

The motion was seconded by Councilor DelBuono and the motion passed 9 - 0.

Councilor Marocchini moved the following:

**RESOLVED:**

**The Newington Town Council hereby authorizes the outstanding balance from the 1999 Grand List in the amount of \$5,968.21 be removed from the Town’s receivable assets as of June 30, 2015 as per the recommendation of the Revenue Collector.**

Mayor Woods asked what percentage of the funds the Town eventually received, and Mr. Salomone indicated the amount was actually more than 100% since there were fees attached to being late.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Klett and the motion passed 9 – 0.

**D. Job Description: Board Certified Behavior Analyst (A-8, Board of Education)**

Councilor Castelle moved the following:

**RESOLVED:**

**The Newington Town Council hereby approves of amendments to the “Classification and Pay Plan” by approving the Board Certified Behavior Analyst A-8 (Board of Education) job description.**

Dr. Collins explained the job would be shared between the schools. There was currently four students being serviced by outside contractors and there would be significant savings to do this in-house. The candidate could be certified or non-certified. Dena Tompkins, Direct of Student Services, explained there were currently only four students being serviced but there were about 65 other students who needed the service as well.

The motion was seconded by Councilor DelBuono and passed 9 – 0.

**E. Street Dedication in Honor of Robert “Bob” Seiler**

Councilor Nagel moved the following:

**WHEREAS, Robert J. “Bob” Seiler Sr. was a resident and a 47 year volunteer to the Town of Newington; and**

**WHEREAS, Mr. Seiler volunteered and served the Town as a volunteer Firefighter and a member of the Newington Veterans Firefighters Association, the Department of Human Services, Kiwanis Club, the Newington Memorial Day Parade Committee and the Board of Fire Commissioners among many others; and**

**WHEREAS, Mr. Seiler was also a Newington Police Officer from 1972 through 1997; and**

**WHEREAS, Mr. Seiler was awarded the Town Council’s Volunteer of the Year honor in 2011; and**

**WHEREAS, the Newington Town Council Facilities Naming Subcommittee recommends honoring Mr. Seiler’s memory by dedicating a portion of Richard Street around Newington Volunteer Fire Company 2 in his memory;**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Newington Town Council hereby dedicates a portion of Richard Street from Willard Avenue to Church Street in memory of Robert J. “Bob” Seiler, Sr. in recognition of his many years of valuable service to the Town of Newington.**

Mayor Woods had been approached six months ago about naming Richard Street in honor of him. After referring the matter to the Town Manager and Town Attorney it was decided to move forward on it. His birthday is July 9 and felt it would be good to pass the resolution and for the Town Manager to have the signs in place by that time. The signage would be placed at Church and Willard Streets.

The motion was seconded by Councilor McDonald and passed 9 – 0.

- V. RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS (Action May Be Taken)**
  - A. Conservation Commission**
    - 1. Accept Resignation of Benjamin Ancona**

Councilor Nagel moved the following:

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the resignation of Benjamin Ancona from the Conservation/Inland Wetlands Commission, in accordance with a communication dated May 27, 2015.**

The motion was seconded by Councilor Klett and passed 9 – 0.

- 2. Appoint a Replacement (TBD)**
  - B. Appointments to Boards and Commissions**

Councilor Nagel moved the following:

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

**5. Board of Ethics**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Replaces</b>
<b>Benjamin Ancona</b>	<b>49 East Cedar Street</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>Immed. - 11/30/17</b>	<b>Dr. A. Skidgell (defacto)</b>
<b>Kimberly Ramstad</b>	<b>555 Main Street</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>Immed. – 11/30/16</b>	<b>Vacant</b>

The motion was seconded by Councilor Klett and passed 9 – 0.

**VI. TAX REFUNDS (Action Requested)**

Councilor Marocchini moved the following:

**RESOLVED:**

**That property tax refunds in the amount of \$148.19 are hereby approved in the individual amounts and for those named on the “Requests for Refund of an Overpayment of Taxes,” certified by the Revenue Collector, a list of which is attached to this resolution.**

The motion was seconded by Councilor Klett and passed 9 – 0.

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

**A. Regular Meeting, May 26, 2015**

Councilor Marocchini moved to accept the minutes from the May 26, 2015 meeting and was seconded by Councilor McDonald. The motion passed 8 – 0 (Councilor Nagel-abstained).

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

Mr. Salomone gave the status of the current negotiations with AMR and the Newington Volunteer Ambulance on an extension of the AMR contract for one year. The contract ends June 30, 2015. After that, Newington Ambulance would negotiate a new way to provide services to the Town which has been a complicated process. He indicated that the person involved in the apartment fire at the Kelleher complex was relocated to a different apartment until the original unit could be rehabbed and the person moved back in. He thanked everyone who extended themselves to help the individual after the fire.

Councilor Klett asked if the AMR fines would be forgiven and was told they would not be. The response time would be the same under the extension.

**IX. COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilor Nagel attended the Library Board meeting and indicated they were eager to move forward on the expansion plans, they were kicking off a summer reading program, free books were located in the rear of the Library for residents to take, there would be a concert held by the Friends of the Library on August 21, 2015 at 7 p.m. at the High School and the book sale netted approximately \$12,000. The Library trustees were developing a handbook to better function within the library system and the annual meeting would be held on September 21, 2015.

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

John Bachand, 56 Maple Hill Avenue: He indicated he was serious about the possibility of building a parking garage near the busway. The bills 6851 and SB 1 were still possibly alive and felt the Council should stop defending the party and be concerned about the Town’s interest instead. Regarding the Town Hall Renovation Committee he hoped the plan to tear down the existing building would not be the one picked and thought it might lead to another No vote by the residents. He agreed that collective bargaining would be key in the ability of the Town to fund the pensions.

Gail Budrejko, 21 Isabelle Terrance: She asked for the status of the Open Space Committee and if she could be given an update on it.

John Slusarski, 40 Grandview Drive: He said regarding the pension plan, the Town had done whatever the actuary had proposed. He was concerned about the underlying actuarial assumptions and how quickly the contributions were funded. He thought a lot of SB 1 had been passed in the current budget especially regarding the car tax and money for towns, etc.

Roy Zartarian, 25 Stuart Street: He asked for an update on the prescription discount program since it had been six months since the town signed up and no cards had been received.

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: She said she was skeptical of the DOT's stats on the busway and was surprised at the proposed expansion since she had already seen the buses in East Hartford. She thanked the person who had put flowers on East Cedar Street and wondered who was doing the sidewalk ramps on the north side of Main Street. She stated she was not in favor of multi-use housing. She had asked the Parks and Rec Department to clean up the end of her street and indicated the community sign near the CVS was in need of repair.

Ann Brown, 195 Marlborough: She thanked the Council for passing the resolution honoring Bob Seiler.

## **XI. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS**

Councilor Klett wanted to ensure the public was aware that improvements would be made to Mill Pond Park and that new equipment would be delivered in July. The Mayor indicated it may have to close for a period of time while work was being done. She said that the State was reversing the regionalization of the State dispatch and thought that Newington should take another look at this as well. She asked for an update and an opportunity to have further discussion on the matter. The Councilor expressed concern that the Town Planner and Development Director were actively supporting 6851 and felt they should not be political ambassadors for the Town and should follow the will of the Town Council and TPZ recommendations.

Councilor Nagel said he and Councilor Banach would be meeting in the near future regarding the Open Space Committee and would update the Council. He asked the Town Manager for an update on the hiring of the Director of Parks and Rec as well as the Police Chief. Mr. Salomone said Bill DeMaio had been hired for the Parks and Rec job and would be starting July 6. The five individuals for the Police Chief position had their assessment analysis and two or three candidates would then be interviewed within the next few weeks. The goal to have a candidate by the end of June was still reachable.

Councilor Marocchini said the Town Hall Renovation Committee would meet next week at 6 p.m. and that the prescription cards should be received by residents in the next few days.

Councilor Borjeson said the performance appraisal forms were due back and hoped to receive them shortly to keep the process on schedule.

Mayor Woods said he had attended a dinner honoring Al Cohen who was a longtime volunteer for the Town. He agreed the community signs should be taken down and repaired. Mr. Bachand's suggestion of a parking garage was already in the early stages of discussion with the State but would be in the range of 400-600 vehicle capacity. Councilor Klett mentioned traffic concerns and flow of vehicle traffic if a garage was put in place at the busway.

## **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Councilor McDonald moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. and was seconded by Councilor Borjeson. The motion passed 9-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Irish-Simpson  
Clerk of the Council