

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY BOARD OF SELECTMEN

The Board of Selectmen held a special meeting Monday, January 19, 2016 in the Council Chamber of the Newtown Municipal Center, 3 Primrose Street. First Selectman Llodra called the meeting to order at 7:10p.m.

**PRESENT:** First Selectman Llodra, Selectman Herbert C. Rosenthal.

**ABSENT:** Selectman William F.L. Rodgers

**ALSO PRESENT:** Finance Director Robert Tait, Department of Public Works Director Fred Hurley, Police Chief James Viadero, Captain Joe Rios, Police Commission Chairman Joel Faxon, Police Commission member Brian Budd, two members of the public and one member of the press.

**VOTER COMMENTS:** none.

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:** Selectman Rosenthal moved to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of January 19, 2016. First Selectman Llodra seconded. All in favor.

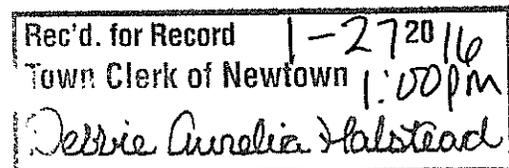
**COMMUNICATIONS:** none.

**FINANCE DIRECTORS REPORT:** none.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Discussion and possible action:**

1.) **Board of Selectmen 2016-2017 budget:** Chief Viadero, Capt. Rios, Commissioner Faxon and Commissioner Budd were present to discuss the **Police** budget with the board. Commissioner Faxon stated there was a unanimous vote to present the police budget to the Selectmen; overall the numbers are the same or less except the contractual obligations that are built into the budget and the ESU training supplies. The budget provides the appropriate level of service for the town to safeguard its citizens. Commissioner Budd said the second largest increase is the pension contribution, an expense not controllable at the commission level. There was discussion on the replacement on police vehicles. First Selectman Llodra stated that 4-5 years ago there was a thorough assessment of all police vehicles and the plan was to replace three a year. Chief Viadero said it is a reasonable program worthy of continuing. The price of vehicles are controlled by the state bid price. The SSO's are fully funded through the town, for the schools; there are no longer grants monies to fund these positions. The town pays for the St. Rose SSO and St. Rose reimburses the town for the cost. The ESU (Emergency Services Unit) training supply line item is a newer budget item. There is a substantial amount of equipment officers need to have to be a participant in the unit; after this year this line item is expected to decrease. There are two dues budget lines; one is specific to associations the chief belongs to. The other is for other professional memberships the police department belongs to.



**Department of Public Works:** Mr. Hurley was present to discuss the Public Works budget. The primary change in the budget is contractual obligations and adding \$250,000 to the capital roads budget. Additional savings will likely be recognized after the numbers for fuel oil and diesel are in next month. We are waiting to confirm that a substantial project will be approved that will lead to savings in electricity costs. A legislative vote on net metering is expected in February. The capital leasing account is an approach to stabilizing budgeting. Mr. Tait pointed out these are internal leases, amounts are transferred from the capital account to the capital non-recurring account providing savings on the lease interest. The winter maintenance budget is a five year average. Mr. Hurley said that we are two years away from having no support relative to the gas boy fueling system; conversion will need to be supported in next years budget. Selectman Rosenthal doesn't believe there is enough money allocated for roads to get them to where they should be. Mr. Hurley said there are market constraints because the state is jumpstarting their big projects. The paving contractors work on state projects during the fall months so towns have to get their jobs done in July and August. First Selectman Llodra said the plan, over the past few years was to add \$250,000 every year with a target of \$2 million knowing that additional monies would have to be added to get it to \$2.5 million or \$2.75 million to continue the road work each year. First Selectman Llodra would like to re-visit the capital road item in the CIP in August. Selectman Rosenthal believes the voters would approve bonding for roads. There are proposals coming through Eversource and CCM to look at the audit of all the street lights in town; they will change lights over to LED with the option of having Eversource maintain them or having the town purchase them.

2.) **Action on selected line items from budget proposal:** Selectman Rosenthal moved the following bottom line budgets; First Selectman Llodra seconded the following bottom line budgets and each passed unanimously:

Emergency Communications: \$1,124,230  
Police: \$6,771,639 \*  
Animal Control: \$166,976  
Emergency Management/N.U.S.A.R: \$60,595  
Lake Authorities: \$47,201  
N.W. Safety Communication: \$10,839  
Emergency Medical Services: \$270,000  
NW Connecticut EMS Council: \$250  
Building Department: \$436,000  
Winter Maintenance: \$789,141  
Transfer Station: \$1,384,221  
Public Building Maintenance: \$795,410

\*Selectman Rosenthal stated his son is a member of the Police Commission and did not influence him in any way and also didn't participate in the budget as he wasn't on the commission at the time.

Board of Selectmen  
January 25, 2016

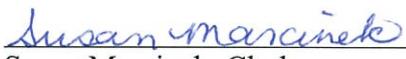
- 3.) **Appointments/Reappointments/vacancies/openings:** none.
- 4.) **Driveway bond release/Extension:** none.
- 5.) **Tax Refunds:** none.

**VOTER COMMENTS:** Dan Wiedemann, 13 Clearview Drive, said that he believes while residents support better roads they do not support higher taxes.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The Fire and Information Technology budgets will be discussed at the next meeting and the Highway budget will be acted on January 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm

**ADJOURNMENT:** Having no further business the Board of Selectmen adjourned their special meeting at 8:37.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Susan Marcinek, Clerk