



Keith Chapman
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

200 GARFIELD STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

MAYOR BETH DELBUONO

NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 23, 2021

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
IN NEWINGTON, CT

2021 MAR 31 PM 2:11

James E. Krupinski
Town Clerk

This meeting was presented as a Zoom Webinar/Meeting.

Mayor DelBuono called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ROLL CALL

Councilor Anest
Councilor Braverman
Councilor Budrejko
Councilor Camillo
Councilor Donahue
Councilor Manke
Councilor Miner
Councilor Nagel
Mayor DelBuono

Staff Attendees:

Keith Chapman, Town Manager
Janet Murphy, Director of Finance
Stephen Clark, Police Chief
James E. Krupinski, Town Clerk
Susan Gibbon, Council Clerk

Also in attendance:

Dr. Maureen Brummett, Superintendent of Schools
Lou Jachimowicz, Chief Finance & Operations Officer
Paul Vassella, Board of Education Chairperson

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilor Manke moved to add March 9, 2021 Public Hearing Minutes to Item X. Motion by Councilor Manke to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Councilor Anest. Motion passed 9-0 (roll call vote).

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL (Via Zoom Application or Phone)
(4 MINUTE TIME LIMIT PER SPEAKER ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

A. Public Comments

- Cindy Stamm, 35 Judge Lane sated she is called regarding the shared services agenda item. Please don't make any decisions tonight.
- Jessica Weaver, 494 Main Street stated she is calling regarding the shared services agenda item. Issue is that at the meeting there was a lot of discussion about partnership

and working together. Issue with town council taking over BOE finances. Very concerning; not done in partnership. No research done; don't think it should be voted on tonight; seemed rushed through. Important as we look at the longevity of our town. We discussed how Newington was first in doing many things; town cannot and will not survive without our education system.

- Michael Branda, 77 Coronado Drive stated that he found out this morning that the shared services committee had what was worded carefully as a merger of the town and BOE finance departments. After reviewing that meeting, several things concerned me. Dr. Brummett was brought here because of her work and actually sharing services with the town government. She promised to build a true partnership between the BOE and the town and that effort feels like its been a solo one for the last year and a half; don't feel she was brought to the table to be a part of the solution. The shared services committee has provided no information to the BOE since the fall of 2020, and no information regarding merging of the finance departments. They met last week and this week for the first time in 5 months and both were conveniently timed before the BOE was able to meet and discuss what was presented at these meetings. Some members pointed to West Hartford as the example, while others pointed out we are not West Hartford. Seems like we want their end results without putting in the work to get there, which I find is ironic. The deputy mayor of West Hartford was invited to the meeting in January 2019 and from what I heard, the committee is ignoring his advice on how to proceed. Don't believe that finance department was discussed at any previous meetings, but facilities were discussed at great length. Where is the research, analysis? Councilor Miner asked if the town attorney was involved in this and no one had an answer. Maybe he was brought in, maybe he wasn't; but to vote on something you don't even know if you have legal grounds to do seems like a terrible way to conduct business. Lastly, the BOE finance and administration put in countless amount of hours putting together tonight's budget; think it is damaging to know that before we transmitted out budget to the town manager's office, we would be have a zero percent increase, which could force us to cut positions.
- Emily Guion, 20 Kirkham Street stated that she is calling in support of the Superintendent's proposed budget; she and her team have worked extremely hard over the past several months to present a lean and mean budget. Concerned with how low we've gone, if we go any lower, will need to backfill. Lucky this year to have funding from the federal government that will help. Hope you listen carefully to the presentation and realize that it is fiscally responsible.
- Forest Helvie, 282 Lamplighter Lane called speak on behalf of the budget proposed by the superintendent, a bare bones, responsible proposal. Very surprised to see the town manager's recommendation of a zero percent increase which will potentially lead to staffing cuts. Understand full well that next year we will need every person on deck. Last year the town and BOE worked together and made it work. Not a significant increase amount, less than half a percent. Hope the town council looks at the significant show of faith by Dr. Brummett. Know that there has been discussion about wants versus needs, good context and climate for that discussion. Getting about 60 percent from the state for Anna Reynolds; may not get that funding in the future; heck of a gamble to take and not take advantage of state aid while we can get it. Regarding the shared services of the finance department; I'm in higher education and we are seeing positions consolidated, but frequently shared services don't always yield savings. Hope that significant research is done prior to making changes and to not hamper Dr. Brummett in operating the BOE as efficiently as she has been.
- Steve Silvia stated he is calling in to congratulate Dr. Brummett on the austere submission of the budget. Know that the submission submitted to town council with the

town manager asking for zero percent is a challenge. Due to some recent communication provided by Dr. Brummett to the board, we will see a potential benefit from this year's health benefits in excess of \$1 million. Believe she only needs \$458,000 to near zero percent. Suggest target excess funds can carry over next year and apply it, to comply with zero percent increase by town manager. Hope convince board to return excess dollars to the town coffers. Regarding previous comments about no research being done and we just came to conclusions, there was a good, lively discussion and all members were supportive of consolidation efforts. The subject came up, what do we do first and what do we do second? The motion that I presented was to do them both and that was what was passed and will be presenting to our respective bodies for further deliberation. We are looking to save money with the consolidation and allow out town to have more assets to accomplish other things.

- Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive stated that she was watching CTN on the planning and development committee and there are a couple of bills before the legislature about control over zoning being turned over to the state rather than TPZ and affordable housing and was thinking about the moratorium that never went through. Holding off thinking Victory Gardens could be added to the numbers. Representative Turco stated that the Victory Gardens expansion is on hold. Wondering whether the town manager, town planner or anyone from the town signed up to speak and what their position was and if they could share that with us. On Facebook there was a post regarding the Anna Reynolds project going out of one committee and ready to go to the bonding committee; thanked Representative Turco on that and comment was made to watch tonight's council meeting. Wondering what they were alluding to, if anything. Stay safe and stay well.

B. Email Correspondence

- None

V. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Councilor Nagel stated that as Chair of the Shared Services Committee, I want to clarify and correct some misinterpretations that the public seems to have. There is nothing on this agenda, nor was there an intent for the council to move on anything. The resolution that was passed, not by everyone, but by the majority, was to get the ball moving with specifics being presented at a later time on our agenda to let you know exactly what that happens to be and our intent happens to be. As far as I know there is no reason to rush this without seeing if it's feasible and correct. This is on our agenda tonight, and as Mr. Silvia pointed out, it will be on the BOE agenda tomorrow. It is not something we are instructing the council to anything on at the moment. It's to let them know what we have done and to get things moving forward. I'll reserve any further comments until later and hopefully those in the public concerned about it will wait until we get to that item under new business where more information will be shared.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that she believes there were some misconceptions on a couple of items. There is no action proposed this evening regarding Anna Reynolds and I'm not sure what the Facebook post was about; there is nothing on our agenda now or within the next upcoming weeks regarding Anna Reynolds. It is going forward unless a catastrophic event happens to this town. I've said this over and over again, not sure why people are still questioning it. I don't have any intent of changing anything with that. There are concerns with the cost of the project and I'm hoping the committee will work on that. There is no intent by myself, and as far as I know, any members of this council to do anything different than what the people voted on. Not sure why that perception is out there; someone is spreading that idea and it's not coming from this council. In terms of shared services, there were a couple of comments made about the town wanting to "take over" and having pushed

through and taking action this evening. The item is on our agenda merely to get an update from the committee on what was recommended by the committee. The motion at the committee level was a recommendation to be made to both bodies, the BOE and the council. We will hear those recommendations and then the council and BOE can see their procedures and what happens next. There is no action being taken by the council this evening, don't anticipate any motions for action, it is merely a discussion item under new business. Interesting concept regarding the health benefits, that is something that I will be requesting be put on a future agenda to be discussed at greater length in terms of the process right now for the handling of the health benefit surplus.

VI. CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS

A. Health Update – COVID-19

- Town Manager Chapman stated that Newington is still in the red zone. Won't be opening anytime soon and stay as is until we drop out of the red zone. Meghan Manke stated that all first doses of vaccine have been completing; second doses are under way; five scheduled clinics in Newington. Concerned about the uptick and impact on opening of facilities. Need to maintain level of safety in town.
- Councilor Miner asked if CCHD is planning on any additional first rounds by having a mass vaccination clinic, possibly at the Berlin Fairgrounds.
- Town Manager Chapman stated that Meghan stated that CCHD and Emergency Management are currently working to coordinate regional clinics, possibly in May and looking at the Berlin Fairgrounds as a possible location.
- Councilor Budrejko stated it is confusing with so many statistics to be following. One press release says we are doing good, another says we are doing bad. In cases per capita Connecticut is one of the highest and that impacts designations of red zoned towns. I can understand the caution with reopening.
- Mayor DelBuono stated she got a briefing where she work today and were told very clearly to continue to maintain the same precautions we have had in place, cannot have any in-person meetings regardless of spacing. The only time we are allowed to have our masks off is when we are eating. Think everyone is concerned with some of the numbers. We will continue to listen to our health district and see where it takes us.

B. Town Hall Project Update

- Town Manager Chapman stated that they are working on odds & ends. Pavement needs to be put down in the parking lot in front of the building; will be moving the memorial monument to the rear of the building between the town hall and library and that will be done before Memorial Day so we can have our services there. We may have found a solution to the snow and ice situation on the stairway; heated stairway pads will be installed and plugged in when bad weather is predicted; not sure how it will be paid. Still looking at issue with air conditioning on the roof and shock absorber problem and that needs to be solved soon.
- Councilor Donahue stated that the Police Station looks very nice, blends in with the new building, nice job.
- Councilor Anest asked if there was any discussion of putting flags up around the Veterans Memorial.
- Town Manager Chapman stated that once the memorial is placed in its permanent location, the plan is to drill holes into the concrete to flagpole stanchions and flags will be put up on a permanent basis.

C. Senior Center HVAC/Window Replacement Projects

Motion by Councilor Anest

CERTIFICATION:

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

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>
11014-8220	Serial Bond Interest	\$236,284

Janet Murphy, Director of

Finance

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby transfers the above-certified funds in the General Fund to the following accounts in the Public Building Fund and Capital Improvement Fund:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>
31160-88103	Senior Center Window Replacement	\$118,800
30640-88112	SDC HVAC Replacement	\$117,484

Seconded by Councilor Nagel. Motion passed 9-0 (roll call vote)

D. Revised Job Description – Animal Control Officer

Motion by Councilor Manke

RESOLVED:

The Newington Town Council hereby approves the amendment to the “Classification and Pay Plan” by approving a revised job/position description for the Animal Control Officer (A-5) position, as recommended by Keith Chapman, Town Manager, in his capacity as Personnel Director.

Seconded by Councilor Anest. Motion passed 9-0 (roll call vote)

- Chief Clark stated that over the years we have been sharing these services with Wethersfield and they have been part time employees rather than full time and it has been real difficult when we hire part time animal control officers. We train them; they stay for a while and move on to full time positions. What we’ve done with Wethersfield is true regionalization, you’re not only going to see savings but improved customer service. There is immediate savings with the salary and benefits and there will be long-term savings with sharing the costs for only one vehicle. It’s a win-win by saving the town money and improving services. I appreciate the council’s timely review and would like to get this going as soon as possible.
- Town Manager Chapman stated that the job description only lists Newington because Wethersfield has their own job description; each town will have their own job description.
- Councilor Miner wanted to clarify - it will be one full-time employee, employed by the Town of Newington, is that correct?
- Chief Clark stated that is correct. One full-time employee who will be shared by Newington and Wethersfield. We are going to manage it, do the pay and manage the program and at the end of the year, we will be the town of Wethersfield 50% of the total cost.
- Councilor Miner stated it will be a Monday-Friday position, and after hours on call in case of emergencies.
- Chief Clark stated that is correct.

- Councilor Manke stated that this is a great example of shared services you get more service at a reduced cost; it is the wave of the future.
- Councilor Budrejko stated that it seems like it would be confusing for one individual, being paid by one cost center or organization, to have two job descriptions where when they cross the border into Wethersfield they have different responsibilities. Sure they are very similar, but it just seems confusing to have two separate ones in my opinion. If there are variable hours and sometimes weekends, it says it in the job description; wondering if that could be added.
- Councilor Miner asked if this was a union position.
- Chief Clark stated no it is not, two separate unions in Newington and Wethersfield. Too many factors to come into play and she is really working only part-time for both Newington and Wethersfield.
- Town Manager Chapman stated that as an administrative employee her hours will be based on needs without concern for overtime pay. She may work, four days, six days, depending on what the need is and it makes sense to have it as an administrative position rather than a bargaining union position.

E. Amended FitLot Agreement

Motion by Councilor Nagel

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby authorizes Keith Chapman, Town Manager, to execute the FitLot Partnership Agreement, Programmatic Grant Addendum, Amendment #1, for the FitLot Outdoor Fitness Park located at the Clem Lemire Sports Complex, a copy of which is attached to this resolution.

Seconded by Councilor Braverman. Motion passed 9-0 (roll call vote)

F. Department Budget Review:

1. Board of Education

- Paul Vassella, Board Chair stated he wanted to thank the council for the opportunity to present this budget. Dr. Brummett and our administrative team budget process was difficult one, we tried to cut as close as we could and eliminate any modicum of overages in our budget and I compliment them on that process. Earlier I made a comment about our budget shortfall, if you want to call it that, and the health benefits covering, but I don't believe that can be carried over into the next year's budget, maybe she can address that, but just to clarify that is not an item that can be used to help fund the 21/22 budget. With that being said I will let her proceed, and of course we are available for questions any time during the presentation.
- Dr. Maureen Brummett stated that the health benefit credit needs to be cemented this year and next year's is not yet determined, it won't be final until late summer or fall after the dust settles from all the expenditures this year. I will be brief this evening, since many of you have already seen this when they attended the board budget session a few weeks back. Some goals for 2020-22 is to continue preschool expansion; continue to expand Social/Emotional Learning, very important during pandemic; implement/expand Mastery Based Learning Practices, also very important during pandemic; support the collaboration and coherence of Middle and High School academies; ensure appropriate courses and structures and in place for new graduation requirements; ensure all students in town have an equitable educational experience that will prepare them for careers in the future, another important item during a pandemic. Dr. Brummett went over student demographics, believes that plays into budgetary issues before the town council this evening. In terms of

enrollment, highest enrollment was in 2008 and lowest was back in the 80's; there is a slow, but not significant decline in enrollment. We are now responsible for 180 kids that go out to a plethora of magnet schools throughout the Hartford area and CREC region. That is an annual cost to the district of approx. \$400,000 and that does not include kids who are eligible for special Ed or 504. I also get questions about our ratios - some are special Ed teachers, some are remedial teachers, when you look at teachers who teach in a classroom our ratio is 20 to 1. Average per pupil expenditure is around state average at 108 per pupil, again, very fiscal responsible spending. Staffing has not decreased - high in 08/09 of 371 certified staff; and our current staffing is 353. In 07/08 had a high of 147 para/tutor staff or non-certified and are currently at 124. In 2021 - 15.5% of kids are SPED; 5.7% are 504, and 7.1% are EL. Free lunch is provided to 30% of kids; 110 kids in Choice program and 175 in Magnet schools which we pay for. Racial diversity continues to be on the rise. Special Education costs continue to rise. Due to COVID, Special Ed costs did dip a bit. Cost of transportation for homeless kids is close to \$100,000. Have argued over flat funding ECS. Maintenance budget; keeping up with mandates. Keeps in mind ESSER funding - security purposes. Retain pre-k staff; add two new courses and NHS - African American Literature and UConn/ECE Physics 1; support general music program, Go Formative Assessment for Middle Schools and High School; ESS added to Wallace using ESSER monies. Discussed budget adjustment process; board approved a 0.84% increase; new budget request is \$77,411,613 or 0.58% increase. *A copy of the budget presentation is available on the town's website.*

- Councilor Budrejko thanked Dr. Brummett for the materials provide in budget book; lots of information; easy to follow. Under support - school counseling and psychological services have decreased a bit, would have thought that would have gone up.
- Dr. Brummett stated that it has gone up in previous years, we have a status quo approach and some of those monies may have been reallocated. We have been putting our money into Effective School Solutions which is an agency that comes in and runs programs and that actually provides the equivalent of a full-time social worker.
- Councilor Budrejko asked Dr. Brummett to explain the \$500,000 for purchase services.
- Dr. Brummett stated that is ironic you brought that up because some of the ESS Resources come under purchase services, we also do quite a bit of assessments, which is a purchase service; security is a purchase service.
- Lou Jachimowicz asked if Councilor Budrejko was asking about the totality of the budget.
- Councilor Budrejko stated that totality under line item 300 and line item 500, specifically under BOE Code 2310.
- Mr. Jachimowicz stated that in the 2310 account there are legal services, the cost of the SRO program, which his shared with the town. All of our new initiatives are initially placed in contact services are, pending approval. There are a number of professional memberships for CABA, CREC, District Management Council.
- Councilor Budrejko stated that makes is clearer for me. Thank you. Congressman Larson sent out something regarding additional COVID funds and the estimate for Newington was a little over \$3 million. Is there a timeline on when that has to be spent and when will you get clearer guidance on how that can be allocated.
- Dr. Brummett stated as for the relief money, we haven't gotten an exact amount yet, I think it is \$3.1 million and it has to be spent by 2023. Secretary of Education

Cardona sent a letter that we'll get more guidance, but it is for COVID relief efforts. Not sure of how strict the parameters will be; probably similar to the ESSER 2 where there is a focus on social/emotional, remediation. Hoping to use that money for additional supports for kids that are probably going to come back with some challenges especially if they were remote.

- Councilor Budrejko stated she read somewhere that there may be broader latitude of what the COVID relief money can be used for.
- Dr. Brummett stated that they did receive some COVID relief monies earlier this year and was able to use it for air handlers and masks.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that she forwarded an email that she received from CCM regarding town and educational funding guidelines. It looks like there is a little bit of latitude. The BoE is \$3.1 and the town is approx. \$2.9. They are talking about the ability to use the funds for learning losses with percentages around them. I will forward this to you Dr. Brummett. There are specifics and latitudes.
- Councilor Manke thanked Dr. Brummett for the presentation, pretty straight forward. Regarding the rescue money, would that offset things in this year's budget or next year's budget?
- Dr. Brummett stated that is definite meant for next year's budget and after. Haven't yet applied for the ESSER money. Have to take a wait and see approach. Intent is to supplement next year's budget with accelerated learning.

2. Miscellaneous programs not previously discussed

- Ms. Murphy stated that there were no other department or areas to discuss.

G. Set Tentative Town Council Budget for 2021-2022

- Mayor DelBuono stated that budget presented to us has been the Town Manager's proposed budget, we have been presented the entire budget. Allowed to make changes are allowed to be made up until the date of adoption which is scheduled for Tuesday, April 20, 2021.
- Councilor Manke stated that we have the opportunity to make changes up until April 20th. Sure there will be changes and considerations by both parties.

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

A. Joint Shared Services Recommendation(s)

- Councilor Nagel stated that it was a very robust meeting; lots of conversations and listening to different opinions and sharing different ideas. This particular committee has met twice. We had met before and I previously told you we would be concentrating on finance, technologies, facilities and transportation. Those are the four that came up and we would instruct the town manager and superintendent of schools solutions, idea, find out how and if these things are feasible. For a variety of reasons, it was determined, with their input that facilities and finance were the two areas where it might be feasible or more important to move through at this point without having total answers in either category. Facilities seem the most feasible by the town manager and superintendent, given the town manager has placed a post for a facilities manager on the town side and on the BOE side, their person is retiring so it seemed the perfect time and perfect thing for development. At the meeting we had recently, it was more or less unanimous that this is something to go through and possibly the first item to be resolved without too much difficulty. It was also determined that finance was important. There was some discussion on how it could be managed or if it could be managed time wise and how much time was needed to have things done or not done. As you can see Mr. Silvia proposed a motion, I

want everyone to see that isn't any confusion in terms of intent, although I know some words may mean different things to different people. The Motion read: "I move that this committee recommend the consolidation of the Facilities and Finance Departments by September 1." It was seconded by Councilor Camillo. It did not carry unanimously. Those that didn't vote for it were most concerned about the finance department. We also recommended discussion and if there are glitches in the road, there are, but there is a date, time and beginning of a process moving forward as opposed to talking. The subcommittee will be meeting on a weekly basis to help and see what has been moved along and recommended. This is not something being brought for a vote by the council. It is something that was recommended and put forth for both the superintendent of schools and town manager to resolve whatever differences there are and try to come to a determination as to what to do and hopefully meet that date so we can do things for the betterment of the town.

- Councilor Anest stated that she was curious why you chose Finance over transportation or IT.
- Councilor Nagel stated that Mr. Chapman can answer that, I believe there were union commitments that would need to be ironed out before we could move with that.
- Town Manager Chapman stated that is correct. There was a union formed about a year ago that included department heads or supervisors of the transportation, facilities and IT departments and that complicates the idea of integration and consolidation because there are bargaining union administrative employees on the BOE side and are not partnering union employees on the town side. Not sure what the result or outcome is going to be, but it is a challenge that is going to be difficult to overcome.
- Councilor Anest asked Dr. Brummett - wasn't the transportation position not part of that union.
- Dr. Brummett stated that is correct, the transportation director is not in a union at this time, however, if he were ever to be replaced that could change based on the, essentially three-man union, whether that person could be hired and has the proper credentialing, they could join the union, but the current position is not unionized.
- Councilor Budrejko stated that regarding the facilities director. Wish the time line could be accelerated; can't go forward with a search until you know how this is going to shake out. It will be a new job description and pay scale. We can't go forward with a search until the recommendation is made, correct?
- Councilor Nagel stated that the present motion doesn't prohibit one being resolved before the other, depending upon the difficulties that may occur with one or the other. I believe the recommendation is move along and if something can be presented that is more than appropriate. We all want to see move along for the benefit of the town and not have one tied to the other.
- Councilor Budrejko asked the town manager when he wanted to see a facilities manager on hand.
- Town Manager Chapman stated he is budgeting for a facilities manager effective July 1. We are meeting next Monday, as a group, both the superintendent and I with staff members, to initiate the development advertising and the job description this person will be filling once hired an effective upon the retirement of the current facilities manager in the school department.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that she attended the meeting yesterday and listened to the discussion. It was divided primarily on the finance positions, more so than the facilities positions. The way I viewed it is the committee made a recommendation to the BOE and town council. At this point it is up to the BOE and council, to discuss amongst themselves the recommendations of the committee. We are elected to set policy and we

need to decide what we want that policy to be and have our administrators dive in and see if it is feasible and try to move it forward in a way that makes sense.

- Councilor Manke stated that this is something that both parties have been working towards this for a long time. Encouraged that the town manager and superintendent are working together. Essentially over 600 binders over these past two years have been made more accessible the public, more accessible for the staff and

B. FY 2022 State Historic Documents Grant Program Application

- Town Clerk Krupienski stated that this due by the end of April as in every year. Continued work from last year with the creation of accessible binders. After discussion with my vendor, this year we will be putting four books into each binder. This one will handle 75 binders and reduce the overall wear and tear on those pages. The cost estimate is \$12,585 with a large portion going to divider tabs; better to have them broken out separately and easier for people to find them.

C. Anna Reynolds School Project Architect Recommendation

- Stephen Woods, Committee Chair stated that they went out for an RFQ and had excellent results - got 16 responses from different architectural firms. We did a subcommittee and narrowed that down to seven, then narrowed that down to four. We did in-depth interviews of the four firms, they were prices relatively comparative except for one firm - Kaestle Boos. As you can see the came out on top and were supported by the entire committee and I might add we have a really, really good committee, we work very well together. Kaestle Boos came in little lo but it was an unanimous vote to support moving forward and recommend to the town council that you enter into a contract for a little of \$1 million to provide these services for the Anna Reynolds project.
- Councilor Manke stated other than the price, what made you pick Kaestle Boos.
- Mr. Woods stated that Kaestle Boos has a long standing relationship with the town of Newington; they had the best presentation; they had the most in-depth dive into the school itself. They spent most of their interview (approx. 35-40 minutes) talking about the school itself and how to improve it. The other firms talked about how good they could do and things they have done in the past, but Kaestle Boos really honed in on Anna Reynolds; it stood out and showed through the interview process.
- Councilor Manke stated for the general public - have they done other things in town?
- Mr. Woods stated yes, they did the renovations for E. Green and Anna Reynolds. They have done some recent projects for the BOE. They were the original architect for the town hall before it passed referendum. John Kaestle actually lived in Newington most of his adult life. Strong ties between Kaestle Boos and the town of Newington. Have had serious discussions with them; they are fully committed, ready to start the work and sign the contract we've given them and perform it at the prices you see which is a good price.
- Lou Jachimowicz stated that Kaestle Boos simultaneously did projects for Elizabeth Green and Ruth Chaffee from 2005-2008. Back in the mid-90s they did the comprehensive fire sprinkler system installation in all the schools in the district. They also did the transmission academy at the town hall where we had the flip of the police department moving to their new building and the engineering department going downstairs at the old town hall and that was in 2011.
- Councilor Camillo stated that during the interview they had us right from the get-go, they came out and had our attention. Very impressed with them. On projects they have done in other towns, they have come in under budget and within the time of getting he contact done. Looking forward to working with them.

VIII. RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS (Action May Be Taken)

A. Resignation – Lucy Robbins Welles Library Board

Motion by Councilor Anest

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the resignation of Pamela Raynock, as a member of the Lucy Robbins Welles Library Board, in accordance with email correspondence dated March 9, 2021, and effective immediately.

Seconded by Councilor Manke. Motion passed 9-0 (roll call vote)

B. Resignation – Lucy Robbins Welles Library Board

Motion by Councilor Anest

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the resignation of Pauline Kruk, as a member of the Lucy Robbins Welles Library Board, in accordance with email correspondence dated March 15, 2021, and effective March 22, 2021.

Seconded by Councilor Manke. Motion passed 9-0 (roll call vote)

C. Resignation – Lucy Robbins Welles Library Board

Motion by Councilor Manke

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the resignation of Elizabeth Livingston, as a member of the Lucy Robbins Welles Library Board, in accordance with email correspondence dated March 19, 2021, and effective immediately.

Seconded by Councilor Anest. Motion passed 9-0 (roll call vote)

D. Appointment – Various

Motion by Councilor Anest

RESOLVED:

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

Human Rights Commission

9 members
3 year term
Party max: 6

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
Marc Frantz, Member	288 Williamston Court	D	3/23/2021- 11/30/2023	Replaces DeFacto Term of P DiCara since 12/1/2020

Library Board

6 appointed members (plus 9 corp. trustees)
6 year term
Party max: 4

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
Pauline Kruk, Member	165 Walsh Avenue	D	3/23/2021- 11/30/2023	Resignation of P Raynock

Standing Insurance Committee

9 members, 2 NTC, 2 BOE, 2 Casualty/Claim or Engineering, 3 Underwriters; 2 alternates
2 year term

Party Max.: 6

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
Johnathan Trister, Alternate	81 Woodland Street	D	3/23/2021- 11/30/2021	Vacancy

Seconded by Councilor Manke. Motion passed 9-0 (roll call vote)

IX. REFUNDS (Action Requested)

A. Approval of March 23, 2021 Refunds for an Overpayment of Taxes

Motion by Councilor Budrejko

RESOLVED:

That property tax refunds in the amount of \$2,599.91 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 Manke. Motion passed 9-0 (roll call vote)

X. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- A. March 9, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes
- B. March 9, 2021 Public Hearing Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the above referenced meeting by Councilor Manke. Seconded by Councilor Donahue. Motion passed 9-0 (roll call vote).

- Mayor DelBuono stated for public edification, know that it may seem monotonous, but protocol for a Zoom meeting is that we do a roll call vote for each vote just because we can't always see or hear each other in unison as we can in person.

XI. WRITTEN/ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

- None

XII. COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Councilor Budrejko stated that the TPZ, the poultry proposal has been continued for at least one more evening, so it will be tomorrow night at 7. The first public hearing was held two weeks ago. It generated several comments, both pro and con.

**XIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL (Via Zoom Application or Phone)
(3 MINUTE TIME LIMIT PER SPEAKER ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)**

- Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive stated that she finds it interesting that you mentioned because of protocol you're having a roll call vote. I've been watching the TPZ meeting, and public hearings and they don't do a roll call vote. Know you can't answer the questions, just find it interesting that a committee or commission that an appeal can be taken does not do a roll call vote and yet the town council does. I appreciate you doing the roll call votes so we know who is voting which way.

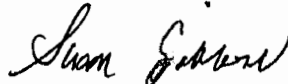
XIV. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

- Councilor Braverman stated that there is a great article about NHS Girls basketball in today's Herald.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilor Manke to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m. Seconded by Councilor Donahue. Motion passed 9-0.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Gibbon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S' and a long, sweeping tail.

Susan Gibbon
Council Clerk