



John L. Salomone  
Town Manager

# TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET  
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

**MAYOR STEPHEN WOODS**

## NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Conf. Room L-101 (Lower Level) – Town Hall  
131 Cedar Street

**MINUTES**  
**October 14, 2014**  
**7:00 P.M.**

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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 Borjeson  
Councilor Castelle - absent  
Councilor Cohen - absent  
Councilor Dinunzio  
Councilor Klett  
Councilor Marocchini  
Councilor McDonald  
Councilor Nagel  
Mayor Woods

**Staff Attendees:**

John Salomone, Town Manager  
Ann Harter, Finance Director  
Richard Mulhall, Chief of Police  
Jaime Trevethan, Assistant to the Town Manager

**III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL**

Havital Miltz, 168 Nicholson Street: Ms. Miltz expressed concern over excessive spending on both the modifications to the MRAP vehicle and the recent referendum. She inquired as to the reason for the spending and remarked that Newington's mill rate is nearly as high as West Hartford's, while Newington offers substantially fewer services.

Gary Bolles, 28 Burdon Lane: Mr. Bolles noted the importance of the Alumni Road intersection project as discussed at the September 23 Council meeting. He stated that it is an important item and noted that the Town Manager had stated that it would be on the next agenda for action. Mr. Bolles reiterated the importance of the project and inquired as to why it wasn't on the current Council agenda for action to allocate funding for an engineering study of the area.

Edward Young, 485 Church Street: Mr. Young commended Councilor Dinunzio for his comments at the last meeting regarding Mayor Woods. Mr. Young indicated that the issue with the soil at Young Farm project still hasn't been addressed. He stated that the issue still exists and in observing the project at the

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farm he indicated that there is still not 1.5 feet of top soil in place and there is no gravel underneath and stated that the bull dozer couldn't push the asphalt. Mr. Young stated that the Council is in charge of the project and is not doing its job. He indicated that he has not seen any Newington officials at the project site during his observation. He stated that while the project looks good from the top, it's not correct. He urged the Councilors to get on the ball and not push the issue under the rug; otherwise the Town will be responsible for issues with the project. He stated that rocks and asphalt are not to be buried at the farm. He indicated that there is a hearing coming up regarding the FOI complaint and he indicated that he has notified the State Attorney General and Environmental Protection Agency of the issue.

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: Ms. Lyons thanked the Town Manager's staff for addressing and following through on a recent blight complaint and she urged residents who notice blight issues to report them to the Town Manager's office. She also noted that the Highway Department offers bulk trash pickup service every Thursday upon request.

John Bachand, 56 Maple Hill Avenue: Mr. Bachand noted that the newly paved area of Church Street, near Young Farm, seemed bumpy and commented that this is out of the ordinary for new paving jobs. He noted an issue with the subdivision on Maple Hill Avenue. He stated that it is a complicated issue and he hasn't been able to get an answer about the issue from the TPZ. He stated that he has brought it to the Town Manager's and Town Attorney's attention, and requested that it be discussed at the upcoming Executive Session.

#### **IV. CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS**

##### **A. Update: MRAP Vehicle**

Town Manager Salomone indicated that the Town Council had authorized funding for modifications to the MRAP vehicle in order to make it appropriate for police use. He stated that there have been questions about the use of the vehicle. Chief Mulhall updated the Town Council on the status and use of the MRAP vehicle:

- The vehicle was requested for the purpose of being a transport and tactical vehicle for the Police Department for storm-related and/or critical incidents in Town. It is not to be used on a daily basis.
- The vehicle is designed to protect officers and citizens during a critical incident
- The vehicle is 6-wheel drive and can also be used for storm rescue
- There was no cost to the Town to obtain the vehicle
- The modifications to the vehicle were paid for from the Asset Forfeiture (property or cash seized by the Police Department) account in the Police Department budget.

Councilor Klett indicated that she asked for this item to appear on the agenda, due to a recent congressional hearing on the use of this type of equipment. She stated that her concern is that the public is reassured that there are policies and procedures in place for use of the vehicle; i.e. use for critical incidents, and the definition of a critical incident. She stated that it may be frightening for this type of vehicle to show up in someone's neighborhood. Chief Mulhall stated that there are currently three armored vehicles in the capital region, strategically placed throughout the region and stressed that the MRAP is nothing more than a larger armored vehicle. He reiterated its use as a protection and rescue vehicle and stated that it does not have any armaments, grenade launchers, etc. He stated that when the modifications are complete the vehicle will contain passenger benches and storage and stated that the pod itself will protect the officers and civilians from small and high caliber arms, as are prevalent in today's society. He stated that there is a procedure in place in which a supervisor will assess the situation and make the determination as to the need for a tactical unit and that the response by that unit will follow all policies and procedures in place to assure proper staging and usage. Chief Mulhall reiterated that this is not an offensive weapon. He also noted that the vehicle offers another method of patrol during extreme weather events, such as hurricanes or blizzards, in which regular vehicles cannot operate.

Councilor Klett inquired whether the Town owns the MRAP vehicle. Chief Mulhall stated that it will own the vehicle once the federal paperwork has been completed. Councilor Klett stated that she had heard that the Town of West Hartford owns the vehicle. Chief Mulhall stated that this is incorrect and explained how the Town of Newington obtained the vehicle via the Town of Manchester, which initially took delivery of the vehicle for Newington while the Town made the decision to pursue the vehicle. He stated that Newington will own the vehicle upon completion of the paperwork.

Councilor Nagel inquired as to the status of the vehicle. Chief Mulhall indicated that the MRAP is currently undergoing modifications which are expected to be completed in about four weeks, at which time the vehicle will be painted and returned to the Town. He stated that it will be painted black with "police" and "rescue" decals displayed. Town Manager Salomone stated that the MRAP will be used during extreme weather situations, and noted incidents during past storms in which regular cruisers have had to be pulled off the streets due to impassable conditions.

Councilor Borjeson thanked the Police Department for its professionalism and high level of integrity. He stated that the Town should do anything it can to protect its officers and stated that he trusts the Department's judgment. Councilor McDonald agreed with Councilor Borjeson and noted recent storms in which Cedar Mountain has had to be closed. She thanked the Chief for his efforts. Councilor Klett noted that she is a mother of a police officer and stated that this is not a question of trusting the Chief's judgment. She stated that the safety of police officers is of great concern to her. She stated that the reason for this item was due to recent congressional hearings on the subject and to reassure the public regarding the item. She inquired whether a special license is needed to operate the MRAP. Chief Mulhall replied in the negative but explained that there is a training course for officers who will operate the vehicle. He also stated that safety precautions will be taken, including the installation of backup cameras.

Councilor Dinunzio noted that the social unrest in Ferguson, MO, brought this issue to light and he stated that the MRAP vehicle will be a tremendous asset for the Town. He inquired as to the number of Connecticut municipalities who have obtained an MRAP vehicle. Chief Mulhall indicated that there are currently 12.

#### A. Discussion: September 9, 2014 Post-Referendum Poll Results & Focus Groups

Mayor Woods indicated that Phyllis Rzy and Paul Decelles from Decision Point, LLC, are in attendance to discuss the focus groups for the Town Hall project. Town Manager Salomone stated that the Council discussed the item at the last meeting and that there was a call for focus groups to get information early on the in the process for use by the Town Council and the Town Hall Building Committee. He stated that the plan is to utilize three focus groups, to be held at different times during the day and/or evening or on the weekend. He stated that focus group participation will first be offered to those who have volunteered but are not chosen to serve on the new Town Hall Renovations Project Building Committee, followed by residents involved/interested in factions of town committees, i.e. members of the Friends of the Library, a volunteer at the Senior Center, volunteer Fire Fighter, etc. He stated that the remainder of the slots will be filled by the public at large, on a first come/first serve basis. He stated that Decision Point will work with his staff to collect names of interested participants and noted that there will be notices published soliciting participation. He stated that the intent is for the focus groups to be completed before Thanksgiving.

Mr. Decelles and Ms. Rzy spoke about the focus group process. Mr. Decelles stated that focus groups are intended to gather information and expand upon the discovery process of the information presented in the recent polls. He stated that the group's purpose will also be to obtain more in-depth opinions and ideas related to the project as well as to initiate the formation of new ideas. He stated that Decision Point will act as facilitators and will ask open-ended questions. He stated that Decision Point does not take a position or opinion of the discussion and stated that the rolls of the facilitator and group members will be clearly explained. He stated that 15-20 participants per group is a functional number that will give all members of the group the opportunity to speak and interact.

Councilor Klett inquired as to how the process went from an oral report from the Town Manager at the last meeting, to it being a "done deal" at the current meeting and inquired as to whom on the Town Council has decided that this is the direction that the Town will proceed. She inquired as to whether this was the Town Manager's decision. Town Manager Salomone replied that the Council discussed this item at length at the last Council meeting and indicated that he had specifically mentioned hiring Decision Point as the facilitator for the focus groups. He stated that he had asked the Council for input and/or objections. He stated that he received positive feedback from the Council with no objections. Town Manager Salomone stated that there was no question in his mind that the Council wanted to proceed with focus groups. He stated that the agreement is under the threshold of what the Town Manager can authorize without Town Council approval. Councilor Klett stated that she does not recall whether the Council had suggested that the Town Manager move forward with the project and again asked who on the Council made the decision to do so. Town Manager Salomone replied that no particular Councilor made the decision but indicated that it was discussed as a group at the last Council meeting. Mayor Woods stated that the will of Council as a whole was to move forward and that none of the Councilors objected to it. Councilor McDonald stated that the Council has discussed this and members of the public have expressed interest as well. She stated that this is a culmination of several discussions and stated that she looks forward to the process. Town Manager Salomone stated that he won't sign a final agreement with Decision Point if it is the consensus of the Council to not move forward. He stated that it is important to move forward while the referendum is still fresh and a topic of interest for the residents.

Mayor Woods stated support for moving forward with the focus groups. Councilors McDonald, Borjeson and Marocchini agreed. Councilor Dinunzio stated that there are pros and cons with focus groups and inquired as to how focus groups are able to isolate and analyze a problem as opposed to holding a Town Hall-style meeting with a moderator, questions and answers, etc. Mr. Decelles stated that there is no comparative analysis between the two that would indicate that one is superior to the other. He stated that focus groups typically involve informed electorates and tend to produce more give-and-take and follow up questions than a town meeting setting. He stated, however, that neither one is a bad option and stated that Decision Point is here to help the Town in whatever way possible. Mayor Woods asked whether Councilor Dinunzio is in favor of moving forward. Councilor Dinunzio replied in the affirmative and stated that this is a good course of action. Councilor Nagel stated that he is in favor of moving forward and stated that he just needed to understand how the decision to move forward came about.

Councilor Nagel inquired whether there is any detriment to holding both focus groups and town meetings. Mr. Decelles replied that the focus groups would be scheduled for various times and dates for convenience and reiterated that the Council can do whatever it thinks is in the best interest to gather information. He recommended that the Council go with one format of the other first, prior to deciding whether to proceed with the other. He agreed with the Town Manager's opinion that the Town should move forward as soon as possible. Councilor Klett clarified that she is not trying to shut the public out and stated that her objection is that she had to ask for something in writing regarding the focus group and stated that her problem is with the process. Mayor Woods replied that it was discussed at the last meeting and that the majority of the Council agreed.

Councilor Borjeson remarked that it has been a long road to this point and noted that the Town Hall Renovation Project Building Committee had a bi-partisan vote to move forward to the referendum with a proposed date in August, which was later changed. He noted that the results of the referendum sent a loud and clear message, along with the post-referendum poll. He stated that the focus groups are another arrow in the quiver for information moving forward. Councilor McDonald stated that she likes the idea of focus groups as opposed to a huge town forum, as focus groups contain the most interested and potentially best informed participants and are in place to have an open-minded dialogue and to work collaboratively towards a constructive solution. She stated that they are smaller and more manageable as far as a means of civil and productive problem solving. She noted that some people in attendance at the recent public hearings were respectful while others were not and stated that they were not always productive and focused and contained emotive comments and personal attacks. She stated that focus groups are the best next step and potentially the last step to move forward with a collaborative set of ideas. Councilor Dinunzio stated that there was only one public hearing for the \$30 million referendum and noted that much of the public backlash came at subsequent meetings' public participations.

Mayor Woods stated that the Democrats would have their nominees for the new Town Hall Renovations Committee available for consideration at the next meeting and asked Councilor Nagel whether the Republicans would have the same. Councilor Nagel replied that he is unsure as he has not received a comprehensive list of applicants. Mayor Woods indicated that Town Manager's staff has sent out names to both parties. Jaime Trevethan, Assistant to the Town Manager indicated that she has sent the names of each interested candidate, as they are received, to the entire Council as well as to the nominating committees of both political parties. Councilor Nagel indicated that he has not received a comprehensive list. Mrs. Trevethan replied that the list has not been finalized since her office is still receiving names of interested residents. Mayor Woods requested that the cutoff for candidates to contact the Town Manager's office be set at Thursday, October 16.

Town Manager Salomone announced that residents interested in serving on the focus group of Committee should contact his office at 860-665-8510.

#### B. Discussion: Town Hall/Community Center Project

Mayor Woods indicated that the Democrats have scheduled interviews with several interested candidates for the new Town Hall Renovations Committee and stated that they would have their selections available for consideration at the next meeting. Councilor Nagel suggested changing the proposed composition of the Committee to include seven members of the public and make the Town Councilors liaisons to the Committee rather than voting members. Mayor Woods remarked that a project of this magnitude should have a Councilor from each party serving on the Committee. He stated that he envisions the Committee Chairperson being a member of the public rather than a Councilor. Councilor Nagel agreed that a member of the public should be the Chairperson. Councilor Klett noted that in the past there hasn't been much interest from the public in serving on a project building committee, which is why past committees have been made up of elected officials. She noted that this past election showed the difficulty in having a lack of continuity among the members of the Committee. She stated that making the Councilors ex-officio members will eliminate this problem. She stated that while focus groups are nice, they don't have the opportunity to vote whereas members of the Committee may vote. Councilor Klett stated that she is in favor of having the Councilors serve as ex-officio members of the Committee. Mayor Woods reiterated that five of the seven members of the new Committee will be from the public; therefore the Council will not have control over the Committee. Councilor Klett remarked that five members of the public would be good, seven members of the public would be better.

Councilor Dinunzio inquired about who will staff the Committee. Town Manager Salomone stated that Jeff Baron will run the meetings, and the Facilities Director will also staff the Committee. He stated that other staff members will be utilized as needed. He noted section 8-41 of the Town Code of Ordinances (attached) in regards to ex-officio members. Councilor Klett requested that an item be placed in the next Council agenda for a vote in accordance with section 8-41.

Councilor McDonald noted that the public held the Town Council accountable for the outcome of the last referendum, therefore she feels that it is important that one Councilor from each party serve as a voting member of the Committee. She also noted the possibly of changing the time and location of the meetings to allow for greater public participation and involvement. Councilor Klett reiterated her position and stated that the Council is always held accountable to the public. Councilor Dinunzio stated that the Committee meetings are public meetings. Mayor Woods thanked the residents who have expressed interest in serving on the new committee.

### V. CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS

#### A. Discussion: Fire Commission Meeting

Fire Commissioners Bogatz, Gallagher and Stoddard addressed the Council. Mayor Woods indicated that the item was added to the agenda to address Councilor Nagel's concerns as stated at the last Council meeting that there may have been an improper meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners.

Board Chairperson Bogatz and Commissioner Stoddard gave an overview of the Board's process for holding meetings as well as what transpired for the meeting in question:

- The location of the Board meetings rotate among the various fire stations; Council member attendance and participation is encouraged
- The regularly scheduled meeting of August 14, 2014 was cancelled ahead of time due to scheduling conflicts with all three Commissioners.
- The meeting was rescheduled to August 4, 2014, with the normal posting and notification.
- At the August 4 meeting, an item was discussed regarding concern about the delay in procurement of two vehicles. As a result, a meeting was arranged with the Mayor to discuss the item.
- After an initial miscommunication, the meeting was posted at the Town Clerk's office. It was scheduled for August 25 and posted on August 19. The meeting was open to the general public.
- Minutes were posted for the meeting (attached).

Councilor McDonald inquired about public and Council participation during the Board of Fire Commissioner's last six posted meetings. Chairperson Bogatz replied that public participation is made up mostly of fire department personnel. He stated that Council representatives have a schedule of meetings. He stated that no Council members have attended any of the past six meetings.

Councilor Klett noted that the August 25 meeting was posted as a Special Meeting, which means that the group must adhere to the meeting agenda. She commented that Councilor Cohen's health was discussed at the meeting and was not part of the agenda. She also noted that the meeting was held at 10:00 a.m. which would make it difficult for non-retired Councilors to attend. She stated that she appreciates the Board's need to communicate and stated that the Mayor may not have even been aware that it was a posted meeting. Councilor Klett stated that the Council liaison was not aware of the August 25 meeting. She reiterated that discussions cannot deviate from the agenda during a special meeting. She also stated concern about the need to discuss the delay in purchasing the equipment and what it means for the Fire Department.

Commissioner Stoddard replied that the Commission follows NFPA equipment replacement guidelines and noted that this was changed without the input of the Chief and Commission. He stated that the Mayor indicated that this is unusual. Councilor Klett inquired about the delay. Mayor Woods stated that he had been unaware of any delay, but in discussion with the Town Manager he learned that there was no delay; it had been perceived as such due to the timeframe for adoption of the Town budget. Mayor Woods stated that one vehicle will be purchased this year and one will be purchased next year. Town Manager Salomone stated that he reviewed the CIP with the Chairperson and explained the timeframe. He reiterated that there was no delay.

Councilor Nagel stated that he has the utmost respect for the Fire Department. He stated that his initial presentation of this item came about because members of the public were concerned about the vehicle purchase. He stated that he was not accusing anyone of anything; he simply wanted information. He stated that he has received minutes of the August 4 meeting and wanted to clear up any confusion. He reiterated that the inquiry came from the public and it is his responsibility to represent the public and to clarify any questions. Councilor Nagel inquired whether the primary reason of the August 25 meeting was to clear up any misconception about the purchase of the vehicles. Chairman Bogatz replied in the affirmative. Councilor Nagel thanked the Board for the memos that have been sent concerning various issues with the Fire Department and requested that he and other liaisons receive meeting agendas and minutes via email. He stated that over the past several years he has attended several meetings and has been interested and concerned in the various issues. He stated that over the course of his service on the Town Council he has attended far more meetings than the other party's liaison.

Chairperson Bogatz noted that the vehicle equipment purchase issue was again discussed and clarified during the Board's subsequent meeting of September 11, 2014. He requested that if a Council liaison isn't able to attend a meeting that they send a substitute to attend. He also reminded the Town Council of the live burn exercises to be held on October 15 and October 27 at the Fire Training Tower. Councilor

Nagel asked for a copy of the minutes of the recent Board meetings. Councilor McDonald thanked Councilor Nagel for his clarifying comments and noted that she was concerned that comments made at the last Council meeting appeared to accuse the Commissioners and the Mayor of ethical misconduct. She stated that she trusts the Commissioners' and the Mayor's integrity and noted that they work very hard to run a wonderful volunteer fire department. She thanked them for their service to the community. Chairperson Bogatz stated that the Fire Department has the best equipment and people who operate as a team effort and indicated that all the Commissioners ask for is Council support.

Mayor Woods spoke about the mass casualty drill of October 4 and stated that it was incredible to see the dedicated volunteers perform the very involved and complex drill. He noted that there were over 150 people involved in the drill and thanked the various groups involved: the Fire Department, Police Department, Volunteer Ambulance and CERT team among others. Chairperson Bogatz thanked the Plainville, Rocky Hill, Berlin, Kensington and Cromwell Fire Departments for covering the Town during the drill.

Councilor Klett disagreed with Councilor McDonald's comments about an implication of ethical misconduct at the last Council meeting. She noted that Councilor Nagel went through several steps to try to get information about the Board meeting and stated that the Council appreciates the Fire Department and all first responders. She stated that the concern was trying to get to the bottom of the reason to hold a special meeting at 10:00 a.m. in the Mayor's office, which is not generally where a posted meeting is held. Councilor McDonald replied that they would have to agree to disagree and remarked that she feels that the tone and nature of the comments made it evident that there was a question of the ethical nature of the meeting with the Mayor. She stated that a lot of what was resolved at the current Council meeting could have been resolved outside of the context of a Town Council meeting. She stated that it was unnecessary to have to bring in the Commissioners to the meeting to discuss the item.

Councilor Dinunzio thanked the Commissioners for attending and explaining the details of the meeting. He also thanked Councilor Nagel for his efforts in going above and beyond in attending various meetings. Mayor Woods inquired as to whether the agenda and minutes of the meeting in question were posted. Commissioner Bogatz replied in the affirmative.

#### B. 2014-2019 Capitol Region Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Update

Town Manager Salomone indicated that the Council has received a summary of the 2014-2019 Capitol Region Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Update. He stated that this is an update to an existing plan and that each individual town must pass a resolution to approve the plan. He stated that the updates have been reviewed and recommended to be approved by the Town's emergency staff and indicated that it will be on the next Council agenda for approval. He stated that the plan is available in its entirety on CRCOG's website: [http://www.crcog.org/community\\_dev/current\\_p\\_fema.html](http://www.crcog.org/community_dev/current_p_fema.html).

### VII. RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS

Councilor McDonald moved the following:

#### RESOLVED:

**That the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the resignation of Jay Slater from the Employee Insurance Pension and Benefits Committee, in accordance with a communication dated October 8, 2014.**

Mayor Woods explained that Mr. Slater had been appointed as an unaffiliated member of the Committee, however, there has been a Republican member of the Committee, Mike Wilbur, who has served as a de-facto member of the Committee for a number of years. He stated that Mr. Slater's resignation would allow Mr. Wilbur to continue to serve as a de facto member until the Republican Party chooses to reappoint him as an official member to fill the vacancy. Mayor Woods stated that there is also a resolution to appoint

Mr. Slater as an Alternate to the Committee. Councilor Nagel indicated that the Republicans would like to follow-up with Mr. Wilbur prior to potential reappointment at a future Council meeting.

Motion seconded by Councilor Marocchini. Motion passed 7-0 (Councilors Castelle and Cohen absent)

Councilor McDonald moved the following:

**RESOLVED:**

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

**Capitol Region Council of Governments**

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
TPZ Rep: Carol Anest	30 Harding Avenue	D	TPZ Term	M. Camerota (term expired)

Motion seconded by Councilor Marocchini.

Councilor Nagel remarked that that this appointment is not appropriate due to Ms. Anest's Chairperson position on the Democratic Town Committee and her candidacy for State Representative. Councilor Dinunzio noted that the predecessor's term expired in November 2013. Mrs. Trevethan explained that the term runs concurrently with the appointed member's TPZ term dates. Councilor Klett noted that she doesn't believe that the TPZ took formal action to make this appointment. She agreed with Councilor Nagel. Town Manager Salomone noted a memorandum from the Town Planner Craig Minor, dated September 23, 2014, indicating that the TPZ took formal action to appoint Ms. Anest back on March 12, 2014.

Councilor Nagel requested a roll call vote:

Roll Call Vote

- Councilor Borjeson – yes
- Councilor Castelle – absent
- Councilor Cohen – absent
- Councilor Dinunzio – no
- Councilor Klett – no
- Councilor Marocchini – yes
- Councilor McDonald – yes
- Councilor Nagel – no
- Mayor Woods – yes

Motion failed 4-3, per the roll call vote.

Councilor McDonald moved the following:

**RESOLVED:**

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

**Employee Insurance and Pension Benefits Committee**

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
Alternate:	47 Piper Brook Avenue	U	Immed. –	Vacant

Jay Slater		11/30/2014	
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Motion seconded by Councilor Marocchini  
 Motion passed 7-0 (Councilors Castelle and Cohen absent)

Councilor McDonald moved the following:

**RESOLVED:**

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

**Zoning Board of Appeals**

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
Alternate: Patricia Tanger	8 Gilbert Road	D	Immed. – 11/30/15	Vacant

Motion seconded by Councilor Marocchini

Councilor Klett inquired about Ms. Tanger’s qualifications and experience. Councilor McDonald replied that Ms. Tanger is the president of the Newington Art League, a coordinator for the Waterfall Festival Chalk Walk and her family has a history of service to the community. Councilor Klett inquired whether Ms. Tanger has any knowledge of zoning issues. Councilor McDonald stated that she doesn’t have any additional information.

Motion passed 6-0-1 (Councilor Klett abstained, Councilors Castelle and Cohen absent)

**VIII. TAX REFUNDS**

Councilor Marocchini moved the following:

**RESOLVED:**

**That property tax refunds in the amount of \$2,823.33 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.**

Motion seconded by Councilor Borjeson. Motion passed 7-0 (Councilors Castelle and Cohen absent)

**IX. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

- A. Regular Meeting, 9/23/14

Councilor Nagel moved to accept the minutes of the September 23, 2014 meeting as submitted. Motion seconded by Councilor Marocchini.

Councilor Klett requested to postpone the approval of the minutes pending her review of the audio recording of the meeting. Councilor McDonald moved to proceed with the vote. Councilor Marocchini seconded.

Councilor Klett indicated that she would like to review the audio tape of the discussion regarding the focus groups at the last meeting. Councilor Klett requested a roll call vote.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Borjeson – yes  
Councilor Castelle – absent  
Councilor Cohen – absent  
Councilor Dinunzio – yes  
Councilor Klett – no  
Councilor Marocchini – yes  
Councilor McDonald – yes  
Councilor Nagel – yes  
Mayor Woods – yes

Motion passed 6-1 (per roll call vote)

**X. WRITTEN/ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER, OTHER TOWN AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS, OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS AND THE PUBLIC - none**

**XI. COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilor Nagel reported that the Senior and Disabled Center is going through the process of reaccreditation. He also indicated that there will be a Senior Expo at the Center on November 7. He indicated that the majority of the renovations are complete at the Senior Center, with the exception of wiring for wifi.

Councilor Borjeson stated that the next meeting of the Newington Housing Needs Study Committee will be held on October 16 at 6:00, in which the Committee will approve the final survey and letter to go out to the residents and will discuss logistics of sending and receiving the survey to residents and Town employees.

Councilor Nagel indicated that the Library Board is planning the next 5K race for May 17, 2015 and stated that the Board is looking to plan an annual concert. He stated that the next Friends of the Library book sale will be held on November 21-23 with "Sunday only" books to be sold on November 23. He stated that there will be an open house of the Library on October 25.

**XII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL**

Gail Budrejko, 21 Isabelle Terrace: Ms. Budrejko expressed concern over the selection process for the focus groups. She asked if there would be slots for members of the public in general, once those who weren't chosen for the Committee and those involved with various Town departments were chosen to serve on the focus group. Councilor McDonald replied in the affirmative. Ms. Budrejko stated that the public wants a voice and stated that besides the focus groups it is important that the Town Hall Renovations Committee meetings be open to the public and allow for public participation and she requested that the Town hold town meetings for public input, and as many public hearings held as needed once the plans are in place.

Jim Barnicle, 62 Crestview Drive: Mr. Barnicle remarked about the dozens of trees lost and/or removed on Crestview and Mountain View Drives. He inquired about the Town's policy for replacing such trees, and if there is no policy in place he requested that the Town Council creates a policy and also supports residents who choose to replace the trees themselves.

Ed Horan, 53 Crestview Drive: Mr. Horan announced that there will be a clean-up on Saturday, October 11 at 9:00 a.m. He indicated that participants should meet at the Constitution Square parking lot and that trash bags and gloves will be provided.

Mady Kenny, 53 Crestview Drive: Ms. Kenny expressed support for Mr. Barnicle's comments and for replacing the beautiful canopy of trees in the area. She inquired whether members of the public will be allowed to attend the focus group sessions and whether the Town department heads will have the opportunity to present at the Town Hall Renovations Committee meetings.

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: Ms. Lyons noted that she regularly attends Economic Development Commission, Conservation Commission and TPZ meetings and does not see Council liaisons in attendance at these meetings and suggested that the Commissions go to the Council with information if liaisons cannot attend. She also expressed concern about cleanups at Mill and Piper Brooks and indicated that nothing has been done because no agreement has been signed between the Town and the State. She stated that she has contacted the DEEP and requested that the Conservation Commission address and advise about this item. Ms. Lyons expressed concern about agendas and minutes of various boards and commissions not being posted on the Town's website. Ms. Lyons noted that there had been Newington Junction meetings held in June and July and inquired why information regarding these meetings isn't posted on the Town's website. She also requested that the Council receives a report on board and commission member attendance.

John Bachand, 56 Maple Hill Avenue: Mr. Bachand stated that while he is not opposed to the MRAP vehicle he is concerned about it becoming a big ticket budget item in the future. He also noted that it is to be used as a defensive vehicle rather than an offensive vehicle but noted that the largest ticket item on the list of modifications is to remove the defective turret and replace it with a law enforcement unit for \$11,000 and he also noted an item for three shooting ports. He noted that there was no line item for painting the vehicle and inquired as to why the vehicle will be painted black. He expressed concern that it is an intimidating vehicle and remarked its appearance might send someone "over the edge". Mr. Bachand stated that while he agrees with the concept of focus groups, he hopes the poll results will not be used in the groups' discussions. He also remarked in relation to Newington Junction that the majority of the Town is not in favor of high density housing anywhere in Town.

Sara Jorgensen, 35 Florence Street (via telephone): Ms. Jorgensen suggested that rather than pay a company to hold focus groups that the Council hold town meetings and create an email address for residents to send ideas about the project. She stated that the Council should figure out who will be in the new Committee prior to spending more money on the project.

Patty Foley, 51 Crown Ridge (via telephone): Ms. Foley suggested that the new Town Hall Renovations Committee be composed of nine members: 2 Councilors and 7 members of the public. She stated that this will allow for a wide skill-set among the public members.

Havital Miltz, 168 Nichelson Street: Ms. Miltz noted that there is a Facebook group of citizens who are concerned about low-income housing that will cost the Town money and are also not pleased about the proposed focus groups and asked the Council to reconsider the groups.

### **XIII. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS**

Councilor Klett noted a concern from Library staff about Town staff parking in the upper parking lot that is used by Library patrons. She asked the Town Manager to report back on the item. She also requested that the new Central CT Health District (CCHD) Director of Health address the Town Council about public health and safety policies, particularly related to the Town's public safety officials and whether there is a need to change such policies due to the Ebola and other health issues.

Councilor Nagel indicated that the CCHD has a new director and agreed with Councilor Klett's comments. He also addressed questions about items that were on the September 23 Council agenda but not the current agenda. He stated that the items all required further research and will appear on upcoming agendas. Mayor Woods agreed.

Councilor Marocchini stated that he believes that the new Town Hall Building Committee meeting should include members from the Council and remarked that he hopes that members can be appointed to the Committee at the next Council meeting.

Councilor McDonald stated that the turret to be removed from the MRAP vehicle will not be replaced by another turret and stated that the funds for the modifications will not come from the general budget and recommended that any questions be directed to Chief Mulhall. She also remarked that there are no plans for any high density housing in the Town at this time. She stated that she believes that the focus groups will be productive and an important piece of the puzzle moving forward. Councilor McDonald indicated that the Town Hall Building Committee originally proposed an August referendum and after discussing various options the Council compromised on the September date due to construction and design timelines in the event that the referendum passed. She stated that the Council discussed the post-referendum poll and per the Town Manager's research it was determined that a telephone poll was significantly less costly than an in-person poll.

Mayor Woods indicated that the Director of Public safety for the schools had brought up a concern about expanding the traffic study at Alumni Road to include the Willard Avenue area. He stated that the Alumni Road project will move forward pending information from the DOT. He requested that the Town Manager pass the comments regarding the Young Farm along to the MDC. He stated that he has spoken to the Town Attorney regarding Mr. Bachand's concerns about Packard's Way. He stated that the Council will address the tree issue along Crestview Drive and throughout Town and that the Town Manager and Parks departments have been instructed to look into a program to address the issue. He stated that the Council will likely discuss the item at its first meeting in November. Mayor Woods inquired about the public attending the focus group meetings. Town Manager Salomone stated that it is not a committee meeting, but stated that they will be held in a public area and members of the public will not be turned away, although they will not be able to participate. Mayor Woods addressed the issue of minutes posted on the website and indicated that it is up to each individual department to do so. He stated that the website is outdated and will be addressed in the coming year.

#### **XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION RE: LEGAL UPDATES**

Councilor Marocchini moved to go into Executive Session, re: Legal Updates at 9:40 p.m. Motion seconded by Councilor Nagel. Motion passed 7-0 (Councilors Castelle and Cohen absent).

All Councilors present at the regular meeting, Town Manager Salomone and Town Attorney Peter Boorman were present at the Executive Session.

Councilor Borjeson moved to adjourn from Executive Session at 10:10 p.m. Motion seconded by Councilor Dinunzio. Motion passed 7-0 (Councilors Castelle and Cohen absent)

#### **XV. ADJOURNMENT**

Councilor McDonald moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:11 p.m. Motion seconded by Councilor Borjeson. Motion passed 7-0 (Councilors Castelle and Cohen absent)

Respectfully Submitted,



Mrs. Jaime Trevethan  
Assistant to the Town Manager for Administration

Attach.

*Town of Newington, CT  
Wednesday, October 22, 2014*

## Chapter 8. BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS AND BUREAUS

### Article X. Project Building Committees

#### § 8-41. Ex officio members.

The Chairman of the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools shall serve as ex officio members without vote on any project building committee which has responsibilities pertaining to the construction or alteration of a school building. The Fire Chief and the Chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners shall serve as ex officio members without vote on any project building committee having responsibility for the construction or alteration of Fire Department buildings. The Mayor and the Town Manager shall serve as ex officio members without vote on all project building committees. Other ex officio members may be appointed by the Council to a project building committee to serve without vote.



John Salomone  
Town Manager

# TOWN OF NEWINGTON

1485 Main Street Newington, Connecticut 06111

## Board of Fire Commissioners

Special Meeting

August 25, 2014

Mayor's Office

10:00am



Chet Bogacz,  
Kent E. Stoddard, Jr.  
Brian Gallagher  
Fire Commissioners

- I. Call to Order
  
- II. Attendance  
Commissioners Bogacz, Gallagher & Stoddard  
Mayor Stephen Woods
  
- II. Discussion on the following concerns:
  - a. Councilor Cohen's health condition
  - b. Firehouse lighting
  - c. Chief's Command vehicle
  - d. Current staff vehicle
  - e. Engine / Rescue- procurement delay

**Reminder:**

2017 Anniversary  
Town wide drill in October  
911 Memorial (Brick Sale)

Further details regarding the informational sharing on the above items will be discussed and provided at the next meeting of the Fire Commissioners.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:42am

Minutes recorded by Commissioner Brian Gallagher-Commission Secretary