

**Town of Newtown Legislative Council Regular Meeting
Wednesday, March 20, 2013
3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT**

PRESENT: Jeff Capeci, George Ferguson, Joe Girgasky, Bob Merola, Daniel Honan, Kathy Fetchick, Neil Chaudhary, Dan Wiedemann, Paul Lundquist, Dan Amaral, Phil Carroll
ABSENT: Mary Ann Jacob

ALSO PRESENT: First Selectman Pat Llodra, Finance Director Robert Tait, John Kortze, Joe Kearney, Fred Hurley, Karin Aurelia, Lereine Frampton, 6 members of public, 3 members of press, Jan Andras (Clerk)

Chairman Capeci called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

VOTER PARTICIPATION: Ms. Barb Hastings, Stonewall Ridge Road, urged the Council to support the recommendation for funds to private schools for security.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Upon motion by Mr. Ferguson, the minutes of the March 6, 2013 regular meeting were unanimously approved as presented. (Mr. Amaral and Mr. Carroll abstained as they were not present.)

COMMUNICATIONS: None noted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Mr. Ferguson reported that Administration/Finance met and is looking into compensation for the next First Selectman's term. No action taken yet.

FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT: Ms. Llodra reported that we have a Mental Health Consultant, Dr. Jill Barron, who will conduct a needs assessment to learn who in our community are in need of services and what type of services. (see attached) Dr. Barron will be reporting to the Board of Selectmen with periodic updates. This service is being provided by a contribution from Praxair.

The Sandy Hook School Task Force is ready to begin with their first meeting on April 5, 2013. The school building is now back under town control.

NEW BUSINESS

Board of Finance Recommendation on Town of Newtown FY 2013/14 Budget

Board of Finance Chairman John Kortze went over the recommended adjustments of the board. (see attached)

Registrar of Voters Emergency Election Plan

Registrars Karin Aurelia and Lereine Frampton submitted the proposed Emergency Plan (attached). Mr. Ferguson moved to adopt the Registrars of Voters Emergency Election Plan as presented. Motion seconded and unanimously carried.

Senior Tax Relief Program

Mr. Ferguson moved to adopt the recommended Senior Tax Relief increase as proposed by the Tax Collector (attached). Motion seconded.

This proposal is to increase the total tax credit amount by \$275,000 in order to meet the needs being seen by the Tax Collector. The Board of Finance has discussed implementing some sort of means test for applicants, to determine income and assets. If the Council agrees, that proposal would need to go to the Ordinance Committee. It was also suggested that Tax Collector Carol Mahoney be invited to make a presentation and answer questions on Senior Tax Relief.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

VOTER COMMENT: Michele Assante, Wendover Road, asked that the amount in the proposed budget for private school security be increased so that they are on equal footing with the public schools. She also suggests consideration to bridging the gap between now and the time we receive grant funds by using the Fund Balance rather than taxing residents.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None noted.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.



Jan Andras
Recording Secretary

att: Mental Health Consultant
BOF FY 2013/14 Budget Recommended Adjustments
Emergency Election Plan
Newtown Senior or Totally Disabled Tax Relief Program – Proposed Increase

These are draft minutes and as such are subject to correction by the Legislative Council at the next regular meeting. All corrections will be determined in minutes of the meeting at which they were corrected.

Proposal for Local Newtown Mental Health Consultant

Jill L Barron, MD MHS

January 25, 2013

Jill L. Barron, MD MHS is a child, adolescent and adult psychiatrist who completed her internship in Pediatrics in NYC and her training in Psychiatry at the Department of Psychiatry at Yale-New Haven Hospital, and at the Yale Child Study Center. She completed training as a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar at Yale University where she examined health care delivery systems and policies. Her primary focus as a Scholar was on examining children's mental health services nationally with a particular focus on children's Unmet Mental Health Care Needs. Dr. Barron is the Immediate Past President of the Connecticut Council of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry which is the state branch of the American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists (AACAP). She is the Associate Director of Medical Student Education in Psychiatry at the Yale University School of Medicine. Dr. Barron has served as a consultant for UNICEF in the Post-Soviet Republic of Georgia, where she helped rewrite the country's health guidelines.

Dr. Barron has expertise in treating children, adults, and families post traumatic events. She has expertise in helping communities think broadly about their mental health needs in the wake of tragic events. She is a consulting psychiatrist to the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) and treats firefighters with posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) secondary to the events of September 11. She has coauthored two book chapters on the neurobiology of PTSD. She consults nationally and locally to first responders and their communities.

Dr. Barron treats children and families in private practice in both Fairfield and New Haven Counties. She works closely with local pediatric providers and frequently consults to and collaborates with local pediatricians, nurse practitioners and social workers in primary care. She also works closely with local school systems both as a consultant and on behalf of the families she works with.

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Background

In the wake of a traumatic event such as the school shooting in Newtown, every member of the community is impacted in some way by the trauma: the school system, families, first responders, health care providers, clergy. The degree of impact is different for each member of the community depending on their proximity (emotional and physical) to the trauma. The impact is felt by different members of the community at different times in relation to the traumatic event. The complexity of trauma and its impact on a community requires a careful and systematic approach in order to assist a community in meeting its' needs. A community's needs are often complex and require at once an immediate, intermediate and long-term plan.

The need for a Local Mental Health Consultant with expertise in trauma who is familiar with the landscape of mental health care service delivery, who understands the needs of the members of a community post trauma, and who can access and facilitate the coordination of services is of paramount importance.

Proposal

I. Identification of Impacted Member Groups

Proper Identification of Impacted Member Groups is of critical importance prior to assessing and addressing the needs of a community

- A. Meet with local leadership (families, councils, clergy) to identify impacted member groups
- B. I would conceptualize impacted member groups to be:
 1. Newtown First Responders (Police, Fire, EMS, Dispatch)
 2. Families/Community
 3. At Risk Individuals

II. Needs Assessment of Impacted Member Groups

What are the needs of each individual Impacted Member Group and the Subgroups within each impacted member group? A needs assessment can help clarify the distinct needs of each.

A. *First Responder Community*

1. Meet with Leadership from
 - a) Newtown Police Department
 - b) Newtown Fire Department
 - c) Local EMS
 - d) Local Dispatch
2. Assess the degree of impact of individual group members within each department
3. Develop a comprehensive needs assessment for the individual groups within each department

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January 25, 2013

B. Families

1. Identify impacted families in the community and assess each individual groups needs
Families who live in the community and are grieving the loss of members of their community

C. At Risk Individuals

1. Individuals at-risk to be particularly impacted by a traumatic event are those that
 - a) have a prior history of exposure to trauma
 - b) history of certain physical and mental health conditions
1. Identification of at-risk individuals ensures earlier identification and treatment of potential concerns, provision of supports

III. Local Capacity Assessment

D. Assess the current climate in local Health and Mental Health Offices.

1. How are patients and families being referred for health and mental health treatment
2. Do local providers feel equipped to manage the degree of symptomatology they are currently seeing or would they like increased support.
3. At what stage (crisis, seeking education, asking for support and guidance) are patients and families seeking care.
4. Are local health providers having difficulty referring patients for treatment.
5. Are local providers (health and mental health) aware of the resources for their patients).
6. What additional supports would local health and mental health care providers like to have in their care settings.
7. What do they feel are the greatest barriers to getting patients the care they need.

IV. Facilitation of Connecting Impacted Member Groups to Local Providers

- D. Knowledge of the local health and mental health community and the needs of the impacted individuals in the community will enable me to facilitate the connection between identified members of the community (students, teachers, parents, first responders, family members, siblings) and local mental health providers (social worker, nurse practitioner, psychologist, psychiatrist)

BUDGET SUMMARY 2013 - 2014

TOWN OF NEWTOWN				
2013 - 2014 BUDGET - BOARD OF FINANCE RECOMMENDED ADJUSTMENTS				
<u>FUNCTION / DEPARTMENT / ACCOUNT</u>	<u>2013-2014 BUDGET</u>	<u>BOARD OF</u>	<u>2013-2014 BUDGET</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
<u>3/11/2013</u>	<u>BOARD OF SELECTMEN</u>	<u>FINANCE</u>	<u>BOARD OF FINANCE</u>	
	<u>PROPOSED</u>	<u>ADJUSTMENTS</u>	<u>RECOMMENDED</u>	
CONTINGENCY				
CONTINGENCY	250,000	420,000	670,000	Adjustment is for added security at the schools
HEALTH & WELFARE				
OUTSIDE AGENCIES				
Non Public School Security	-	150,000	150,000	A grant for non public school (3) security
TOTAL ADJUSTMENTS 3/11/2013			<u>570,000</u>	
				2013 - 2014 BUDGET - BOARD OF FINANCE RECOMMENDED ADJUSTMENTS

BUDGET SUMMARY 2013 - 2014

2013 - 2014 BUDGET - BOARD OF FINANCE RECOMMENDED ADJUSTMENTS					
FUNCTION / DEPARTMENT / ACCOUNT	2013-2014 BUDGET		2013-2014 BUDGET		COMMENTS
	BOARD OF SELECTMEN PROPOSED	BOARD OF FINANCE ADJUSTMENTS	BOARD OF FINANCE RECOMMENDED	BOARD OF FINANCE RECOMMENDED	
3/13/2013					
PUBLIC SAFETY					
POLICE					
Chief of Police	108,399	1,601	110,000		Salary enhancement
Captain	96,614	1,000	97,614		Salary enhancement
PUBLIC WORKS					
HIGHWAY					
Equipment Fuel	486,800	(30,663)	456,137		Savings on fuel bid (after BOS budget)
PUBLIC BUILDING MAINTENANCE					
Heat	85,220	(2,616)	82,604		Savings on fuel bid (after BOS budget)
BOARD OF EDUCATION					
	BOARD OF EDUCATION PROPOSED				
	72,845,304	(750,000)	72,095,304		BOF adjustment to BOE bottom line.
					BOF justification (for informational purposes):
					fuel savings \$174,000
					security guard (per BOE) 26,000
					building maint.(5yr smooth)250,000
					tech equip. (5yr smooth) 150,000
					OPEB reduction 100,000
					misc. 50,000
				<u>(780,678)</u>	Total \$750,000
TOTAL ADJUSTMENTS 3/13/2013					

Registrar of Voters
Newtown Municipal Center
3 Primrose Street
Newtown, Connecticut 06470



Tel: (203) 270-4250
FAX: (203) 270-4205

TOWN OF NEWTOWN
ADMINISTRATOR OF ELECTIONS

January 8, 2013

Jeff Capecci, Chair
Legislative Council

Dear Jeff,

The State of Connecticut has adopted an emergency plan for elections. Each town has the opportunity to have their own plan approved by the council and kept on file with the Town Clerk. Having our own plan would enable us to make changes with the approval of the Council.

We have handled many of the problems they want addressed. So this policy is basically just stating current procedures. The only one we have not yet encountered is fire.

Ballot Shortages - We compare percentages of like elections to determine an expected percentage. We then take into account special circumstances (hotly contested races). We have hourly counts which we compare to other years to make sure our numbers are on track throughout the day. If we find out that we did miscalculate or there is a problem with usable ballots, we can make copies at any of the polling places or at our office and deliver the ballots. These ballots would have to be hand counted at the end of the night and added to the numbers on the tabulator tape. By keeping track of the hourly count we know when we are running low since we know how many were sent to each polling place.

Tabulator broken - If the tabulator breaks the voters are given the choice of inserting their ballot into the side of the black box to be scanned at the end of the night or waiting for a working machine. We have spare machines and a registrar goes immediately to the polling place (usually we are contacted in advance if they start to act up so we are there) and assists the moderator with the replacement. We keep close track of the ballots already counted. If the machine breaks, we can switch the memory card to a new machine and continue on. If the memory

card fails, we replace the memory card and all ballots have to be reentered. If necessary, the Registrars will bring in extra workers to reenter those ballots.

Poll Workers - We have a relief worker for each party at the polls. This relief worker would fill in for the missing worker until they could be replaced.

Power - All of our polling places have a generator backup. They are all right as you enter the buildings so we do not have to worry about hallways. The tabulator has a 2 hour battery and the UPS is 14 hours. So even if the generator backup had a problem our machine would still work. If all else fails, the ballots could be put into the side pocket and hand counted or submitted at the end of the day. The room would be lit by the generator backup.

Fire - Since there are no stairs at our polling places the election materials (voter check off books, ballots and paperwork) can be placed into our blue bins and pushed outside. Our tabulator would also be pushed outside. For those already checked off and not yet receiving their ballot they have a ticket so we could put their name on a list with the names of those already in possession of their ballot. They would get ballots issued to them when we were again secure.

Weather or Natural Disaster - We would enlist the aid of the Police and Hiway Departments to transport our poll workers. We would follow the contingency plan for whatever other obstacles apply.

Removal of poll worker or Moderator - Both of the clerks in our office are trained as moderators so they could replace a moderator. Our relief worker would replace a poll worker. The Moderator would let the Registrars know if they need to have the relief worker replaced (this would depend upon the time of day).

Disorder - One of the Registrars or their Deputy goes to the polling place and tries to diffuse the situation. The police would be called for an extreme disorder. Inside the polling place is handled by the Moderator - they may request assistance from whoever they think appropriate.

**TOWN OF NEWTOWN
NEWTOWN SENIOR OR TOTALLY DISABLED TAX RELIEF PROGRAM
JANUARY 7th, 2013**

CURRENT PROGRAM - AUTHORIZED TOTAL TAX CREDIT AMOUNT = \$1,225,000

Income Range	Tax Credit	# Eligible	Total Tax Credit
55,001 - 65,000	1,276	114	145,464
45,001 - 55,000	1,476	144	212,544
0 - 45,000	1,976	414	818,064
odd cases	850	46	39,100
			1,215,172

PROPOSED NEW PROGRAM - AUTHORIZED TOTAL TAX CREDIT AMOUNT = \$1,500,000

Income Range	Tax Credit	# Eligible	Total Tax Credit	Credit Increase	
				\$	%
55,001 - 65,000	1,300	114	148,200	24	1.9%
45,001 - 55,000	1,750	144	252,000	274	18.6%
0 - 45,000	2,525	414	1,045,350	549	27.8%
odd cases	850	46	39,100		
New Applicants			15,350		
			1,500,000		

REQUESTED TAX CREDIT INCREASE = \$275,000

NOTE: Proposing a \$275,000 increase in the Local Homeowners Elderly/Disabled Tax Credit. It is hoped that this increased tax credit would be funded by an increase in the grand list. A 0.3% increase in the net taxable grand list would fund this amount which would result in no additional taxes to existing tax payers. The last grand list grew 0.6%.