



Tanya Lane  
Acting Town Manager

# TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET  
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

**MAYOR ROY ZARTARIAN**

## **PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES TOWN MANAGER'S PROPOSED BUDGET**

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

**March 8, 2016**

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

### **II. ROLL CALL**

Councilor Anest  
Councilor Budrejko  
Councilor DelBuono  
Councilor Klett  
Councilor Manke  
Councilor Marocchini  
Councilor Nagel  
Councilor Serra  
Mayor Zartarian

#### **Staff Attendees:**

Tanya Lane, Acting Town Manager  
Jaime Trevethan, Asst. to the Town Manager – Administration  
Linda Irish-Simpson, Clerk of the Council

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Zartarian at 7 p.m.

Tanya Lane, Acting Town Manager, reviewed the proposed budget, which is attached.

### **III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL**

Mayor Zartarian read an email from Elena Lombardo Corrado: She hoped the elected officials would ask the hard questions regarding the budget. She questioned the way money was spent in the Board of Education budget and was disappointed that Mrs. Petronio did not allow suggestions in ways to lower costs. She felt that led to doubt the fiscal responsibility of the Board of Education and hoped the Town Council would be stronger and more thoughtful as to how the money was spent.

Jay Bottalico, 37 Valley View Drive: He stated that after the recent revaluation his taxes would be going up \$1,059.46 from last year. He said that single family homes increased by 55% and 45% of the homes decreased. Condos in Town had increased from 49.1% and the decrease was 58.1%. It was a burden to have a tax increase of \$1,059.46 and thought that all home owners should check their assessments.

Hannah Siegel, 57 Meadowview Court: As a student in Newington she wanted to tell the Council that Newington was a phenomenal school system. She felt lucky to get such a good education. As proposed, she felt the school system was going to get an inadequate amount of money, which might lead to larger classes. The additional money would not be a waste and if the budget cuts happened, she might have to leave the system. She hoped the Town Council would budget enough money for the next year.

Olga Veselova, 270 Richard Street Apartment 1: She did not want to see the BOE budget decreased since education was extremely important. She felt world language, class sizes and technology needed to be improved.

Havital Miltz, 168 Nicholson Street: She indicated the children who spoke for the school budget should not have been allowed since they did not pay taxes in Town. She asked about the starting salaries for police and thought the amount was \$72k and yet Hartford started police at \$40k. Newington was safer than Hartford but did not understand why they made so much more than other towns. She mentioned they were also the only Town employees who when hired were still getting a pension. The negotiator who negotiated the contract had failed the taxpayers in her opinion. She said it was good to have a low debt ratio but the Town had many crumbling buildings that needed to be fixed. She stated private sector employees did not get a 3% every year since the companies could not afford it and hoped the Town Council would take that into consideration. She also felt the Town should not be paying insurance coverage for spouses who were covered under their employers plan.

Jen Win-Johnson, 23 Welles Drive North: She congratulated the children who spoke up for the BOE budget. She felt the school system was the core of a town, and if strong led to people wanting to live there, spend their money, grow a business, and increase the value of homes. She urged the Town Council to approve the Board of Education budget.

Gary Bolles, 28 Burdon Lane: He stated even though Mrs. Lane had reduced the original request from the BOE, he felt it should be further reduced. Each year they requested more money without giving any thought to other departments in Town. He wanted the Council to review the amount of \$934k that was left over for the cost of teaching of math and reading, and he wanted to know where the money was spent since it was the taxpayers money. He said it was time for the BOE to be fiscally and transparently accountable to the taxpayers.

Sharon Zajack, 87 Brace Road: She was proud of the Newington school system and moved back when she had children. It was important to realize that school today was very different than in the past, and they needed different skills than years ago. She hoped the STEM classes would be continued at the high school level since it was very valuable.

Colleen Corriveau, 303 Walsh Avenue: She had lived in Town her whole life and was impressed with the number of people who moved back into Town to educate their children. She felt the BOE had spent a lot of time in preparing the budget and said it was an investment in the future.

Lukas Klin, 29 Judge Lane: He was a student in Newington and felt he received a great education. There were many educational opportunities and if not enough money was received, he thought the schools would worsen. More teachers needed to be hired and the language program needed to be improved he felt.

Colleen Cultrera, 38 Carriage Hill Drive: She was in favor of the budget and felt cuts would result in the loss of art, language and music programs. It would be detrimental to the children. The Town needed to continue the Chrome book program and stated the budget was a good one and should be supported.

Joanne Sullivan, 11 Hall Street: She supported the BOE budget and felt Mrs. Petronio and Dr. Collins had done a good job with a difficult task.

Amy Alexander, 16 Brentwood Road: She supported the budget and wanted it to be fully funded. She said her children had done well in the school system and felt the money would be money well spent.

Joe Guion, 20 Kirkham Street: He supported the budget since they had worked hard on developing it. If there were further cuts, it would impact everyone. Every child deserved the best opportunity.

Wayne Alexander, 28 Burdon Lane: School was very important but did not feel it should break the backs of the taxpayers because of the constant increases in the BOE budget. He felt there needed to be compromise to consider those who were hurting from these increases. He said people move out of Newington because it was too expensive to live in town. He wanted the parents and children to understand the hurt that tax increases brought.

Michael J. Fox, 1901 Main Street: He said he had lived in town for 40 years and had sent his children through the school system and although nobody likes to pay taxes felt the Council needed to be sure the Town got the most for their money. He thought the 3.8% was a fair figure after negotiating with the Board and hoped that it would pass.

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: She said she had not read the budget and left it to the Board of Education and others. She agreed that education had changed a lot since she attended school in Newington; however, since she was retired, it was important to think about the entire Town's needs and not just one department. The Town had a lot to do with the renovation of the Town Hall, parks, etc. and hoped that everyone would compromise to make it more palatable.

Maddy Kenney, 53 Crestview Drive: She had not intended to speak but felt it was important to speak for all the children and grandchildren. She congratulated the children who came to speak and did not feel they were prompted by their teachers. She felt the entire budget needed to be looked at and not just one area but one area could be the \$250k for an environmental review of Churchill Park. The cost of the park was around \$19 million at this point she said. She asked what the study was for and what would the Town get from it.

Avery Guion, 20 Kirkham Street: As a student at the Bio-Medical Academy he supported the school budget and felt the budget would enable them to do more things at the academy.

Peter Arburr, 133 Tremont Street: He felt the reduction of the proposed budget from 5.99% to 4.22% was really only a physical reduction \$60k. The purchase of a school bus (\$100k) was transferred to the Town's CIP account so it was not charged to the BOE budget. The savings of \$1 million was a paper adjustment to the health insurance program due to the over budgeting of the premium costs. He was disappointed that a member of the BOE could not get a second for a discussion on the reduction in the budget. He felt any rebate received should be used to balance the BOE's budget relative to any cuts that were made.

Bruce Valade, 31 Mountain View Drive: In a perfect world he supported the Board of Education and everyone's budgets but he was tapped out. He had taught his children the value of the word No which he felt went a long way.

#### **IV Adjournment**

Councilor DelBuono moved at 8:10 p.m. to adjourn and the motion was seconded by Councilor Klett. The motion passed 9 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Irish-Simpson  
Clerk of the Council

Cc: T. Lane, Town Clerk  
attach.



ROY ZARTARIAN  
MAYOR

# TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET  
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

OFFICE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

## **PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

**TOWN MANAGER'S PROPOSED BUDGET  
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2016  
7:00 P.M.**

**CONFERENCE ROOM L-101 (LOWER LEVEL)  
NEWINGTON TOWN HALL  
131 CEDAR STREET, NEWINGTON**

**To provide an opportunity for interested individuals to express  
their views regarding the Town Manager's Proposed Budget for  
Fiscal Year 2016-2017**

Questions regarding this matter should be directed to the Office of  
the Town Manager at (860) 665-8510.

Written comments and questions may be submitted to  
the Town Council at 131 Cedar Street or via email at  
[towncouncil@newingtonct.gov](mailto:towncouncil@newingtonct.gov)

Phone: (860) 665-8510 Fax: (860) 665-8507  
[towncouncil@newingtonct.gov](mailto:towncouncil@newingtonct.gov)  
[www.newingtonct.gov](http://www.newingtonct.gov)



## **Town of Newington**

March 8, 2016

Public Hearing

Town Manager's

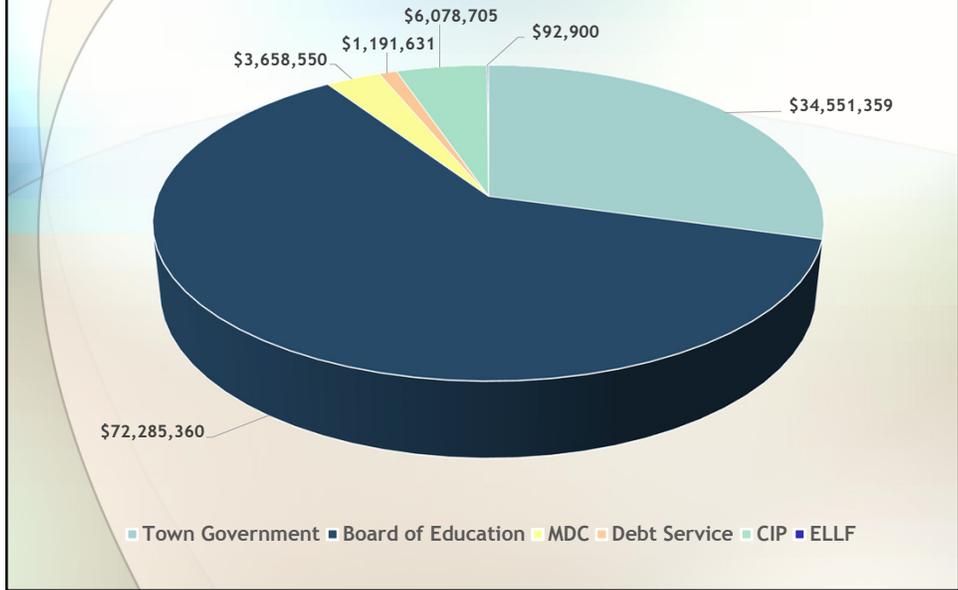
Proposed Budget

Fiscal Year 2016-2017

### **2016-17 Budget Schedule**

<b>March 10<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Special Meeting: Departmental Reviews</b>
<b>March 22<sup>nd</sup> 7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Regular Meeting: Set Tentative Budget</b>
<b>March 31<sup>st</sup> 7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Public Hearing: Town Council Proposed Budget</b>
<b>March 31<sup>st</sup> 8:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Special Meeting: Changes to Proposed Budget</b>
<b>April 5<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Special Meeting: Adopt Budget &amp; Set the Mill Rate</b>

# APPROPRIATIONS



# KEY POINTS

- No New Initiatives
- Review of historical trends compared to funding requests
- Motor Fuel
- Debt Service

## PERSONNEL CHANGES

- Electrician
- Police wages per union contract 2.85%
- School Resource Officer (SRO)
- Sergeant
- Promotional and step increases for Librarians
- Overtime for Sunday hours at the Library

## PERSONNEL CHANGES Shifting of Part-time hours

- Senior & Disabled Center
- Cemetery Operations
- Library
- Highway
- Police
- Parks & Recreation

## MAJOR CHALLENGES

- Pension and OPEB requirements
- Medical Claims
- Contract negotiations for AFSCME

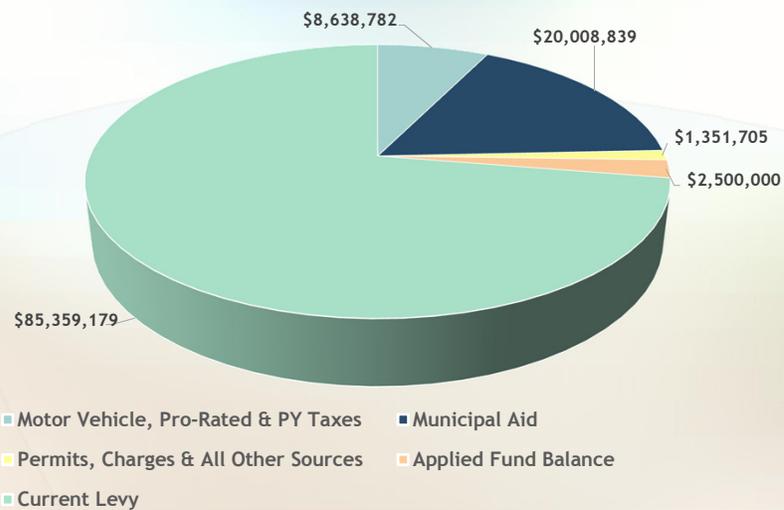
## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TOWN

PROJECT	\$
Town Hall Improvements	733,462
HVAC Upgrades Highway/Parks Garage/S&D Center	347,000
Fire Department SCBA, Hose and Protective Equipment	339,500
Senior & Disabled Center - Asbestos & Lead Abatement	290,000
Environmental Review for Churchill Park Renovations	250,000
Fire Company #3 Shingled Roof	40,000
Fire Company #2 & #3 Chimney Removal	25,000
Upgrades at Kelsey and Kellogg Eddy Historic Properties	25,000
Elton Drive Terminus Construction	25,000
Stonewall Repair	25,000
Town Building Sidewalk	25,000

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS SCHOOL

PROJECT	\$
J. Wallace Classroom Wings Reconfiguration	\$1,000,000
General School Property Improvements	300,000
School Technology Reserve	188,828
Districtwide HVAC Replacement	150,000
NHS Code Compliance	104,377
J. Patterson Classroom AC - Phase 1	100,000
School Bus	100,000
School Driveways, Parking Lots, & Sidewalks	75,000

## ESTIMATED REVENUES



## KEY POINTS

- Grand List increase of 2.5%
- Motor Vehicle Tax Cap at 32 mills

## MILL RATE

- 36.91 mills
- Increase of 3.1%



## Town of Newington

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HAVE A QUESTION REGARDING THE  
PROPOSED 2016-2017 TOWN OF  
NEWINGTON BUDGET?

TO SEND QUESTIONS VISIT:

[www.newingtonct.gov](http://www.newingtonct.gov)