



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.

September 8, 2015

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 - absent
Councilor Marocchini
Councilor Nagel
Mayor Woods

Staff Attendees:

John Salomone, Town Manager
Ann Harter, Finance Director
Jamie Trevethan, Asst. to the Town Manager – Administration
Linda Irish-Simpson, Clerk of the Council

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL

Roy Zartarian, 25 Stuart Street: He indicated that IHCC was an asset to the Town and should be maintained. He felt the operations and management of the course was not working and the Town Council needed to explore other options to keep it feasible.

John Slusarski, 40 Grandview Drive: He was concerned about the forgiving of some of the money owed by IHCC but felt the Town should not take over the course. Timberland Golf Course was run by Berlin and did not make money even though it was well run. He felt the salaries in Town had to be kept in check and reviewed and compared with other towns in the surrounding area. The Town should think out of the box and not do things the same way as in the past. Hard questions should be asked in the renovation of Town

Hall and question whether the size of the offices needed to be the same as in the past. The town needed to look at current standards of office space and keep in mind the cost per square foot.

Carol Anest, 30 Harding Avenue: She asked the Council if there was going to be a 9/11 remembrance this year since she could not find anything on the website.

IV. CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS (Action May Be Taken)

A. New Ordinance – Student Technology Insurance Fund

Councilor Borjeson moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby amends the Newington Code of Ordinances by adopting an ordinance entitled “Student Technology Insurance Fund”, a copy of said ordinance is attached to the resolution.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Castelle and passed 8 – 0 (Councilor McDonald-absent).

B. Discussion: Town Hall Renovations Project

Mr. Bongiovanni gave a presentation which is attached. He stated they had heard the public comments and indicated the committee decreased the size of the proposal by ten percent. The size of the building would be approximately 90,000 square feet at a cost of \$32,500,000 down from \$37,500,000. The committee would meet in the next week to form a consensus and have another public hearing on the revised plans. Councilor Nagel asked if the Health District was in the plans and was told the plans called for 1,000 square feet.

Councilor Banach asked about the size of offices or eliminating offices since several residents had brought that up. The architect designed the building to common office standards and indicated there were a couple of offices that were 12' x 18' which were for the Town Manager and the Superintendent of Schools. Most of the employees were not in private offices but were in work stations with modular configurations.

The Mayor indicated the committee had heard from the public that the project needed to be done but at a cheaper price. A public hearing would be held to see what the reaction was from the public and at that point the Council could make a decision to support or not support the proposed plan.

Councilor DelBuono asked if there would still be two gyms and was told they were both in the plan; and that if the Council needed a bigger space for a particular meeting, the gym could be used as an overflow space.

C. Administrative Group Performance Evaluations/Merit Increases

Councilor Borjeson moved the following:

WHEREAS, the Council adopted FY 2015-16 budget contains funding for salary increases for certain eligible administrative employees not otherwise allocated in union agreements; and

WHEREAS, the Town Manager has implemented a performance review process for full time non-union Administrative staff; and

WHEREAS, there are sufficient funds in the budget to implement these changes in the Classification and Pay Plan;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Manager is authorized to amend the Classification and Pay Plan to reflect merit wage increases of up to 2% for the 2015-16 Fiscal Year.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Klett and passed 8 – 0 (Councilor McDonald-absent).

Mayor Woods indicated the proposed increase was up to 2% instead of 3% as originally proposed and was in line with other surrounding towns. It was an increase the Town could live with. Salary increases had to slow down and the current proposal was an attempt to do that.

Councilor Nagel indicated the Town Council should look over the approach that had been used so there was a better understanding of it. It should be made clearer to everyone since it had been confusing to some. Councilor Castelle said that employees had been used to 3% increases and this was a good start to slow down the increases since they were not sustainable. Inflation was 1.6% and the increases were double that. Since inflation was so low it was a good time to lower the amount without hurting anyone.

Councilor Borjeson felt 2% was reasonable and reminded everyone an evaluation process was being implemented for next year. Councilor DelBuono thanked Mr. Salomone for information he had provided regarding surrounding towns and was pleased there would be a cap of 2%, which was more in line with other towns.

Councilor Klett felt the 2% was where the Council should have started initially.

D. Open Space Committee

Mr. Salomone said the resolution streamlined the committee but did not change the charge very much. He indicated there was an email from the Town Attorney clarifying a question Councilor Nagel had at a previous meeting. Councilor Castelle indicated it was not clear in the charge to the committee about making areas more attractive and hoped the committee would give it some consideration.

Councilor Castelle moved the following:

WHEREAS, the Newington Town Council desires to replace the existing Open Space Committee; and,

WHEREAS, in order to appoint a new Open Space Committee, the current Open Space Committee must be disbanded;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Newington Town Council hereby disbands the existing Open Space Committee and creates and replaces it with a new Open Space Committee in accordance with the following provisions:

- 1. The Open Space Committee shall provide assistance to the Town Council, as determined by the Town Council, in those matters associated with Open Space issues as they come before the Town Council.**

2. It is declared that protecting natural resources, protecting aesthetics of the community, establishing greenways and trail systems, preserving passive and active recreation areas, preservation of historical assets and similar issues are desirable for the community; and
3. Upon request from the Town Council, the Open Space Committee shall make recommendations to the Town Council as to Open Space implications on such issues as the acquisition of real property, the sale of Town property, the protection and utilization of existing Town owned property, the financial impact of property acquisition with or without external funding sources and potential use of the Capital Improvement Fund.
4. The Open Space Committee shall consist of seven (7) members. Two (2) members shall be current Town Council members and the remaining five members shall be residents of the Town. All members shall be appointed by the Town Council. All vacancies shall be filled by the Town Council.
5. The terms of the resident members of the Open Space Committee shall be four (4) years or until their successors are qualified and appointed, and shall be staggered. Initial appointments by the Town Council shall be: three (3) residents to be appointed to four (4) year terms; two (2) residents to be appointed to three (3) year terms. The two (2) current Town Council members appointed serve until their successors are qualified and appointed.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Nagel and passed 8 – 0 (Councilor McDonald-absent).

V. CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS

A. Capitol Workforce Partners Intergovernmental Consortium Agreement

Mr. Salomone stated the workforce had existed for years and provided workforce grants, training, etc. The consortium was comprised of towns in the surrounding region and to continue to be part of the group the Town had to agree to the contract. Approval would be scheduled for the next Council meeting.

B. Lease-Purchase – Fire Department Apparatus

Mrs. Harter indicated the agreement had been accepted and financed for five years at 1.62% or approximately \$31,500 in interest. A resolution would be presented at the next Council meeting for approval.

C. Discussion: Deming Young Farm

Councilor Nagel had asked a review be made of the section of the Farm used as a staging area during the recent construction. Soil had been taken out and then replaced after the job was completed. In his review of the area he could see there was a difference in the type of soil and if it was the actual soil that had been there, he did not think it would have large rocks or pieces of asphalt that would be found in a road. These were found not just in a small area but in general places. He thought less was growing in the

area than in other areas of the ground not touched. It was his understanding that something was done to try to maintain some growth there as well.

Councilor DelBuono had taken pictures of the area in question and presented several samples of the rocks found on the property. She stated it was a valuable resource for gardening, walking, open space etc. The Councilor was concerned that the original top soil had not been returned since there were so many rocks and pieces of asphalt in the area.

Two representatives of the MDC, Assistant District Counsel and the manager of construction indicated the material removed from the site had been returned. The contractor did not originally want to remove the soil since contamination was a possible issue and he had no real use for it. VMS did the construction and did it well. They indicated they matched up the before and after of the property and they were similar. They felt the soil that was there originally was still there. They indicated they would have the contractor return to the site to rake out possible areas that needed it. They would inform the Town Manager of the results.

Councilor Borjeson wished the MDC attended a Council meeting last year when the Council in his opinion wasted a lot of time on turf gate with many innuendoes and nastiness regarding the dirt. A lot of time would have been saved if MDC explained it at that point.

Mayor Woods indicated that when the organic material is removed rocks will be left once uncovered. The area that has growth, is an established field. It would take approximately two years before the organic material fills in. He said the contractor gave the Town over \$26,000 by bringing water to the community garden and sewer and water was added to the Deming Farm House.

- D. Disband Completed Project Building Committees**
 - 1. Newington High School Track Renovation PBC**
 - 2. Senior & Disabled Center Roof Replacement PBC**
 - 3. Newington School Improvements PBC**
 - 4. Firehouse Expansion PBC**
 - 5. BOE Roof Replacement PBC**
 - 6. West Meadow Cemetery Expansion PBC**

Councilor Castelle asked what monies were left in the various accounts, and Mr. Salomone indicated he would get them that information. He stated all money would be returned to the General Fund. The item would be added to the next Council meeting.

VI. RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS (Action May Be Taken)

- A. Commission on Aging & Disabled**
 - 1. Accept the Resignation of William DeMaio**

Councilor Banach moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the resignation of William DeMaio from the Commission on Aging & Disabled, in accordance with a communication dated August 14, 2015.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Borjeson and passed 8 – 0 (Councilor McDonald – absent).

- 2. Appoint a Replacement (TBD)
- B. Board of Parks & Recreation
 - 1. Accept the Resignation of William DeBlasio
 - 2. Appoint a Replacement
- C. Appointments to Boards and Commissions
 - 7. Central Connecticut Health District Board of Directors
 - RESOLVED: that the Newington Town Council hereby makes the following appointment(s):

Councilor Nagel moved the following:

7. Greater Hartford Transit District Board of Directors

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
William Hall	26 Kowal Court	R	Immed. – 6/30/19	Self (term expires 6/30/15)

The motion was seconded by Councilor Banach and passed 8 – 0 (Councilor McDonald – absent).

Councilor Banach moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the resignation of William DeBlasio from the Board of Parks and Recreation, in accordance with a communication dated September 2, 2015.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Borjeson and passed 8 – 0 (Councilor McDonald-absent).

Councilor Nagel moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby makes the following appointments:

Board of Parks and Recreation

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
Mary Beth Kelliher	5 Turkey Hill Rd.	D	Immediate – 11/30/15	W. DeBlasio (Res. 9/2015)
William DeBlasio	68 Harold Dr.	D	Immediate – 11/30/17	Vacant

The motion was seconded by Councilor Marocchini and passed 8 – 0 (Councilor McDonald-absent).

1. School Improvements Project Building Committee
2. STEM Academy PBC
3. Senior & Disabled Center Roof Replacement Project Building Committee
4. Standing Insurance Committee
5. Town Hall Renovations Project Building Committee
6. Town Plan & Zoning Commission
7. Tri-Town Community Cable Access
8. Vehicle Appeals Board
9. West Meadow Cemetery Expansion Project Building Committee
10. Zoning Board of Appeals

VII. TAX REFUNDS (Action Requested)

Councilor Marocchini moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That property tax refunds in the amount of \$ 13,700.54 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 Nagel and passed 8 – 0 (Councilor McDonald-absent).

VIII. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (Action Requested)

- A. Town Hall Public Hearing, August 3, 2015
- B. Regular Meeting, August 11, 2015

Councilor Nagel moved to accept the minutes from August 3, 2015 as submitted and to add to the August 11, 2015, minutes the following. There had been discussion regarding the ad hoc committee of the Open Space Committee. There was a discussion about those who could be on the committee and those who could not be on it. Mr. Zartarian had requested to be on it but since he was running for office, he could not be on it per Mr. Salomone. There was discussion as to whether or not it was appropriate to be on the committee, which he took exception to. However, he took into account the Mayor’s comment about Councilor Banach being on the Council and appointed to the Committee.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Banach and passed 8 – 0 (Councilor McDonald – absent).

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

Mr. Salomone indicated he had received a communication from Mr. Gary Bolles concerning the public hearing on the Cedar Street intersection that was recently held. He said copies were given to the Council members.

X. COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

XI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL

John Bachand, 56 Maple Hill Avenue: He commented on the following 1) Town Hall renovation – he was still advocating for the present building. He heard the statements about cheaper, smaller and less expensive and felt the current building was still structurally sound. There were some people in Town who do not want new construction. He was troubled by the assessment of \$12.5 million for the existing building and it should be factored into the budget for the new building. 2) Deming Farm – He said he did not think the Councilor's comments disparaging the process were appropriate. Mr. Young's family was forced to move through eminent domain and the question brought to the Council was a legitimate one. 3) Hartford was recently ranked the murder capital of New England and he wondered if the Town was doing anything to ensure the safety of the residents or was it being ignored.

Roy Zartarian, 25 Stuart Street: He stated 1) administrative pay increases – He was encouraged to see evaluations being restored as they had been done in the past. He hoped the evaluations would be done fairly and objectively. 2) Town Hall renovation – he stated the residents had turned down the last proposal of \$30 million and the figure of \$32.5 million was still a lot of money and could be voted down. The project should be considered as part of the bigger picture to include the Library, Reynolds School and Churchill Park.

John Slusarski, 40 Grandview Drive: He said there were currently 70 employees in the Town Hall and there was talk of bringing back 30 more to the building. In the current plan, he counted 53 offices and did not believe that was the new standard. He stated there should be more flexibility in the range of raises. Currently employees could get an increase of between 0% and 2% and felt the average would be 2% with the ability to give more than that.

Gary Bolles, 28 Burdon Lane: He read a letter into the record he had sent to the Town Manager, which is attached.

Steven Silvia, 45 Basswood Street: He was excited the proposal was down to 90,000 square feet. He said that would support approximately 100 people and questioned the size of the offices planned as well as the 8,400 square feet planned for storage. The cost for that space would be \$2.5 million. He asked once again what exactly the space needs of the Town were since the current building was 106,000 square feet and felt the current building could meet the needs even with the addition of another gym.

XII. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

Councilor Borjeson commented on the statement of Hartford being the murder capital and wondered if the action taken should include the building of a wall, armed guards, check licenses, etc. If anyone with a Hartford license perhaps they should not be admitted to Newington.

Councilor DelBuono took exception to Councilor Borjeson's comments regarding Hartford and did not think it was a bad idea to think about the safety of the public and to consider what is going on around Newington. When September 11 occurred, it was not in Newington but things were adjusted in Town to be prepared in case anything did happen.

Councilor Klett stated she did not take Mr. Bachand's negatively but did feel the police needed to be fully equipped for whatever might happen. There will be a forum on September 23 from 7 – 9 p.m. in the Town Hall auditorium with the Chief of Police to build a partnership between the community and the police. If the public wanted more information they could contact the Community Service Officer at 860-594-6232.

Councilor Nagel stated he did not take Mr. Bachand's comments regarding Hartford like Councilor Borjeson did and said Newington should be prepared for whatever may happen to keep residents safe. He said that regarding the Town Hall renovation, no vote had been taken one way or the other. Councilor Nagel stated that several citizens had told him that the cemetery south of the High School had stones that were crooked and asked if some maintenance could be performed there to straighten them. Mr. Salomone indicated he would get the information to the person in charge of the cemetery.

Councilor Marocchini stated he had received an email from a resident on Dowd Street complaining about the speed of traffic on it and wondered if something could be done about it like extending the sidewalk. Mr. Salomone stated that was part of the plan but perhaps it was time to have speed enforcement officers on the street once again.

Councilor Banach asked that the Police forum be rescheduled since September 23 was Yom Kippur.

Councilor Castelle congratulated Gary Bolles regarding his letter on the intersection along Alumni Road. He was one of two residents who offered alternative ideas and agreed that inconvenience was secondary to the question of safety.

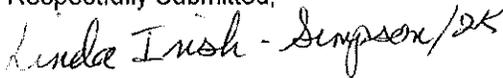
Mayor Woods commented on 1) IHCC – It was clear that the current model did not work and the agreement would only buy the Town and IHCC a year. The Town Manager had put together a committee to review the issue. 2) He replied to a resident's comments regarding the Mayor's OK to tear the current building down was wrong. He said the project needed to be done but nothing about tearing the building down. 3) Mr. Bongiovanni was very clear in his presentation that no voting had been done .

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION RE: PERSONNEL

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m. to go into Executive Session.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully Submitted,



Linda Irish-Simpson
Clerk of the Council

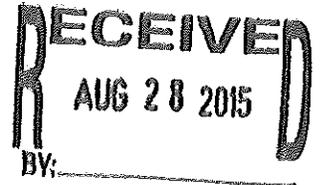
Cc: T. Lane, Town Clerk
Attachment

**Newington Town Hall
 DEMO Existing - NEW CONSTRUCTION
 50% SCHEMATIC DESIGN
 NEWINGTON, CT
 06/18/2015, revised 09/01/2015**

SPEC SECTION	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL VALUE	COST PER SF	PERCENT
01	GENERAL REQUIREMENTS	\$ 164,172	\$ 1.82	0.54
	ENCLOSURES AND TEMPORARY HEAT ABATEMENT	\$ 190,000	\$ 2.10	0.62
		\$ 1,580,000	\$ 17.48	5.19
024100	MASS DEMOLITION	\$ 1,100,000	\$ 12.17	3.61
024119	SELECTIVE DEMOLITION	w/Mass Demo	\$ -	-
31-33	SITE WORK	\$ 1,633,905	\$ 18.08	5.36
033004	CIP CONCRETE	\$ 1,588,231	\$ 17.55	5.21
042000	UNIT MASONRY	\$ 2,252,783	\$ 24.93	7.39
051204	STRUCTURAL STEEL FRAMING (053004)	\$ 2,351,975	\$ 26.03	7.72
055000	METAL FABRICATIONS	\$ 153,900	\$ 1.70	0.51
061053	ROUGH CARPENTRY	\$ 297,919	\$ 3.30	0.98
064023	INTERIOR ARCH WOODWORK	\$ 462,535	\$ 5.12	1.52
071416	SELF-ADHERING SHEET WATERPROOFING	\$ 43,358	\$ 0.48	0.14
072100	INSULATION	\$ 27,730	\$ 0.31	0.09
072726	FLUID APPLIED MEMBRANE AIR BARRIERS	w/Trades	\$ -	-
074000	ROOFING & METAL PANELS	\$ 777,200	\$ 8.60	2.55
078100	FIREPROOFING	\$ -	\$ -	-
078413	PENETRATION FIRESTOPPING	w/Trades	\$ -	-
079200	JOINT SEALANTS	\$ 18,000	\$ 0.20	0.06
081113	HOLLOW METAL DOORS & FRAMES	\$ 66,000	\$ 0.73	0.22
081416	FLUSH WOOD DOORS	\$ 86,400	\$ 0.96	0.28
083113	ACCESS DOORS & FRAMES	\$ 3,200	\$ 0.04	0.01
083600	OVERHEAD DOORS	\$ 5,000	\$ 0.06	0.02
084000	VAULT DOORS	\$ 40,000	\$ 0.44	0.13
084213	ALUMINUM STOREFRONTS & WINDOWS	\$ 447,973	\$ 4.96	1.47
087100	DOOR HARDWARE	\$ 116,930	\$ 1.29	0.38
088000	GLAZING	\$ 11,410	\$ 0.13	0.04
089000	LOUVERS & VENTS	\$ 5,000	\$ 0.06	0.02
092116	GYPSUM	\$ 1,681,297	\$ 18.61	5.52
093000	TILING (093003)	\$ 119,448	\$ 1.32	0.39
095113	ACOUSTICAL PANEL CEILINGS	\$ 252,980	\$ 2.80	0.83
096466	WOOD ATHLETIC FLOORING	\$ 193,182	\$ 2.14	0.63
096516	RESILIENT FLOORING	\$ 194,587	\$ 2.15	0.64
096816	SHEET CARPETING	\$ 172,262	\$ 1.91	0.57
096900	RAISED ACCESS FLOORING	\$ 5,000	\$ 0.06	0.02
099100	PAINTING	\$ 277,070	\$ 3.07	0.91
101100	VISUAL DISPLAY SURFACES	\$ 10,000	\$ 0.11	0.03
101400	SIGNAGE	\$ 40,860	\$ 0.45	0.13
102113	TOILET COMPARTMENTS	\$ 35,400	\$ 0.39	0.12
102800	TOILET ACCESS	\$ 21,150	\$ 0.23	0.07
104400	FIRE SPECIALTIES	\$ 3,434	\$ 0.04	0.01
105000	LOCKERS	\$ 40,000	\$ 0.44	0.13
105500	POSTAL SPECIALTIES - ALLOWANCE	\$ 15,000	\$ 0.17	0.05
105600	HIGH DENSITY STORAGE	\$ 20,000	\$ 0.22	0.07
113100	RESIDENTIAL APPLIANCES	\$ 16,880	\$ 0.19	0.06
115213	AUDIO VISUAL SYSTEMS - ALLOWANCE	\$ 45,000	\$ 0.50	0.15
116623	GYMNASIUM EQUIPMENT	\$ 72,000	\$ 0.80	0.24
122300	WINDOW TREATMENTS	\$ 28,500	\$ 0.32	0.09
124813	FLOOR MATS	\$ 7,620	\$ 0.08	0.03
140000	ELEVATOR	\$ 240,000	\$ 2.66	0.79
210001	WET-PIPE SPRINKLER SYSTEMS	\$ 430,850	\$ 4.77	1.41
220001	PLUMBING	\$ 689,360	\$ 7.63	2.26
230001	HVAC	\$ 3,619,140	\$ 40.05	11.88
240001	MEP COORDINATION	\$ 132,600	\$ 1.47	0.44
260001	ELECTRICAL	\$ 2,562,760	\$ 28.36	8.41
261001	SECURITY ALLOWANCE	\$ 100,000	\$ 1.11	0.33
	SUB - TOTAL	\$ 24,447,999	\$ 270.54	\$ 80.25
	CONTINGENCY - 10%	\$ 2,444,800	\$ 27.05	8.02
	STAFF/GENERAL CONDITIONS	\$ 1,533,000	\$ 16.96	5.03
	INSURANCE - \$6.00/1000	\$ 170,555	\$ 1.89	0.56
	P & P BONDS - Based on \$31.5 Mil	\$ 213,600	\$ 2.36	0.70
	BUILDING PERMIT - DELETED FEE (1.68%)	NOT Required	\$ -	-
		\$ 484,007	\$ 5.36	1.59
	SUB-TOTAL	\$ 29,293,961	\$ 324.17	\$ 96.15
	ESCALATION - 4%	\$ 1,171,758	\$ 12.97	3.85
	SUB-TOTAL	\$ 30,465,720	\$ 337.13	\$ 100.00
	SOFT COSTS	\$ 3,500,000		
	TOTAL	\$ 33,965,720		
	Value Engineering TBD	\$ (1,465,720)		
	TOTAL	\$ 32,500,000		

GROSS Building Area in SF	Gym Level	27,425
	Lower Level	17,850
	Main Level	22,546
	Upper Level	22,546
	TOTAL	90,367

Gary E. Bolles
28 Burdon Lane
Newington, CT 06111-2743



28 August 2015

Newington Town Council
131 Cedar Street
Newington, CT 06111

Dear Newington Town Council Members:

Re: Enclosed documentation regarding improvements to Cedar Street and Alumni Road intersection.

Attached is a copy of my remarks from the public hearing on 19 August 2015 regarding the plan for improvements to the Alumni Road intersection at Cedar Street. Also attached is a letter that I have sent to James Redeker, Commissioner of the CT DOT regarding this subject.

I was disappointed that many people at the public hearing were not in favor of the proposed safety upgrade to the Alumni Road intersection and more concerned about their own inconvenience. We need to ask ourselves this question: When does inconvenience outweigh safety? It was very disturbing to hear the Economic Development Director Brecher solely tout development along parts of Alumni Road and not mention **safety** until a member of the audience spoke up. The public hearing was about **SAFETY**, not about area development.

When I mentioned that the true and correct solution to this traffic nightmare is **the extension of Alumni Road westward all the way to Fenn Road – a parallel east/west roadway that would divert traffic from Route 175**, Mr. Brecher stated that this would cost more than \$100 million dollars. **Not so**. Please refer to the second paragraph of my letter to Mr. Redeker. Even though 10 years have passed since 2005 when CRCOG strongly suggested this, no doubt the cost has increased from 20 million, but has **NOT** escalated by some 80 million dollars!

I implore you to still request the CT DOT's help in resolving this traffic problem. Without any improvements or alternative solution, a serious accident and death will occur. It's only a matter of time. You know it, I know it and the public knows it. Thank you.

Respectfully yours,


Gary E. Bolles

Enclosures: Copy of letter to Commissioner Redeker, my comments and all attachments