

**BOROUGH OF NEWTOWN  
NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT**

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Borough of Newtown Board of Burgesses on **Tuesday, February 14, 2023** in the Lower Meeting Room at Edmond Town Hall, Newtown, CT. Warden Maher called the meeting to order at 7:49 p.m.

**Present:** Warden Jay Maher, Senior Burgess Chris Gardner, Burgess James Gaston, Burgess Bill Lucas, Burgess Jared Modzelewski, Burgess Sarah Phillips, Treasurer Paula Brinkman, and Clerk Ann Scaia.

**Absent:** Burgess Anthony Baiad, Tax Collector Jodie Enriquez, Zoning Enforcement Officer Joe Chapman and Tree Warden Rob McCulloch

**Also Present:** There were 4 members of public.

**Burgess Lucas made a motion to accept the January 10, 2023 regular meeting minutes,**  
seconded by Senior Burgess Gardner and unanimously approved.

**Warden's Report:** Judit DeStefano, Grant Specialist, from Newtown BOE presented two proposals for the Board of Burgesses to consider for ARPA funds. The main focus was on the request for \$85,000.00 in ARPA funds to support the cost of a Teen Talk Counselor at the Newtown Middle School for the 2023-2024 school year. Ms. Stefano outlined the critical support offered by the counselor to the student body at the Middle School (see attached). The secondary proposal was a request for approximately \$39,000.00 for removing and replacing Ethernet cables and network wires at Hawley Elementary School (see attached). The Board of Burgesses will take Ms. DeStefano's requests under advisement.

**Burgess Gaston made a motion to add American Legion Post 202 presenter Donna Monteleone, to the agenda for purposes of discussion and action as to funding luminaries at the Soldiers and Sailors monument,** seconded by Burgess Modzelewski and unanimously approved.

Post Commander Monteleone discussed the continued practice of "Taps on Main Street" which entails playing the "Taps" from the Flagpole to the Soldiers and Sailors monument on Memorial Day weekend. She requested the Board of Burgess consider donating again to the cost of luminaries which are sold as a fund raiser and are displayed at the Soldiers and Sailors monument during the Memorial Day weekend.

**Burgess Gaston made a motion to appropriate, from the Soldiers and Sailors line item, \$300.00 for the luminaries for the American Legion Memorial Day weekend event,**  
seconded by Senior Burgess Gardner and unanimously approved.

**Senior Burgess Gardner made a motion allow the American Legion Post 202 to use the Soldiers and Sailors monument for their event during the Memorial Day weekend,**  
seconded by Burgess Gaston and unanimously approved.

Warden Maher reported two budgetary line items will be underfunded this fiscal year, Fire Hydrants and Street Lights. Warden Maher stated the cost from Eversource has gone up 25% from December. He stated we will review these line items along with the remaining line items for the coming 2023-2023 Borough budget during the March Borough meeting.

Warden Maher was recently approached by the Town & Country Garden Club to discuss their request for additional assistance in maintaining the three islands in the Borough. Warden Maher suggested Rob Connor, of Connor Landscaping, may possibly assist the Garden Club. Warden Maher will be meeting on March 23, with the members of the Town & Country Garden Club to discuss their needs. He will report back to the Board of Burgesses at the March Borough meeting.

**Tree Warden's Report:** In his absence, Tree Warden McCulloch, conveyed to Warden Maher the removal of a tree on Elm Drive.

**Tax Collector's Report:** Prior to her departure, Tax Collector Enriquez had nothing new to report for January 2023.

**Treasurer's Report:** The January 2023 report presents: There were no deposits made from the Borough Zoning Office. There were no deposits made from Tax Collector, Jodie Enriquez. A transfer of \$16,500.00 was made to cover last month's invoicing. There was no transfer made into the ISC Account from the Borough Operating Account. A transfer of \$16,500.00 was transferred from the ISC Account to the Borough Operating Account. Interest on the 13 mo. CD was \$253.08 making a total of \$67,890.82. Please review attached report for January 2023.

**Burgess Gaston made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for January 2023,**  
seconded by Burgess Lucas and unanimously approved.

**Zoning Enforcement Officer's (ZOE) Report:** In his absence, Zoning Commissioner Doug Nelson reported to the Borough Zoning & Regulations is reviewing its fees for various services. He briefly outlined the proposed fees and asked for the Board of Burgesses to offer their feedback at the March Borough Meeting.

**Historic District:** Burgess Phillips reported the Borough 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committee is scheduled to meet on February 23. Burgess Phillips also reported the Borough “Welcome” signs are on scheduled to be posted when the ground thaws in the Spring. She will submit a certificate of appropriateness to the Historic District.

**Sidewalks:** Warden Maher reported Benesch met with the Connecticut DOT to discuss the Sugar Street project today. Warden Maher will report the details of the meeting at the March Borough meeting. Senior Burgess Gardner had submitted a formal application for town ARPA funds to the First Selectman to be a financial partner to the two sidewalk projects (Sugar Street and Queen Street/Church Hill Road).

**Streets & Parks:** Warden Maher reported LRM has resigned from maintaining the landscaping at the corner of Main Street and Church Hill Road. Warden Maher will approach Rob Connor, of Connor Landscaping, for pricing to maintain this property. Warden Maher also stated there are funds in the Streets & Parks line item allocated for tree placement/installation. Warden Maher asked the Board of Burgesses to offer suggestions of tree placement at the March Borough Meeting.

**New Business:** Warden Maher stated Greg Smith, from the Newtown Cemetery Committee, will be presenting at the March Borough Meeting a request for ARPA funds to assist in the creation of a bridge over the stream at Ram’s Pasture.

**Old Business:** None

**Public Participation:** None

**The regular meeting of the Board of Burgesses will be held on Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 7:30p.m.**

**There being no further business, Burgess Lucas made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 p.m.,** seconded by Burgess Gaston and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Scaia  
Borough Clerk

**BOROUGH OF NEWTOWN****Treasurer's Report  
Month Ending January 31, 2023**

	<b>ACCOUNT 673</b>	<b>ACCOUNT 2470-D</b>	<b>ACCOUNT 873</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
	<b>Operating Account</b>	<b>Insured Cash Sweep</b>	<b>American Rescue Plan</b>	
<b>BEGIN 1/1/2023</b>	\$250,067.81	\$263,803.76	\$183,453.35	\$697,324.92
<b>Interest Transfer</b>	-\$67.81	\$67.81		\$0.00
<b>Transfer to Clerk's Account check #336</b>	-\$16,500.00			-\$16,500.00
<b>Transfer in from ICS Account</b>	\$16,500.00	-\$16,500.00		\$0.00
<b>Deposit from Tax Collector YTD: \$197,800</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
<b>Deposit Bldg/Zoning</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
<b>Transfer out to ICS Acct.</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
<b>Interest earned 1/31/2023</b>	\$106.19	\$727.24	\$59.40	\$892.83
<b>ENDING BALANCE 1/31/2023</b>	\$250,106.19	\$248,098.81	\$183,512.75	\$681,717.75
	<b>CD Account 814</b>			
	<b>matures 1/15/24</b>			
<b>BEGIN 1/1/2023</b>	\$67,637.74			
<b>Interest earned 1/31/2023 3% APY</b>	\$253.08			
<b>ENDING BALANCE 1/31/2023</b>	\$67,890.82			

Respectfully submitted 2/14/23



## Newtown Public Schools

3 Primrose Street

Newtown, CT 06470

Phone: (203) 270-4867 Fax: (203) 270-6110

### **Borough Grant Request** ***TeenTalk* at Newtown Middle School**

#### **Information**

Newtown Board of Education  
3 Primrose St.  
Newtown, CT 06470  
District EIN: 06-6001643

<b>Grants Specialist Contact:</b> Judit DeStefano 203/426-7600 x 7505 <a href="mailto:destefanoj@newtown.k12.ct.us">destefanoj@newtown.k12.ct.us</a>	<b>Business Director Contact:</b> Tanja Vadas 203/426-7600 x 7619 <a href="mailto:vadast@newtown.k12.ct.us">vadast@newtown.k12.ct.us</a>
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#### **Project Request**

The Newtown Board of Education is requesting \$85,000 for the purpose of funding a Kids In Crisis, *Teen Talk* counselor for Newtown Middle School for the 2023-2024 school year.

#### **Project Need**

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released alarming figures finding that suicide is now the second leading cause of death among children 10 to 14 years old. In fact, the suicide rate for that age group nearly tripled from 2007 to 2018, according to the CDC. A 2019 nationwide survey of high school students in the United States found that 19% of students reported seriously considering suicide, 16% reported creating a plan, and 9% reporting trying to take their own life in the 12 months preceding the survey. The pandemic only exacerbated an already growing public health issue. Per the CDC, compared with the rate in 2019, there was a 31% increase in the proportion of mental health-related emergency department (ED) visits among adolescents aged 12-17 years in 2020. (MMWR, June 2021)

Fairfield County Health officials are not surprised. According to Dr. Heather Machen, director of pediatric emergency medicine at Stamford Health, suicide attempts among adolescents were on the rise during the years of the pandemic. "Unfortunately, I think it's a nationwide issue that everyone is seeing more behavioral health issues. When you look at the stress the world has been under the past year, it's not surprising" she said, in an interview with CT Post.

Further, according to CT Child Advocate Sarah Eagan, the age of children who die by suicide is getting younger. The youngest suicide victim in CT in 2021 was just 11-years-old. According to the Journal of Pediatrics "Suicide has been identified as "an increasingly prominent public health issue" and "youth suicide risk has been further exacerbated by the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic." Teens and adolescents were among the hardest hit by the pandemic, and the effects of social isolation, stress, and trauma can be both protracted and significant. Eagan cites school-based mental health services as critical to addressing this crisis. She is not alone.

To help protect and save young lives, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) urges the development and implementation of "strategies that enhance the recognition of at-risk youth and their referral to existing mental health resources." The Child Health and Development Institute of Connecticut's report, *Improving Outcomes for Children in Schools: Expanded School Mental Health* proposed an "expanded mental health framework" in public schools that includes "effective crisis response, transition supports, home-school connections, community collaborations, and student and family assistance to achieve positive developmental outcomes." Recent findings from a clinical trial, the results of which were published in the Journal of Pediatrics in December 2022, suggests "that adolescents who screen at risk for suicide are more likely to engage with treatment."

## **Project Description**

*TeenTalk* is a Kids In Crisis program that places specially-trained counselors in local middle and high schools to help children suffering from depression, anxiety, family conflict, substance abuse, and academic and social pressures and has been providing these services for more than twenty years. Since 2019, their role has been critical in identify and assisting adolescents and teens in Newtown who are struggling.

*TeenTalk* is a preventative program aimed at helping young people navigate the trials of adolescence, avoid reaching a crisis point and achieve academic success. *TeenTalk* is a program designed to help students- of all ages, races, ethnicities, genders, communities and socio-economic levels- lead healthy, productive lives. The *TeenTalk* Counselor is an experienced Master's-level Social Worker who augments school staff by providing confidential individual, group, and family counseling, as well as support groups, preventative education and seminars (to students, families and the community) on issues of importance to the health and well-being of young people. All *TeenTalk* services are provided free of charge to children.

A noteworthy benefit of the Kids In Crisis program is the autonomy of the *TeenTalk* Counselor, who works collaboratively with but also independently from the school, providing unique professional supports to students. She is in the school, but not "of the school." This distinction is extremely important to students who appreciate the confidential nature of *TeenTalk* and, as a result, are more inclined to solicit the *TeenTalk* Counselor for advice and support. In addition to maintaining an office at

the school, the *TeenTalk* Counselor spends time in the cafeteria, on school grounds, and at school functions in order to build relationships with students. She gets to know students, their friends, their patterns, and their personalities. She is trained to identify at-risk students and to reach out to them, and is particularly sensitive to students who seem alienated from their community.

Each student presents with her/his own set of strengths and difficulties, personal and family challenges, goals and aspirations. The *TeenTalk* Counselor initially works to build trust with students. Once established, the *TeenTalk* Counselor and students explore presenting issue(s) and, quite often, students reveal additional challenges that have contributed to their current need for services. Depending on the individual needs of each student, goals are set and objectives may include: developing/employing new coping and/or communication skills with peers/families; recognition/relinquishing of unhealthy relationships; disclosures of abuse; the creation of safety plans; connection of student and/or family to community resources; the absence of thoughts of self-harm; addressing learning disabilities; self-advocacy; participation in extracurricular activities; acceptance into college, etc. The *TeenTalk* Counselor provides on-going counsel and support to help students achieve their goals and lead healthy lives.

While on-site support during school hours is essential, children also require assistance when school is not in session. Fortunately, *TeenTalk* is part of a unique network of services that allows students to get the support they need, when they need it. Unlike school staff, the *TeenTalk* Counselor may go into the home to provide students free individual and/or family counseling and support. She ensures consistency of care should students require support in the evenings, on weekends, or at any other time when school is not in session, by providing detailed updates about students to the *Kids In Crisis* Outreach Department- which is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Thus, Outreach Counselors are prepared to help when students/caregivers/ worried friends call the *Kids In Crisis Helpline* for support during non-school hours (24/7). This deep service network ensures that students and families get the comprehensive support they need, no matter the day or hour.

## **Project Implementation**

*TeenTalk* came to Newtown High school in 2019 and has been instrumental in serving students via one-on-one counseling and group sessions since. In 2020/2021, a *TeenTalk* Counselor was brought to Newtown Middle School through support from the Parent Connection. Throughout the school year, the *TeenTalk* Counselor meets with students privately, in small groups, and/or with their parents/caregivers at school; provides preventive education to Health classes and the wider school community; observes students in their setting to identify needs and engage at-risk students; provides counsel and guidance to parents/caregivers, and works collaboratively with school guidance, faculty and administration to prevent crises, share information regarding adolescent behavioral "trends" and help students achieve emotional stability and academic success.

All of *Kids In Crisis' TeenTalk* Counselors collaborate with one another and meet for weekly supervision from *Kids In Crisis' Director of Outreach & Community Initiatives* (who is also an experienced clinical school social worker). Together, they brainstorm strategies to support the students in each of their schools. They also participate in trainings given by professionals with expertise on specific issues impacting the social and emotional health of students. The *TeenTalk* Counselors in turn, share the information and knowledge they've gained in staff meetings at their schools.

## Outcomes and Measures

Olivia Bucci, the counselor at the Middle School, reports seeing students present with anxiety, behavior issues, family and parent issues, depression and self-harm, suicidality, school avoidance, and eating issues. Students' needs run the gamut. The benefits of *TeenTalk* are multifold: resolution of students' issues (i.e. students' reduced overall stress- including emotional distress, behavioral difficulties, hyperactivity or difficulty concentrating, difficulties getting along with others, etc.), avoidance of truancy, students "feeling better" after using *TeenTalk* services, performance of crisis safety assessments to prevent teen suicide and connect students in crisis to intensive protective services, and educating students, school staff, caregivers and the community on current issues affecting the health and well-being of adolescents.

*TeenTalk* utilizes the widely-used research-based Ohio Scales for Youth mental health assessment tool for students who receive ongoing *TeenTalk* individual counseling at the start of services and again at the time of follow-up. Additional data collected for this program includes the number of students served, those that partook in individual and group counseling, their ages, gender, presenting problems and other important evaluative material. The *TeenTalk* Counselor works closely with students to develop personal goals such as improved class attendance, academic performance, and family and peer relationships. She monitors kids' attendance, tardiness, incidence of truancy, grades, high-risk behavior, extra-curricular activities, and overall social behavior.

Olivia meets with all students experiencing in-school suspension to help debrief and reflect. She runs lunch groups, which were popular last year and still ongoing. With these groups, Olivia creates a safe space for students to talk about home life, struggles, and social issues. Last year, 14 students participated in individual counseling and 53 in ongoing topics groups. 134 students were reached by *TeenTalk* presentations. This year saw an increase in utilization of the *TeenTalk* counselor, with 25 students to date having participated in counseling. Per the mid-year report for 2022/2023, the *TeenTalk* counselor at Newtown Middle School has also served 29 students on 7 topics in a group setting and has presented to 71 students in the classroom setting.

Typically, utilization of *TeenTalk* increases over time as the counselor becomes a trusted member of the community. Not only do students feel more comfortable recommending the counselor to friends, but staff, administrators, and counselors increase referrals as they develop confidence in and comfort with the *TeenTalk* counselor. This trend has bore out in both Newtown Middle and High schools.

Because of the unique, individualized nature of *TeenTalk*, the end of service provision is not the only overall positive desired outcome (i.e., a student's critical presenting issue[s] resolved and he/she no longer meets individually with Counselor or attends topic groups). Ongoing or re-established service provision is also greatly valued as a positive outcome. At the end of the academic year, Olivia introduces eight graders she routinely counsels to Wendy Chum, the *TeenTalk* Counselor at the High School. Bridging service in this way offers a continuum of care that can be invaluable for struggling students. For some students, the positive, trusting relationships they and the counselors build and continue over time provide ongoing, life changing and life-affirming support.



As a preventive program, it is nearly impossible to quantify the true measure of the Program's value to the community. Every time a young person chats with the *TeenTalk* Counselor in the cafeteria or casually strolls into her office, the encounter may ameliorate a serious emotional problem, neutralize the threat of violence or avert a potential suicide. The greatest value of the program is that an adolescent at school, a parent, a concerned family member or an educator can reach out to a *TeenTalk* Counselor and seek immediate preventive support services to avoid a potentially dangerous situation.



## Newtown Public Schools

3 Primrose Street

Newtown, CT 06470

Phone: (203) 270-4867 Fax: (203) 270-6110

### **Borough Grant Request *Network Wiring at Hawley School***

#### **Information**

Newtown Board of Education  
3 Primrose St.  
Newtown, CT 06470  
District EIN: 06-6001643

Grants Specialist Contact: Judit DeStefano 203/426-7600 x 7505 <a href="mailto:destefanoj@newtown.k12.ct.us">destefanoj@newtown.k12.ct.us</a>	Business Director Contact: Tanja Vadas 203/426-7600 x 7619 <a href="mailto:vadast@newtown.k12.ct.us">vadast@newtown.k12.ct.us</a>
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#### **Project Request**

The Newtown Board of Education is requesting \$39,439 for the purpose of removing and replacing Ethernet Cables and Network Wires at Hawley School. Please see the attached detailed budget.

#### **Background**

Hawley School resides in the town center, is the neighborhood school for grades K-4, and is a hallmark of the community. The maintenance of school buildings is a priority for the district: the roof was replaced 6 years ago, the boiler and lights were upgraded in 2019, and currently renovations are underway to update HVAC for the main building. Hawley School includes 24 classrooms and 6 specialty rooms. The 9.6-acre property has a playground, 2 baseball fields and 1 multipurpose field. The original construction was built in 1921 (21,000 sq. ft.) with additions in 1948 (16,460 sq. ft.) and 1997 (23,000 sq. ft.).

Currently, there are 293 students enrolled in Hawley. This year, with renovations at the school underway, these students are being bussed to Sandy Hook School and Reed Intermediate School. Next year, (2023/2024), students and staff will be returning to Hawley.

Newtown Public Schools recognizes that technology is vital to prepare students for lifelong learning and workforce readiness. The IT Department, headed by Director of Technology Dennis Colclough, is committed to prioritizing investments in IT that meaningfully impact instruction and identifying and utilizing existing, emerging, and cost-efficient technologies that enhance learning. At Hawley school, students have 1:1 use of devices (Chromebooks). Smartboards and more recently, View Sonic Panels, have been in use for nearly 15 years to ensure interactive learning environments. The district continuously works to develop and manage systems that are secure, effective, and cost efficient and to promote the safe and ethical use of technology.

## **Project Description**

Hawley is currently undergoing an HVAC renovation project. During the planning phases of the renovation, network wiring obstructing the path of the HVAC ducting was slated for relocation; this cost was budgeted. During construction, additional wiring incurred damage, and it is now advised that the entire school be rewired. The old wiring (CAT 3 and CAT 5) is outdated technology, with some being installed as far back as 1997. With the damage to wiring being extensive, technology contractors are reluctant to guarantee a partial repair. A partial repair of the system also risks issues arising at a later date.

While a partial repair to the system may be passable, an overhaul of the wiring while the building is undergoing renovation is advantageous in several ways. It ensures students do not see any further interruption to learning, and realizes a labor cost savings for the district (should this project have to be undertaken at a later date). It also brings current a dated system. Almost all technology at the school is reliant on the functioning of this system, including: students' chrome books, classroom and teachers' computers, interactive panels (Smart Boards and ViewSonic boards), copiers, printers, switch gears, the phone and paging systems, and security cameras.

The exposed ceilings, empty facility, and dated infrastructure are compelling reasons to move forward with a wiring system upgrade in Spring, 2023.

## **Project Implementation**

The contractor, Audio Video technologies, Inc, is prepared to begin installation on the following timeframe. This is subject to change should funding approval be delayed:

Funding Approval by February 28, 2023

Tentative Start by March 15, 2023

Project Completion by May 1, 2023

# Quote



Date: 02/07/2023  
Quote No.: 506

## Audio Video technologies, Inc

60 Old Ridgebury Rd  
Danbury, CT. 06810  
Salvatore Galazzo  
(914) 273-0234  
AVT1@att.Net

### Bill To:

Hawley School  
29 Church Hill Rd  
Newtown CT 06470

Qty	Item	Description	Unit Price	Total
32	Cat6 Ethernet Cable 1000ft	Cat6 Ethernet Cable 1000ft - 23 AWG, CMR, Insulated Solid Bare Copper Wire Internet Cable with Noise Reducing Cross Separator - 550MHZ / 10 Gigabit Speed UTP LAN Cable 1000 ft -	\$195.50	\$6,256.00
120	Legrand Single Gang Box	Legrand - 16172 Wiremold 700 Single Gang Switch and Receptacle Box	\$14.77	\$1,772.40
120	1 Port Keystone Wall plate	1 Port Keystone Wall Plate UL Listed Single Gang Wall Plates for RJ45 Keystone Jack and Modular Inserts.	\$1.50	\$180.00
240	Cat6 Ethernet Jack	Cat6 Keystone Jack RJ45 Keystone	\$2.49	\$597.60
120	WireMold	Legrand Wiremold On-Wall Cord Channel Metal Raceway, BWH1	\$16.00	\$1,920.00

Qty	Item	Description	Unit Price	Total
160	Network wire Installation	Network wire Installation	\$95.00	\$15,200.00
70	Terminations & Labling	Patch panel & RJ45 Wall Plate Termination,Punchdown & Labeling	\$95.00	\$6,650.00
48	Wire Removal	Remove Old Unused Network Wires	\$95.00	\$4,560.00
1	Hardware & Hangers	All Necessary Hardware,Hangers & Labels To Complete Installation Of Network Wires,Wiremold,Boxes	\$2,300.00	\$2,300.00

**Total \$39,436.00**

**Remove Old Network Wires From 54 Rooms & Install New Cat6 Wires, Three Drops Per Room. 2 Wall Mounted Locations & 1 Ceiling Drop For WAP. Terminate & Label All New Cables.**

**Thank you for your business.**