



Tanya D. Lane
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

MAYOR ROY ZARTARIAN

NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES
May 23, 2017

Mayor Zartarian called the Town Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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:

Ann Harter, Temporary Acting Town Manager
Craig Minor, Town Planner
Bill DeMaio, Parks and Recreation Superintendent
Jaime Trevethan, Assistant to the Town Manager
Susan Gibbon, Council Clerk

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilor Anest moved to accept the agenda as written and was seconded by Councilor Serra. The motion to accept the agenda passed 9-0.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL (**In Person/Via Telephone: 860-665-8736**)
MINUTE TIME LIMIT PER SPEAKER ON ANY ITEM)

Amy Santo, 76 Wilbur Drive, Newington. Ms. Santo has two children enrolled in Newington Public Schools. Her daughter Alexis has been enrolled at the Academy of Aerospace and Engineering at John Wallace for the past two years, one of five girls in the inaugural class and the last two years have changed her life and has provided her an opportunity that she wouldn't have had if Dr. Collins hadn't had his vision and this town hadn't recognized the importance of that vision. The importance of providing Newington students an opportunity that challenges and engage them and set them up for success. The recent budget cuts mean that the Aerospace Academy and Biomedical Academy will not open this fall at the high school. Ms.

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Santo wanted to express her extreme disappointment at this decision. The students have worked incredibly hard over the past two years, just look at Invention Convention, these kids are putting Newington on the map and making our schools shine. What do they get in return? The rug pulled out from under them. What does this hard work mean if they can't continue to build on their skills in high school where it really matters, colleges do not look at middle school transcripts. Not just about my daughter or about all the current academy students, it is about all 350 students impacted by this short sighted decision. She knows that tough decisions have to be made, but this open makes no sense. This council needs to figure out how pay for the academy teachers so that these students can finish what they started and that so many others can begin that important opportunity at a successful future. She heard rumors that this decision was politically motivated and she doesn't know if there is any truth to that and she only wants the best for her daughter. She implored the council to put politics aside and to put students first. Please find a way to make the budget work, to fund critical teaching positions and give Newington students a competitive edge and the best chance possible for a bright and promising future. She stated that she sent council members an email with additional important points and that her daughter would be here to speak herself, but is not well, and she is very upset about this decision and hopes that it can be reversed. She wants to be a Disney Imaginers and taking 4 years of engineering courses in high school would help her achieve that dream. Thank you.

Gary Bolles, 28 Burden Lane. Mr. Bolles stated that it was reported in the Hartford Courant on Thursday, May 18, the budget for the Town of Wethersfield included \$57,777,882 for the BOE. He called to confirm the number, because he thought it might be a mistake and the finance director confirmed the number. It was a cut from the original \$58,277,882. Mr. Bolles asked the finance director how many students they had and was to 3,600. If you divide the 3,600 into the \$57 million number you come up with a cost per student of \$16,049.42; likewise, if you multiply Newington student population of approx. 4,100 students by the \$16,049.42, our BOE budget should be \$65,802,622. Not the voted \$70,389,647 that our BOE received and yet they were still crying foul and they still are today. By pointing this out to you, something is seriously wrong somewhere and it appears that Newington tax payers are being taken for a ride. He don't want to see that happen. He wanted to thank several council member for their letter of explanation that appeared in the Town Crier last Friday regarding their action regarding the BOE budget. Thank you.

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive. She just quickly looked at the agenda before coming to the meeting and a couple of things struck her. At the information session regarding Alumni Road, she asked whether or not who would make the decision whether the gate on Alumni Road gets removed after the traffic signal gets installed and the response in the informational packet, Mr. Minor indicated that if the traffic light gets installed, the town council will notify DOT that the gate can be moved. At that hearing, she didn't hear probably, she heard that the town would notify DOT and she wanted it clarified that the town could notify DOT, but the town council would be the ultimate decision makers as to whether or not that gate was opened, she would like confirmation of that tonight. Big difference between may open, shall open and probably will open. She also stated the grant for the TOD consultant to do a program on next year's TOD at Newington Junction, there was already a study done for \$20,000 prior to this and this is another \$35,000 study; she would like to know exactly how that is going to work. The first study which was chaired by former Councilor Borjeson was not open to the public and she hoped that this is not going to be another behind closed doors type of thing; she doubts that it will be from what she understands from the TPZ meetings. She also noticed a safety audit around Newington center; she tried the link that was on the agenda packet, but couldn't. She is hoping that someone is addressing the situation at Webster Bank on to Main Street. Last but not least, it's nice to see that there is a grant from a private entity for the dog park at Young Farm since dogs are now

roaming that area unleashed, she's glad to see that there is going to be a grant available to make an enclosed area there. On a light note, she hopes that someone has researched to see that the grant that we received from DEEP doesn't prohibit that, because the last election we had dirt gate, she doesn't want to see poop gate. Thank you.

Chris Biesczad, 53 Maple Hill. Looking at the Alumni Road and having watched this closely for over the past year, and attending more meetings than he wants, generally the consensus of the people attending the meeting aren't in favor of the plan. He has watched the recordings, has read the minutes and feels there is a lot of uncertainty amongst many residents. He thinks the only thing people agree on is getting sidewalks in for the Vincent Drive area, but beyond that, he thinks there is way too much uncertainty with the plan. He did some research on the plan, and early in the 1980's there was a decision on making Cedar Street wider with the state only wanting to go so, and according to the records, Newington pushed for four lanes on Cedar Street. He is hoping that the mistake won't be made again. Regarding the school budget, having three kids in the system, he has seen cutbacks over the years, it is a tough decision for everybody from a taxpayer standpoint, but if you dangle these programs in front of the students and then they get taken away, there is no worse feeling than that. It is better to not even bring it to the table if it can't be funded in the future.

Dawn Olivera, 18 Tunxis Road. Tonight she is urging the council to support the BOE's transfer request in order to call off 4 layoffs and allow for the hiring of two teachers for the STEM academy at the high school for the fall of 2017. Asking for a transfer is not going to increase taxes. The breakdown for the request is made up of a about \$178,000 for STEM teachers, \$154,000 to recall the 4 layoffs and \$400,000 for unbudgeted special education costs which came from children that moved to Newington who had already been outplaced, now the school needs to pay those bill. She stands with the parents whose children are directly affected by the layoffs, because it increase class sizes and those who have children currently in the middle school academy and many more students currently at the high school. Many high school students who are freshman want to continue in the biomedical and aerospace academy. They also want to come into our high school front the middle school and there are other student that are electing the classes as electives. If the high school academy is opened it would help to alleviate some of the increased class sizes. She pleads with the council to work with Dr. Collins and the BOE to support this transfer request. It was bad enough to watch for the motions to compromise it the budget request and they didn't pass. She understands that you want Dr. Collins and the BOE to work with what they have had, such as health benefits and 1% surplus; she thinks this is being creative by using the money set aside for the John Wallace project, the BOE or Dr. Collins or Mr. Jachimowicz can then use potential health credits as a onetime expense. If you can authorize the \$625,000, please support a partial amount at least hire the STEM teachers and the amount to recall the 4 layoffs. Thank you.

Nancy Petronio, 44 Centerwood Road, Newington, BOE Chairperson. She knows that agenda VII.E is the Supplemental Appropriation for Special Education and STEM Academy Teachers. She wanted to put context around that for the public and read memo that she sent to the Mayor and Town Council on May 28, 2017. She stated that there is \$625,000 in the John Wallace wing configuration project, that project is not able to begin yet and the BOE would like the money transferred to the operating budget. The BOE requested a 2.94% in their operating budget and received 0.29%. The BOE is able to use 1% of the health benefits refund next year, approximately \$700,000 over into the non-lapsing fund, add to \$515,000, balance at \$1.2 million. Need is increase of \$1.9 million. The BOE is asking for this one time transfer, understand not responsible budgeting. Thank you.

Councilor Anest read a letter in from Michael Branda, 77 Coronado Drive, Newington. He asked that his letter be read into the first part of public participation. Recently the majority

party in our town took to the Newington Town Crier to submit their preemptive strike in today's BOE agenda item. Clearly an effort to highlight the fact that they are not interested in working with the BOE but merely punishing them for their apparent bias and dislike for our superintendent of schools. What I found interesting about the letter is a glaring omission. The letter stated, and I quote "almost town department accepted the fiscal realities and submitted budget requests at or near the current years level. The BOE on the other hand wanted a \$2.2 million or 3.1% increase". I am wondering why the Town Council Republicans didn't feel it was necessary to mention our town manager proposed a greater budget for the BOE then the town council adopted. If the point of the letter was to highlight how the BOE in your opinion is not recognizing the need to budget conservatively, then why was our town manager exempt from this letter? Could it be because it is not really about being proposed, but is who is proposing it? The parent in our town are growing sick and tired of sitting back as their children are used to settle personal differences. Providing the best education for our children shouldn't be a partisan issue. You are being asked tonight to consider a realistic financial plan to not only fund some unexpected special education needs, but also a STEM program which our town has invested an awful lot of money into creating. I am eager to see if you will consider adding these necessary funds to the board's budget, or if for a second year in a row, you will make the choice to put politics over education.

Councilor Nagel read a letter from F. Helve, 282 Lamplighter Lane. I am writing to you pertaining to the meeting that will take place Tuesday, May 23. Interest in the BOE agenda item. I read the recent letter to the editor from the members of the majority party explaining they have already made up their minds, example, and additional support for the BOE before the meeting has taken place. This is incredibly discouraging as it suggests a regard for open discourse. I hope my initial impression is not correct and simply results from misunderstanding what will be discussed from the BOE. From my vantage point, it seems to make sense to approach discussion with an open mind and a common desire to find the best possible outcome for both groups. I understand there is frustration over previously suggested uses of the money, when many of you felt it should be used differently. Those uses no longer seem to be on the table, however, and I would hope you can move past that. The problem as I understand it is that significant additional expenses had come up since the budget proposal (due in large part to unplanned special education outplacements). Additional support from you is needed to ensure the quality of our students experiences are maintained. I know that 5 of you encourage the BOE, in your letter, to be creative in using their funds so that they might plan for the future accordingly as our revenue situation is no longer as it once was. I encourage you to do the same, and join the BOE to help effect some positive measures that will leave towards Newington's long term fiscal help. We lose many students to charter magnet schools which cost us money, a lot of money and I am not hopeful that the state will continue the same levels of reimbursement we now receive, thus costing us more money. Dr. Collins and the BOE have suggestions for programs that would not only reduce the number of students choosing to leave Newington public schools without increasing the mill rate or our taxes for the upcoming year, I would hope you demonstrate support for the creative thinking and long-term planning your admonished them for not demonstrating. Failing to do so however, would be hypocritical and underscore the highly partisan nature of our town government. The people in Newington are tired of what has become politics as usual. Please show us, the voting taxpayers, that you can rise up and move beyond your personal frustrations with one another and communicate openly and honestly. We need to move forward without compromising our fiscal wellness for the education system which is one of the greatest assets and guarantees for our future growth. Our teachers are amazing, but they cannot be overworked and under supported for a continued length of time. Please work with the BOE to try and find a solution to the strains being placed on our students and teachers. Thank you for your many hours spent on behalf of the people of Newington.

Councilor Anest read comments from an email from Gail Cyzarski, 40 Grandview Drive regarding the BOE request. She supports the funding of STEM teachers, short sited and irresponsible to operate due to lack of teachers. Fiscally conservative position when it comes to education and specifically supports STEM education in Newington. Please find a way at least to fund it.

V. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

VI. CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS (**Action May Be Taken**)

A. Social Media Policy

Councilor Nagel moved the following.

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby creates a Social Media Policy Subcommittee, consisting of three (3) members of the Town Council, with the Town Attorney serving as an ex-officio non-voting member and utilizing Town staff liaisons as necessary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Social Media Policy Subcommittee shall be charged with researching and recommending a social media policy or policies for elected and appointed Town officials to the Town Council for adoption; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Social Media Policy Subcommittee will disband upon the adoption of a social media policy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby appoints the following members to the Social Media Policy Subcommittee:

Name	Address	Party	Term
NTC Rep: Beth DelBuono	327 Walsh Avenue Newington, CT 06111	R	NTC TERM (or upon completion of project)
NTC Rep: Timothy Manke	65 Rosewood Drive Newington, CT 06111	R	NTC TERM (or upon completion of project)
NTC Rep: Carol Anest	30 Harding Avenue Newington, CT 06111	D	NTC TERM (or upon completion of project)

Councilor Klett is concerned that the town attorney who had a huge issue about his social media posting is going to be providing input and is going to be part of the committee

discussing what is appropriate for social media. Would feel much more comfortable if another attorney was used on this committee.

Mayor Zartarian would like to make a change to the wording in the resolution by replacing the word sunset with disband. Motion by Councilor Manke, seconded by Councilor Budrejko. Motion to amend passed 9-0.

Seconded by Councilor DelBuono. The motion passed 8-1 (via roll call vote).

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

A. PIM Presentation – Alumni Road Traffic Study

Craig Minor, Town Planner. Would like to give a brief review of the presentation made on May 2. With him are Dave Barrows with CDM Smith, local traffic authority, Officer Morgan and Mr. Klett from the BOE. This proposal started as a suggestion that came out of TPZ records, which lead to a public information sponsored by the TPZ last summer and the idea then came before the council. The council agreed to hire a traffic engineer firm CDM Smith to put together a proposal, still only a proposal, but CDM Smith's work was to make sure it was a realistic proposal that was viable and a presentation was made to the public, here to today with an abbreviated presentation to the council.

Dave Barrows stated that he is a Traffic Engineer with CDM Smith hired by the town to explore the feasibility of these conceptual safety improvements mainly geared towards the intersection of Alumni Road at Cedar Street with additional discussion along that road regarding the safety of the high school pedestrians attending events at the athletic facilities. Mr. Barrows discussed the power point presentation regarding traffic along Cedar Street, traffic controls, turn lanes in and out of roads onto Cedar Street, conflict of vehicles traveling along Cedar Street at and around Alumni Road, Maple Avenue; as well as the need for sidewalks along Cedar Street. In the past 5 years there have been 56 total crashes in the area; rear end, turning type, all relating to lack of traffic control by vehicles accessing these drives. Mr. Barrows discussed the realignment of Alumni Road by moving the athletic field parking area. Public comments from the May 2 meeting were balanced. Many of the comments included the access to Old Farms Drive. Other comments included side walks on Cedar, very important, reiterated many times. Increased traffic along Alumni Road if and when the gate is removed as well as the potential for growth along Alumni Road if the gate is opened. Next steps would be to find a resolution with the town council, appropriations with DOT funding and their design; this is a state road, so this would be their design. Environmental evaluations would also be included as part of the project, there are wetlands and upland review areas by the athletic parking lot.

Councilor Klett asked if they have done a car count at Old Farms West. Concerned about the number of cars at Old Farms west, more traffic from Old Farms east. Can you get that number for us? Mr. Barrows stated that the analysis they conducted projected to be at a level to be graded at an A, now at a level F. Mr. Minor indicated that will get that number for you. Mr. Barrows stated that it will be less than 150 vehicles during peak hours (7:15 - 8:15). There are 165 homes in the area.

Councilor Serra asked if they cars are coming out of Old Farms east waiting for turn signal, how many cars are going to come flying up over Saddle Hill, there are students over there waiting for busses and stuff. That street normally doesn't get that much traffic other than the people living there. Mr. Barrows stated that the analysis showed that there will be minimal demand, very short vehicle use. Typically with the amount of demand a cycle will be typically

90 seconds, 45 light cycles each hour, which would mean you have one, two and maybe three vehicles for each cycle. During off peak hours they would do a trip at the light.

Councilor Manke wanted to know, if the council approves the resolution, would it then go to the DOT and they would do a second study? Mr. Barrows said yes, it would then go to the DOT and they would do their own analysis and study. They would get their own data. If this is something the town is looking to do, then there should be an amount of influence that the town could have in this discussion. Councilor Budrejko asked in terms of funding, Alumni Road is a town road, so any safety improvements would be picked up by the town. She is unclear to why the opening of Alumni Road and traffic light have to be packaged together as one project. Seems the opening of Alumni Road could be delayed until the parking lot could be realigned, since safety is the real goal is for this project. A lot of people will use Alumni Road as a cut through and it will be more dangerous to students, parents and visitors, in the interim, until the ultimate solution is implemented. She is concerned about packaging these two pieces of the project together. Go ahead with the alignment, but why it seems to be tied so closely with opening Alumni Road up, doesn't think it is the right time.

Mr. Minor stated that what he always said when asked that question who will decide if the gate opens up, and in his opinion that is a town council decision. They are linked in the sense that once the light is installed at Alumni, the reason the OSDA mandated the gate goes away and the town would be hard pressed to keep the gate there if the reason for the gate goes away. Councilor Budrejko says that she agrees with that and that the road will ultimately be opened and that the plan was to have it opened years ago, but the fact is there is a more significant safety reason now and believes that the road opening can be delayed until that is safety concern is addressed.

Councilor Klett stated that is it a difficult issue for her as council member. Many years ago taking out the circle at West Hill Road was discussed, it was taken out for safety issues, but didn't improve the quality of life for people living in the area. It is important to her that the quality of life of the residents that live in the neighborhood is improved and concerned that this may not necessarily improve the quality of life of people in the neighborhood. She is struggling with this. The accidents that were reported, where did those accidents occur? Where they all at Alumni Road? Officer Morgan stated that the accident data that was given out was a more of a global number, involving more of Cedar Street. Specifically at Alumni Road, going back to January 1, 2015, the number of reported accidents that have occurred at that intersection has been nine. Of those there were six of vehicles turning or out of Alumni Road. Cedar Street in general is large road and there were a lot more accidents than that. A total of 9 crashes; 4 involved injuries, zero pedestrians involved, zero fatalities. Data is from January 2015.

Mr. Barrows stated that the left turn lane will provide an additional buffer for vehicles turning into Alumni Road. If look at the plan, there is a lot of additionally proposed sidewalks and crosswalks and the sidewalk extends west, connecting towards CT Fastrack. There is a lot of improvements being made to walkability and bike ability in this area. DOT is making a concerted effort with all projects moving forward to include bicycle and pedestrians in their design, something the DOT would keep as a critical design component. Councilor Klett asked Lt. Morgan if there are any other areas of town that have the same number of accidents by people trying to turn in and turn out. It seems that there was more of an issue when Bonair was discussed. Officer Morgan stated he could not provide those numbers.

Councilor Marocchini stated that there are lots of points to be considered. He stated he wasn't sure if Alumni Road should be opened until parking area is addressed. His biggest concern is the realigning of Maple Avenue, behind the houses. Did anybody speak of that? Mr. Barrows mentioned that there were questions of how people would maintain access to Cedar

Street. We propose a cul de sac for the existing connection at Cedar Street, that would be dead ended, providing enough area for people to turn around. Mr. Minor stated that there was one person that did speak to that, she was concerned about that. At the May 2 PIM, someone who lives at the west side of Maple had questions about his ability to get in and out of his driveway. As far as numbers, very few people came to those meetings.

Councilor Marocchini stated that he felt the best part of this whole plan are the sidewalks. CIP has been discussing the sidewalks for over two years. Best part of plan, improving accessibility for the Vincent Drive area residents. He stated a couple of years ago there was a discussion about just adding a traffic light itself without going through the re-alignment of Maple, with plenty of opposition to that. Councilor Marocchini wants to understand why one plan is better than the other.

Mr. Barrows stated that the 2015 proposal wasn't supported because it didn't offer user access and another comparison between the two, the 2015 plan was just to provide a new signal at Alumni but having two intersections that close with small road way between them, the current plan would work much more efficiently. Councilor Marocchini asked if the DOT happens to get on board with this, who would pay for the Maple Avenue realignment?

Mr. Barrows stated that the cost would all fall on the DOT, the alumni road parking would be a separate discussion. Councilor Marocchini stated that since this is not actually going to occur for a few years that this this would provide time, CIP the money, to do what it needed on Alumni Road, since opening the road is economic development. Make a plan that can work simultaneous.

Councilor DelBouno wanted to make a couple of comments. She agrees with Councilor Budrejko comments about Alumni Road, looking at this project that needs to be our ultimate goal and that needs to be a priority for the council. She also agrees with Councilor Marocchini that CIP needs to look at this over the next few years. She wanted to know if there was any crash data on the Old Farm/Cedar Street intersection itself.

Officer Morgan stated that he had data for Cedar Street and Maple Hill. Since January 1, 2015 there have been 17 total crashes; seven involving injuries, zero pedestrians and zero fatalities. He ran data for Old Farms west, assumed that is picked up on vehicles coming in the opposite way, it is three, one with injury, zero pedestrian, zero fatalities. It is the same general location, some where tagged Cedar and Old Farms west and some were tagged Cedar and Maple Hill.

Councilor DelBouno was wondering if this realignment will affect that intersection as well and to her that is a bigger picture, it is impacting more a much larger section of Cedar Street, including the intersection of Maple Avenue. Residents do need to be considered, would hope that people who live in that neighborhood would be responsible neighbors to respect each other. She is very impressed with this current plan.

B Grant Application: 2017 Responsible Growth and Transit Oriented Development Grant Program

Craig Minor, Town Planner. Mr. Minor stated that the TPZ would like to apply for a 2017 OPM Responsible Growth and TOD Grant to conduct a "TOD Public Information Program". If the grant is approved, the program would help TPZ increase the level of understanding by Newington Junction residents about TOD. The TPZ tried to adopt TOD zoning regulations earlier this year and it was apparent that many residents think TOD means high density, low income housing and that a TOD zone will lead to inappropriate business their neighborhoods and eminent domain of their homes. Mr. Minor stated that is also became apparent that while

everyone agrees that high density housing is not right for Newington Junction, there is a universal definition of high density. This project would give TPZ the opportunity to explain TOD in a neutral way using architectural renderings, and examples from other Connecticut towns. The TPZ may also conduct, under this program, a visual preference survey so they can get a sense of what is acceptable to the community. This program will also fund the creation of TPZ zoning regulations that are tailored for the Newington Junction neighborhood that would take place after the public information session. TPZ will review this application at their meeting tomorrow.

Mayor Zartarian stated that he has an issue with language in number 11. Mr. Minor agreed to change the wording in the paragraph.

Councilor Budrejko agreed with the Mayor's comments. She has been at several TPZ meetings and the way this is worded, it seems like a sales job, rather than an educational look at what not the benefits of TOD, but what TOD is. She also thought it was going to be identifying the concerns of the residents as well and thought there was going to be more listening involved and what the residents' concerns are with TOD and translating them into TPZ regulations. Newington is very small, she doesn't think the concerns with TOD at the Junction are just confined to that neighborhood; she thinks there is a broader audience that should be incorporated into this.

Councilor Klett stated that this is the kind of grant that makes her absolutely crazy. The state is in horrible condition, we are cutting money to education, we are cutting money in every which way, yet there is no problem with coming up with \$25,000 for a grant to convince people that TOD is ok. It rubs me the wrong way. Furthermore, she thought our 2020 plan of development was the plan that identified what was acceptable in terms of TOD zoning regulations for the Town of Newington. The TPZ spent months listening to residents to discuss what they wanted for regulations and development for the Town of Newington. She sees it as marketing also and is appalled that the State of Connecticut would cut services to people yet give out grants like this. She finds it totally unacceptable. This is a sales pitch.

Mr. Minor responded to Councilor Klett's about the TOD. The plan development talks about what Newington as a town wants preserved, but it doesn't contain any details. We now have the challenge to put that concept into actual regulations and that is why having a consultant help with that. This is education. Whether it is approved or not is up to the council. Mr. Minor stated the grant opportunity came to his attention and wrote the grant up.

Councilor DelBuono stated that she feels strongly that it should be more about listening to the residents and she knows that a 2020 plan is in place, but since the Fastrack is in action, the neighborhood may have different feelings about what they want or don't want there than they did a few years ago. She agrees that this should not be a sales pitch on TOD. We don't want to force anything on the residents and want them in alignment with what the council is doing.

Mr. Minor stated that he will revise the application and will provide an update to the councilor as well. He thanked the councilors for their comments.

C. Discussion: DOT Road Safety Audit of Newington Center

Craig Minor, Town Planner. Mr. Minor presented to the council the Road Safety Audit ("RSA") the CT DOT recently completed of the Newington Town Center. Due to its length, a link to the RSA was provided to the council. A RSA is an assessment of walking and biking routes in town, to identify issues that prevent or discourage walking and bicycling. The DOT has recently embraced the concept of complete street which means that a street should be designed for

vehicles, pedestrians and bicycles. Many cities and town are going in this direction. The report contains several options for the town to take to improve walking and cycling in town center and are grouped by categories, short term (simple, low cost improvements); medium term (involve some expense and/or planning) and long term (more expensive or require coordination with the DOT). With the councils permission, the town staff will review this report thoroughly and come back to the council with its own recommendations on suggested improvements that involve making physical changes to town streets; the council can then approve the changes that is likes and possibly have public hearings on the ones that may be controversial. The Complete Streets epic is starting to take hold across the country and hopefully now Newington.

Mayor Zartarian asked Mr. Minor how long it will take the staff to complete the review and come back. Mr. Minor stated that it would be a couple of months. Councilor Manke asked whether the DOT just came and did this survey or was this something the town requested. Mr. Minor stated that about a year and a half ago, the town got information on a grant opportunity to get a safety audit done with no expense to the town; one requirement was that a specific area of town needed to be picked. He and Bill DeMaio got into a discussion of whether it should be Newington center or a park area in town. Another reason why it was important for Newington to apply for this grant was the DOT is embarking on a program that they call "Community Connectivity" and this is a large ambitious program all having to do with complete streets. One of the requirements is that if the town wants to participate in this program in the future, the town has to have done a road safety audit. This makes the town eligible for future grants for other complete street funding. The study was done in Newington center, several citizens participate in the program. The report was actually completed back in December/January.

Councilor Nagel wanted to know, aside from the fact it appears to be things that are physically done, does it also include recommendations that would involve implementing laws or changing various things to make them safer? Does it go beyond physically painting lines and moving shoulders and sidewalks. Mr. Minor said yes, it does.

D. Grant Application: "2017 Bark for Your Park" Grant Program

Bill DeMaio, Superintendent of Parks & Recreation. Mr. DeMaio stated that he wanted to present to the council the idea of a dog park at Young Farm. As a Parks & Recreation Superintendent people have been asking for a dog park. He stated that we was successful to find the PetSafe grant for \$25,000. Dog parks are expensive; people think you can just put up a fence. Fences are \$17,000 to \$25,000. The dog park would consist of approximately 1 acre of land that you fence in with a 5' tall rubber/vinyl coated fence so that is doesn't rust, there would be a double gate for dogs and people to get in. The one acre property 208' x 208', which is divided in half by a 5' fence with small dogs on one side and large dogs on the other. Amenities usually include an obstacle course, it's a playground for dogs. It would also include 8' gates so the parks department can have access to maintain the park, as well as water access. Poop bag dispensers will be there and because it is at Young Farm, a shade structure is recommended, as well as some picnic tables and benches. He wants to know if the council wants him to complete a grant application to PetSafe, it is very competitive, there is not guaranty to get this, country wide. The due date is June 30. The Parks & Rec commission last Tuesday voted unanimously to support the idea. His recommendation would be to put the park to the left of the path behind the house where it is pretty far away and it wouldn't interfere with anything. At any one time, you can probably find 20-40 people with dogs there.

Councilor Nagel stated that the being a dog supporter this is a nice idea. The grant is for \$25,000, but the amount you have given us is for \$40,000; \$65,000. Are all the elements you mentioned absolutely required. Mr. DeMaio stated that nothing is required. He has been doing this a long time and he seen many of them across the country. You can certainly get rid of a

shade structure or a park bench, but he thinks the question is should we do this if we are going to nickel and dime it. Councilor Nagel stated that he knows that certain things are necessary like water. In terms of the location, have you consulted with the Deming Young farm group regarding this? Are there any other options as to where the park can be other than the ones you provided in the overhead picture. Mr. DeMaio stated that he reached out to Mr. Goodale and spoke to him prior to exploring the idea. They are very supportive of it. There are other options, but is not aware of any other parks that have 1 acre of open space not being used. The area is not set in concrete, whatever makes sense, would like to be close to path so it can be handicapped accessible as well as parking, and close to the water source.

Councilor DeLuca stated that when this property was acquired in an agreement with DEEP, have you been in contact with them to check on regulations. Mr. DeMaio stated that he and Jaime went over the regulations and one of the regulations states that you cannot charge more than double for out of town people for property use when it recreational purposes. Also, Hoffmann Farm in Cromwell is almost the exact same idea, they took the aquifer money from the DEEP, had this type of arrangement and put the dog park there and they went to the DEEP with no issues. If we get the grant we will certainly dot the i's and cross the t's.

Councilor DeLuca asked Mr. DeMaio in terms of the budget what are his ideas. Mr. DeMaio stated the thought that if it moved forward and were successful in getting \$25,000 he would make a proposal to the CIP program in the future, depending on the time frame. He would also go through a fundraising type campaign. Dog owners often times will donate money and put signs on fences that honoring their pet. I don't want to lead anybody to believe we can raise lots of money, but if you can get \$2 or \$6 thousand in donations, it certainly wouldn't be near the \$40,000, it would require the town's help. Or somebody that is rich that would like to name a dog park after themselves.

Councilor Klett stated that BOE was here earlier asking for us to free up funds from CIP telling us you can't do that, yet we sit here as a body discussing something that actually would cost more than the grant and having them discuss CIP so you would be holding their hand for the CIP for next year's budget at the same time we are telling the BOE we won't discuss.

Mr. DeMaio stated he wanted to be clear, the council has no commitment tonight, all the council is committing to is allowing him apply for the grant. The council can deny the grant if we get it and by no means would he commit to the CIP program. Someone asked how would I fund the rest of it, I would go to the CIP, but the council has no responsibility and not commitment to it. Councilor Klett stated the only other would be to fund it through a budget next year, because it is not presently in the P&R budget for this year, the remainder of the money. Again, the council would be supporting we haven't actually identified where those funds would come from and while the dog park is a great idea, it strikes me as polar opposite when we are going to be discussing something in a few minutes that has to do with moving funding around. She loves the idea of putting a dog park in place and she knows that people have asked for that, but is concerned of voting in favor of something that costs more than we actually have in our hand for.

Mr. DeMaio stated if you don't want him to apply for the grant, it is less work for him. Councilor Klett wishes that he could come up with all of the money so it wouldn't be a problem. Mr. DeMaio stated that most grants require additional funding. Councilor Klett stated that most grants require that the applicant commit to future funding at the time of applying for the grant. Mr. DeMaio stated that actually this one doesn't. It commits the Town Manager to either allow us to commit to maintenance of the park or allow volunteers to maintain it. This is a private grant. Councilor Klett stated with this grant you request the \$25,000 but still need to figure out where additional funding will come from, it's not anywhere right now, it's not in anyone's budget.

Mr. DeMaio stated the Councilor Klett is correct, there is no money in the budget for this. The National Association of Parks & Recreation informed Mr. DeMaio of the grant. He did some research on the internet and thought that maybe this is something that might help the town since people have been asking for a dog park. \$25,000 is better than zero, but he understands Councilor Klett's point. Councilor DelBuono asked if the town got the \$25,000 grant could put up a fence and be good to go, or does the whole thing need to be done at once?

Mr. DeMaio envisions the whole thing being done at once. In the past he has tried to build in phases and it never really gets completed because other priorities come up. Even if we get the grant, the town does not have to commit. This is not a slam dunk, this is very competitive and they are only giving a few in the country. Councilor Nagel wanted to know if the grant itself has any time limit. Does it need to be used within a certain period of time once it is received, can it be used 4-5 years down the road? Mr. DeMaio stated no. He thinks that the funds need to be used within 18 months to 2 years once received.

Councilor Marocchini stated that it is very simple in his mind. Apply for the grant, if we get the grant, we will then figure out where the rest of the money can come from because, as usual, Newington is not the first town to put in a dog park, he is tired of being behind the eight ball. Let's just do it, there is a perfect spot for it, lot's of people already walk their dogs there, I am sure there is plenty support for this. Mr. DeMaio stated that a bunch of dog people could get together and do some fundraising too. That may be encouraging, if they get behind. Who knows, they might find some rich people and be successful. Companies, Petco, Pet Supplies Plus. In Rocky Hill, one of the pet chains provide all the bags and the dispensers just to name it after them. There are all kind of ideas. Councilor DelBuono asked if there is any issue of liability of having a dog park. Will that increase the town's cost in any way?

Mr. DeMaio stated that he did not, but can answer the question anyway. In his business, when you have two pools, when you have life and death for 84 hours/week for 8 weeks, everything else besides that is nothing near to liability. The town is fortunate enough to have a big blanket insurance program which is pretty good. People fall off swing sets, they fall off monkey bars, they slide into home plate and break legs and arms, my whole business is full of liability. Not aware of any law suits in Connecticut, take our skate park, knock on wood, in New Britain and in Newington, there has not been one law suit yet. Mr. DeMaio will double check with Jeff Barons, he is the insurance expert.

Councilor Budrejko was wondering if these are self regulating as far as maintenance and clean up, historically in the past, there have been issues with the maintenance or our parks and believes that this would be one park where we wouldn't want it to get out of hand by staying clean. We want to make sure that this park is well maintained and not neglected. Mr. DeMaio stated that they would have to maintain it. They currently mow that facility and spring trim. He hopes that that the users pick up after themselves. There would be signage and rules and regulations. He reiterated that you are not going to get "bad" people at the park, you are going to get people that are community oriented with dogs that want to socialize and play. Yes, we will maintain it.

Mayor Zartarian asked Mr. DeMaio if he had considered any location other than Young Farm. Mr. DeMaio stated that he tried to go through every single park property there is an was unable to find the space that is that big that has water, parking, open field like that. Mayor Zartarian stated that Mr. DeMaio said the magic words "open field"; the field is a nesting area for a protected species. I like dogs, but would not support this now. Mr. DeMaio stated that it is not a big deal to him, you are the decision makers. Councilor Budrejko stated that she is trying to find use for the overflow parking at Churchill Park; that will not get developed into anything, it is near a park. That is piece of property that seems like it would work.

Mr. DeMaio stated that he had a meeting with soccer people who want to bring that area back up again for soccer fields, then again, the neighborhood is not big on having kids play soccer there; it can be revisited.

E. Supplemental Appropriation for Special Education & STEM Academy Teachers at NHS

Mayor Zartarian stated that the council received a request from the Chair of the Newington BOE stating Under Section C-807 of the Newington Town Charter, the Newington Board of Education hereby requests the transfer of \$625,000 from the Capital appropriation to the Board for the fiscal year 2017-2018 in the operating budget. The purpose of this request is to fund special education outplacement costs discovered after budget adoption as well as the opening of the Newington High School STEM Academies. The memo goes on to say Newington High School is getting ready to run student schedules so we would appreciate consideration by the council, and a decision prior to the May 24th meeting of the Board of Education. Thank you for your consideration. The letter then goes on to quote Section C-807 of the Charter. The Mayor states to his knowledge this request encompasses unchartered territory and is unaware that any precedent exists. He took the request to the town attorney for his opinion on this matter Under Section C-807. The town attorney responded to the mayor's question by stating he see two obstacles that would prevent such an action. One. The request is more appropriately defined as a transfer pursuant to the second provision of Chapter C-808. Chapter C-808 states that the council may transfer the whole or any part of the unencumbered balance of any appropriation to any other purpose to which the council may re-appropriate money provided that such a transfer may be made from budget appropriations only in the last 6 months of the fiscal year and there shall be attached to the resolution making the transfer, a certificate from the Director of Finance that such balance exists free from encumbrances. Therefore, Chapter 808 finds it would have to be unencumbered and Ms. Harter, as finance director, would have to attach a certificate stating as such because the requested proceeds are from an earmarked fund, I don't believe you would be able to certify them as unencumbered. If, however, the money became unencumbered, the process would still require a resolution by the council and if passed, the money would not be available to transfer until the last 6 months of the 2017-2018 fiscal year. The added caveat that makes this option ___ is that we are discussing projected funds that aren't yet in the position and there is not way at this moment what funds will be available in the last 6 months of the fiscal year. Two, if the request is defined a a special appropriation pursuant to Section C-807 the proceeds again would have to be unencumbered and because the BOE is specifically asking that earmarked funds be specially appropriated, I don't believe you will be able to certify those funds as un appropriated and unencumbered, this option also requires council intervention in the form of an ordinance pursuant to Section C-408. I hope I shed some light on this in these challenging fiscal times. The attorney has indicated that given the wording of your request we would have to have an ordinance on this for the money and treat this as a special appropriation.

Councilor Anest asked if there was a way that the council can vote in it, since we know the monies are there, and in January or 6 months, transfer the money to the BOE budget. Mayor Zartarian stated that he would have to ask the town attorney. Councilor Serra stated that the town attorney should have been at this meeting tonight.

Councilor DelBuono stated that the council received the request on May 18; not a lot of notice to make a decision. This is a large issue to take and consider, it is very serious. I agree with what the town attorney said. I have concerns with taking a vote before we know what is coming from the state. There could be some changes to our budget overall, and looking at unencumbered funds and how we would spend them while some may need to go to the BOE,

some may need to go to the town and some may need to go elsewhere. That is something she doesn't believe they can vote on now when talking about the last six months of the year. Very hesitant to commit to something when we don't know what is coming our way. Last year funds were moved because of an unexpected expense but the funds were unencumbered, it's been done. Hesitant to do anything right now.

Ann Harter stated that last year after the budget was adopted, some of the state funding had been cut, they changed the motor vehicle cap, so it changed the dynamics of our revenue, in that case it wasn't that we had to transfer anything, but we could not fund a capital project for town hall improvements, so that we would basically break even. Basically freezing a CIP expense.

Councilor Anest asked the Superintendent what is the per pupil cost for magnet schools? Dr. Collins stated that depends. There is a \$2,000 transportation fee, it costs us about \$6,000 and it costs the state \$10,443, so you add those three numbers together, that is what it would be. Cost is about \$23,000 - \$25,000 per student. Councilor Anest asked the out of pocket cost. Dr. Collins answered that our cost is \$6,000. Councilor Anest asked how many students. Dr. Collins answered that the most recent batch is \$330,000. Councilor Anest then asked how many students are in the stem academies. Dr. Collins stated each has 50, and the stem academies at the middle level have approximately 100 kids.

Councilor Anest stated that by funding the two STEM teachers it could reduce our payment to the state by more than what the teacher's salaries would be. If we funded the two STEM teacher at the cost of \$179,000. So basically, if we gave you the money for the two STEM teachers, you would ultimately save the money paid to the CREC schools and you would be able to fund it the following year by not having that tuition. Dr. Collins said that is hard to say because that there are people now threatening to go to the magnet schools. Councilor Anest said she understands they are on a wait list and not very happy.

Dr. Collins stated their choice is to stay here. We have about 45 students at the high school level who are attending magnet schools. Less than 10 at the middle level. Councilor Anest stated that by funding the teachers, we would have a gain in money that we would have. Have we been reimbursed for the project yet? Dr. Collins stated that is where he has to take off his town hat and put his state hat on. We will get reimbursed and the state does pay for 50% of it, so he asked Mrs. Harter about how much the town has received and we have received approximately \$550,000 and the project came in at \$1.1 million or so, so the town should not expect that the state is going to pay for a project that is not opening.

Councilor Anest asked if there is no classes and this academy we don't get the funding. Dr. Collins stated why the state would give money for a project that is not opening. Councilor (inaudible) asked if we would have to pay that money back. Dr. Collins stated that the he is certainly not going to lie to the state. His first responsibility is to the state, not the Town of Newington.

Councilor Marocchini stated that one of his biggest concerns is that we decided to fund the construction of the STEM academy at the high school, a \$2 million project, It is not whether we should or should not fund the staff, it is how do we fund the staff. To be quite honest, I go to Ms. Harter to answer that question rather the town attorney or any town attorney for that matter.

Councilor DelBuono stated she wants everyone to be careful as to how we characterize this. The council does not hire teachers, we don't set funding aside for a certain purpose as a council, that is BOE job, it is our job to give them a budget and an amount of money that they then determine what to do with that money. Just be careful how we are wording this tonight, we

can give the BOE an amount of money tonight, but we still don't have control over what happens to that money.

Councilor Anest stated that she is just trying to justify and try to do my due diligence, if we give them an appropriation of x number of dollars, how would it benefit the school, the town, we are councilors, we don't only represent people that don't have children in school, we represent the entire town and she thinks it is the council's responsibility to invest the future, because if we don't, who will. The \$625,000 will not raise taxes, it is just moving money, there has to be a way, a creative way that we should be able to move it, if it is not going to cause any difference in the tax burden to residents this year. We owe it to our students, to the parents, to the students in the middle school, to the 350 students in who put classes on their schedules, who might not get to take substitute classes and take study hall and possibly fall behind in credits, because unfortunately they weren't able to fund the academies we spent millions of dollars on. She stated that she has been approached by many parents pleading with her to find the funds for the STEM academy teachers, and the 4 teachers laid off, just trying to figure out a way to make everybody happy and not incur any additional taxes to the residents. Councilor Manke stated that is won't raise the taxes this year, but what will it do to taxes next year? Councilor Anest responded that is a gamble you have to take, you have to roll the dice. Where are your priorities, education? Councilor Manke stated that you can't characterize this as not raising your taxes forever. I you put this into their operating budget, you have to put it in next year.

Councilor Anest stated of course next year they will have enough money. Right now you have .3, you give them another .8, it is 1.3, but you also have to remember if we give them the money to use it for the academy, then that will save any outplacement of students to CREC school, so now they might not need such a large increase next year. Councilor Anest is also concerned about not getting the full funding or reimbursement from the state if we have to return the \$550,000 where does that leave us? Councilor DelBuono asked what is the suggestion then? We have an opinion from the town attorney that says we can't move the unencumbered balance in the last six months.

Councilor Klett stated everyone knows how she feels about the town attorney, not going to pick on the democratic side or republican side, but just can't go unnoticed that every time we have a party in the majority, the town attorney's opinion always goes the way the party wants it. It is only an opinion, a town attorney's opinion. A town council is not obligated to follow a town attorney's opinion. It is our responsibility to come up with a solution, not to hide behind opinions. Let's look at the situation. You folks put a letter in the paper, you talked about how you only gave the BOE a .3, \$204,000 increase when the request was a \$2.2 million or 3.1. You can't put a shine on a sneaker. What we gave them is not enough to do what needs to be done. It is our job to stand behind the students of this community and not hide behind the opinion of the town attorney.

Councilor DelBuono stated that the council is bound by the Town Charter and the town attorney's opinion is merely speaking to his interpretation of the Charter. Who's interpretation would you suggest we take? In the past how many years that we have had a town attorney, that is what we relied on. Why should this be different? If there is another proposition or idea it should be investigated. She does not appreciate being put under the gun to make a decision tonight when she doesn't think it is possible. In terms of how much we gave them, they asked for \$2.2, they had \$1.2 in reserves, there was other money, don't make is sound like it was only \$200,000, there was other money available, you are mischaracterizing the entire process. Councilor Klett stated that the article mischaracterized what went down with the budget.

Councilor DelBuono stated she is sorry that Councilor Klett doesn't like what they wrote, but that has nothing to do with what is on the table right now, tonight. Councilor Manke stated they can easily point out the date of this letter is May 18 and as you well know putting a letter in the Town Crier has to be done on Tuesday of that week, so we did not have this information prior to our letter to the editor. Apparently that is the assumption of some of the letters read in to the record, just want to be clear of the time frame here. Councilor Manke was concerned that we receive a letter on May 18 and asking for action on May 23, which does not give us much time to do that. I am concerned by doing this, we set a precedent, what do we do if another town agency does this.

Councilor Marocchini stated he didn't know what the feeling would be if the request was funded from the general fund and then not fund the CIP, like we spoke to earlier. Mrs. Harter stated that moving money to an operating budget, the Charter specific about when the timing of that is and we haven't even started the fiscal year. The general fund has a law by the Charter.

Dr. Collins agrees that the Mayor is absolutely right, this is unchartered territory, but so is using a non-lapsing fund for the money, we had to think outside the box and not raise taxes, and this is what the BOE came up with. We had to lay off 4 people; we have special education obligations of \$3.7 million, we only had \$2.7 budgeted, and obviously the \$2 million STEM academy will not open. There are definitely things that need to be addressed. The BOE budget proposal counted on using the \$550,000 which is why we are working so hard to save that so that we could budget tighter coming in to this year. Which is exactly what we did. The \$2.49 request was only for payroll, so we took care of everything else planning on using that \$550,000 for what ifs. That is gone. We are now finding ourselves \$1 million short in Special Education as well.

Councilor Marocchini stated the he heard that the BOE would not need the funds until January. Is there a way that the council can commit to the money in 6 months? We need to make Dr. Collins comfortable because once he doesn't layoff, or hires two or whatever, and the staff is there, then something goes wrong. Councilor Marocchini thinks that the council should transfer \$625,000, even if it is next April, and that certain people are more concerned about raising the budget for the BOE than anything else. That is fine, but you are worrying about staffing the BOE in the future, indefinitely, as long as we are here and he is getting aggravated about that. We are talking about trying to fund the BOE properly to staff a \$2 million building that we just finished. It is mind boggling. What are we really worried about at this table? He knows that not all are worried the same, but think some are. Staffing these things that have already been funded. Why would we leave funds in in a place to building something else instead of staffing something that we have already built?

Councilor DelBuono wanted to make clear that she is not worried about the bottom line next year. If the \$1.8 million is used for current expenses, that is already an increase for next year that we know of. Her primary concern is what happens when the State comes to us, right now Newington stands to loose up to \$6 million. She is hopeful that won't happen, but we don't have any guarantees. We need to be able to look at the entire picture when making this decision, so if that \$625,000 is unencumbered in 6 months and it is needed to pay for the \$3 million state deficit, it might be teacher retirement. She is not saying this can't happen, she doesn't think now is the time to make it happen. We need to be responsible to every resident. We built these buildings, obviously that needs to be a priority. If the BOE or anyone else has another idea, we will explore it. The opinion on the Charter is what it is, unless we can get a different opinion or discuss it further at another meeting, we can't make a change tonight to that. Just concerned about the bigger picture.

Councilor Serra is very concerned about the money now. What is going to next year when we do have to give them the money and we didn't put a teacher in the academy and now we also have to pay back \$550,000 to the state, and we have more students going out to CREC schools so that tuition payment is higher, then more kids move in that need special education. What are we going to tell them? They can't move into the town? We have to pay this, it happens, you do it, you take care of it. We can't not fund these children and their education, they have been in the middle school at these academies and now we have to fund it for them to go the high school and do it.

Councilor Klett stated it is called do the right thing. The town council is not obligated to follow the opinion of the town attorney. We need to find another solution to the problem. Councilor Marocchini stated that the simple answer is that we will leave that money unencumbered until January, then we use it to fund it. Councilor Manke doesn't want to obligate another council with that decision. Dr. Collins asked that the money earmarked for the Wallace project be used because they wail not be working on that project for several years. Councilor Marocchini is not sure how to take care it, either with a resolution or a memorandum of understanding. Are you up for finding a solution to fix this?

Councilor Budrejko stated that this is uncharted territory. Maybe this is the only solution, maybe there is no solution, maybe there is another solution. There are possible legal implications, this is a brand new area. Why does this decision need to be made tonight? She would love to sit down and be able to figure out how to do it.

Dr. Collins stated that the decision needs to be made because schedules need to be run, either with or without the STEM academies. Councilor DelBuono asked if the decision came in June, hypothetically, can schedules be rerun? Can you have students reregister or go online? How does the process work? Is tonight a drop dead time? Dr. Collins stated that they have to get the schedules run. Course requests are put in and it uses an algorithm to put kids in the right place. Drop dead was really two weeks ago; typically the schedules are done by May 1.

Councilor Marocchini wants to know how to say we won't spend the Wallace money, how do we say it? Is it a motion? First we need a motion to waive the rules, and then a motion to do that. Mrs. Harter stated that again, the reason for the town attorney opinion is because a transfer is done at the last six months of the fiscal year, that is the timing issue dealt with. As the finance director she can't tell the council to do a resolution that she thinks goes against what the town charter is saying. Councilor Marocchini is not saying to transfer before 6 months; he wants the council to say that it will not be used for anything else; then transfer.

Ten minute recess.

Councilor Marocchini asked if the time frame was irrelevant, would that change anything? He is getting the feeling because, the answer is requested tonight, is a big portion of what is bothering some people, would you feel comfortable you would be willing to figure this out? Mayor Zartarian said he personally would be willing to consider it. Councilor Marocchini said he is not looking for an answer of consideration, he is looking for a yes, we will figure out how to come up with the money. Either you are for finding a way to get the money or you are not, it is that cut and dry.

Councilor Budrejko said she is for trying to find a way, and hopefully there will be a way. Councilor Marocchini stated there is a way, there is always a way. Where there is a will there is a way. You have to be willing to say yes, we will do it or no, we won't. Councilor Manke stated that there are two things bothering him. One is the short notice the council received regarding this and doesn't feel he can make a decision based on a day and a half notice. The other thing

he is concerned about is setting a precedence, we are being asked to change things and he thinks it is a dangerous precedence. We can disagree with the town attorney, we can get other opinions, but the only thing we have is the opinion of the town attorney saying we wouldn't be able to do this under December/January, six months from now.

Mayor Zartarian stated that if the memo from Ms. Petronio didn't come through when it did, it would not have been on tonight's agenda. Seeing the delay in the communication to the council, it doesn't seem to be much of a priority to the BOE. Councilor Marocchini stated he seems to think, that we could not vote on saying we won't use the money.

Councilor DelBuono stated that she is not comfortable about voting on it until we know more. There is a matter of a couple of weeks. Is there a way to run schedules both ways so the students would know? Dr. Collins stated that the can run the schedules, but would need to go through each one by one to make changes; need to run all the schedules now. If we run them now and then run them again in July, the schedules would be completely different. Once you give out a schedule, it is final. It would be irresponsible to delay until July.

Councilor Klett doesn't understand why we don't have enough time. There are times when it is necessary to waive the rules. Councilor DelBuono stated that is not just about the notice. It is difficult to make decisions when the Town Manager is out of town, only two business days to discuss it and that is a piece of it. She has many reasons why she doesn't think tonight is the night to vote on it. If somebody wants to make a motion, go ahead. It is what it is. Councilor DelBuono said she is willing to look at solutions, but she cannot guaranty that they will find the money. Just not comfortable with coming up with something tonight. The council has a meeting on June 13. If we can come to some agreement, she cannot commit to an exact dollar amount this evening. Councilor Marocchini stated that he feels that at some point you have to step up and do what is correct, whether the state hands something down or not. The BOE deserves the funding for what was built.

Councilor Marocchini made a motion to waive the rules. Seconded by Councilor Anest.

Roll call vote:

Councilor Anest: Yes
Councilor Budrejko: No
Councilor DelBuono: No
Councilor Klett: Yes
Councilor Manke: No
Councilor Marocchini: Yes
Councilor Nagel: No
Councilor Serra: Yes
Mayor Zartarian: No.

Motion fails 4-5

Councilor Klett asked Dr. Collins if there is any way to put off the schedules for a short time. Dr. Collins said yes, we can put them off for a couple weeks. Tomorrow is the Boards last meeting. Dr. Collins stated that he can wait to run the schedules until after the June 13 council meeting. Councilor Klett stated that by the June 13 meeting the council will try to come up with a solution and make it work. Dr. Collins stated that if it means that we can provide 350 kids with programming than two weeks is certainly worth it. Once we get into July, it is very problematic for the kids and there would be no way to make adjustments.

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

- A. Town Plan and Zoning Commission
 - 1. Appoint Michael J. Fox (Alternate)

Councilor Anest moved the following.

RESOLVED:

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

Town Plan and Zoning Commission

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
Alternate: Michael J. Fox	1901 Main Street	D	Immed. – 11/30/17	Vacant

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That said appointment is contingent upon Mr. Fox’s resignation from the Economic Development Commission.

Seconded by Councilor Manke. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Klett absent)

- B. Economic Development Commission
 - 1. Accept the Resignation of Michael J. Fox

Councilor Anest moved the following.

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the resignation of Michael J. Fox as a member of the Economic Development Commission, in accordance with correspondence dated May 16, 2017.

Seconded by Councilor Serra. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Klett absent)

- C. Zoning Board of Appeals
 - 1. Accept Resignation of Michael Karanian (Alternate)

Councilor DelBuono moved the following.

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the resignation of Michael Karanian as an alternate member of the Zoning Board of Appeals in accordance with correspondence dated May 19, 2017.

Seconded by Councilor Manke. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Klett absent)

- 2. Appoint Michael Karanian (Full Member)

Councilor DelBuono moved the following.

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby makes the following appointment:

Zoning Board of Appeals

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
Full Member: Michael Karanian	15 Valley View Drive	R	Immed. – 11/30/19	L. Califano (resigned)

Seconded by Councilor Manke. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Klett absent)

- D. Board of Ethics
 - 1. Appoint Robert Gerrol

Councilor Anest moved the following.

RESOLVED:

Pursuant to a recommendation by Town Manager Tanya D. Lane, the Newington Town Council hereby makes the following appointment of an unaffiliated member of the Board of Ethics:

BOARD OF ETHICS

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
Robert Gerrol	37 Turkey Hill Road	U	Immed. – 11/30/2020	Vacant

Seconded by Councilor Manke. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Klett absent)

- 2. Correct Appointment of Kimberly Ramstad

Councilor Anest moved the following.

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby amends resolution 2017-29, passed on April 25, 2017, to read as follows:

Pursuant to a recommendation by Town Manager Tanya D. Lane, the Newington Town Council hereby makes the following appointment of an unaffiliated member of the Board of Ethics:

BOARD OF ETHICS

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
Kimberly Ramstad	555 Main Street	U	Immed. – 11/30/2020	Self (reappointment)

Seconded by Councilor Serra. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Klett absent)

3. Correct Appointment of Frank Marci

Councilor Anest moved the following.

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby amends resolution 2014-50, passed on April 22, 2014, to read as follows:

Pursuant to a recommendation by Town Manager, the Newington Town Council hereby makes the following appointment of an unaffiliated member of the Board of Ethics:

BOARD OF ETHICS

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
Frank Marci	72 Southwood Road	U	Immed. – 11/30/2017	Self (reappointment)

Motion to amend Resolution by Councilor Anest, seconded by Councilor Manke. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Klett absent).

Seconded by Councilor Manke. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Klett absent)

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

Councilor Budrejko moved the following.

RESOLVED:

That property tax refunds in the amount of \$3,297.04 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.

Seconded by Councilor DelBuono. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Klett absent)

X. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A. Regular Meeting, May 9, 2017

Motion of accept the meeting minutes by Councilor Manke, seconded by Councilor DelBuono. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Klett absent)

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

None.

XII. COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Manke wanted to report on Motorcycle Madness. He attended and he thought it was a good event, it brought a lot of people to town and it raised money for Parks & Rec. He completed their staff for their hard work and people on the commission for working the event. The weather was perfect and it was a good time.

Councilor Serra wanted to thank Parks & Rec. and the board and all the employees for doing a wonderful job with Motorcycle Madness.

Councilor Budrejko wanted to let people who are interested know that there is a special TPZ meeting at 5 pm, they are going to walking the TOD at Newington Junction.

XIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL (**In Person/Via Telephone: 860-665- 8736**) (3 MINUTE TIME LIMIT PER SPEAKER ON ANY ITEM)

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive. Mr. Mayor can you speak up, I can barely hear you. First she wants to thank everyone for coming together to come to a solution for the BOE. You did a good job. Let's see if you can go forward and find an answer. She hates to see as resident, like Councilor Marocchini said, we build a building and you don't have it staffed and if my understanding is correct, that if is not staffed, the state will take back the money. That deeply concerns her. As far a grant monies, she would be remiss is she didn't say thank you to Councilor Klett. She thinks there should be a moratorium on grants until the state gets itself into a better financial state. All these studies about studies, even with the dog park i get it, it's nice, \$25,000, but now you will need \$40,000 more if you want to do it right. I was offered the job by Superintendent DeMaio as the official pooper scooper of the park, but declined. Still working on trying to get the Elton Drive pathway up to St. Mary's and up to the senior center cleaned; people dump stuff there. One of the residents on the street volunteered to buy the no dumping signs and put them up, but is has to go through the powers that be and she doesn't know who they are, she hopes they are listening and will let her neighbor put up the no dumping signs, maybe we can get the place cleaned up. Residents have gone out and done the work. She doesn't think dog park is going to be taken care of by the owners. In any case, the grant for the consultant for Newington Junction, she heard at TPZ, basically it is to sell the area. The Alumni Road project, what is the next stage, does it go to a referral, are there public hearings and she keeps hearing the state isn't in the sidewalk business, who is going to pay for the sidewalks?

Michael J. Fox, 1901 Main Street. First, thanks for the appointment. Second, what she said.

XIV. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

Councilor Manke wanted to remind everybody that the Memorial Day parade is on Saturday and if there is one thing this town should do is go to the Memorial Day parade and thank the 29 people from our town who gave their lives so that we can sit here and have the freedoms we have. Prior to the parade, if you can attend the Rose Ceremony where we read the service members names. He thinks it is important that at least twice a year those names get read out, they gave their lives for us.

Councilor Nagel wanted to remind everyone to please ask for a placard if you have someone come to your door selling anything. Do not let people in and if you have any questions or concerns, please contact the police department. Last Sunday he was at the Historical Society for a meeting and during the presentation motorcycles were tooling down

Willard Avenue and doing wheelies; once again, please tell the police department, don't hesitate to call that this is happening, eventually they will catch up with them.

Councilor Budrejko wanted to say thank you to everybody here. Obviously there is a difference of opinion and tonight's discussion could have gone in many different directions. Like the way we all work together.

Councilor Marocchini asked if everyone received their shirts/sweatshirts for the 100th anniversary of the fire department fundraiser. Basically we have tow weeks, is there a way to charge the town attorney, the manager and finance director to find a way to make this work and as quickly as possible and back to us in a timely fashion? He doesn't want to let this fall.

Mayor Zartarian wanted to let people know that he was at the state capital for a ceremony by the Connecticut Department of Public Health and the Connecticut EMS Council. Several EMS people were honored, one of them from Newington, Norm Manucci, who won the George A. Grading award for volunteerism and hopes at the next meeting they can have a resolution congratulating him. Councilor Anest asked the Mayor if attended an MDC meeting. Mayor Zartarian stated that the MDC meeting was two weeks ago. Councilor Anest asked the Mayor to keep the council apprised of those meetings.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Marocchini moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 p.m. Seconded by Councilor DelBuono. The motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Klett absent).

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Gibbon
Council Clerk