

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 3 PRIMROSE STREET, NEWTOWN, CT
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2020**

MINUTES

PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE: Jordana Bloom, Alison Plante, Chris Smith, Phil Carroll, Ryan Knapp, Judit DeStefano, Paul Lundquist, Chris Eide, Dan Wiedemann, Cathy Reiss, Dan Honan

ABSENT: Andy Clure

ALSO PRESENT: First Selectman Dan Rosenthal, Finance Director Bob Tait, 1 public, 1 press.

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Lundquist called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:33 pm.

VOTER COMMENT: None

MINUTES: Mr. Wiedemann moved to accept the minutes of the August 19, 2020 Legislative Council Regular Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Honan. Mr. Carroll abstained. Motion passes (10-0).

COMMUNICATIONS: Mr. Lundquist shared the letter that was approved in support of the PURA investigation. It was signed and submitted on August 23rd and was received in time for the hearings and testimony. He thanked Mr. Clure for initiating the idea and drafting the initial copy of the letter. *See attachment A.*

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Education Committee – None

Finance Committee – None

Municipal Operations Committee – None

Ordinance Committee – None

FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT: First Selectman Dan Rosenthal reported that the clean up from the last storm continues and is about halfway done. We have not used outside contractors for that and are able to finish it up using our staff only. We had gotten a lot of paving done before the storm hit, and all of that remains on schedule. From a PURA standpoint, we did file to be a party to the investigation to the storm response. Intervener status was granted by PURA, along with New Fairfield and Ridgefield. The First Selectman has sent a letter out to the community saying that people should write to PURA with the docket information sharing their experience. The response to the letter is important to strengthen our stance. There is more discussion for in-person meetings. He plans to begin having BOS meetings in person beginning next week. We're in the process of rearranging the Council Chambers to accommodate the members. Not all boards can meet because the smaller meeting rooms cannot accommodate the appropriate spacing, but larger boards should be able to start meeting using the Council Chambers. We will continue to accommodate the public by calling in and having the meetings live stream. The police project continues to go well. The binder coat for the parking lot and access way will go down in the coming week. On Thursday 9/3, there will be another walk-through.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion and Possible Action

- 2019-2020 Year End Transfers and Reappropriations

Ms. DeStefano moved to accept the 2019-2020 year-end transfers and reappropriations. Seconded by Mr. Carroll. All in favor. Motion passes (11-0).

Mr. Tait shared the 2019-2020 fiscal year end budget transfer request. *See attachment B.* Pages 1-3 represent inter-departmental transfers which means departments had the funds to fund other accounts through their own department. Page 4 represents a transfer from multiple accounts. We had several accounts with surplus due to the Covid restrictions which added up to \$603,000 and we're requesting a transfer from these accounts to go in to the capital and non-recurring account. It is designated for the most part to offset bonding in the CIP and we put this into the August 4th storm cart. We'll be able to reach our limit and be able to get that back from FEMA which will then go back into the capital and non-recurring fund. The the two smaller amounts are to upgrade the video technology and seating in Council Chambers; and towards safety and maintenance of the Sandy Hook sidewalks. Page 5 are the reappropriation requests to get carried forward to the next year – we have one from Registrars because the Primary was delayed, a request coming from Police Department training, and out of the Legislative Council's budget was the amount for code updates. The following pages are various department transfers in detail. The First Selectman commented that we've generally had good budget performance and he's pleased that we're taking the capital non-recurring fund into consideration because year over year it will directly benefit the taxpayer which will go far in terms of preventing increases. He also stated that the upgrades to the Council Chambers are in the works and would be done within the next month.

VOTER COMMENT: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mr. Lundquist announced that we will go back to live in-person meetings beginning at our next meeting on September 19th. We will have chairs spaced out to create distance and reduce overall capacity for the public, but realistically, if we have agenda items that draw a large crowd, we will have to be flexible to go back to a remote environment in case we ever go back to increased capacity. Everyone on the Council and the public will be required to wear a mask. Ms. Bloom asked if the room will be cleaned before going into the room, and the First Selectman confirmed that the building does get sanitized throughout each day. She also wanted to reiterate that if anyone is not feeling well they should not attend even if wearing a mask.

On a different topic, Mr. Wiedemann mentioned that for the next agenda, he would like to discuss the last disclosure put forth by the BOE. He feels that as a final fiscal authority of the Town, the LC should have some input as far as the distribution of the funds go. He stated that at this point they are taxpayer funds, and would like to come to an agreement as to how we can become part of the process. Mr. Lundquist is open to having the BOE as part of the discussion and he will invite them to come be part of the discussion.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Mr. Wiedemann moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 pm. Seconded by Ms. Reiss. All in favor.

*Respectfully submitted,
Rina Quijano, Clerk*

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
AT THE NEXT MEETING.**

Newtown Municipal Center
3 Primrose St., Newtown, CT 06470
Tel. 203-270-4201
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Daniel C. Rosenthal
First Selectman
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TOWN OF NEWTOWN
OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN

August 23, 2020

Marissa Paslick Gillett
Chairman
Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority

Dear Chairman Gillett,

As the elected officials of Newtown, CT we are reaching out to you to show our support for your investigation into the delivery rate hike incurred by the over 10,000 Eversource customers we represent.

We are outraged by Eversource's excessive July 1 hikes to our electricity delivery rates. We support PURA's actions to temporarily suspend Eversource's rate increases while a full investigation is undertaken. The impact of this exorbitant rate hike is further exacerbated by Connecticut's COVID-19 pandemic response, which has resulted in record levels of work reductions, layoffs and job eliminations. The timing and magnitude of Eversource's rate increase are altogether unconscionable.

On behalf of Newtown's residents, we demand an indefinite suspension of these increased delivery charges. We employ PURA to act within the full extent of its oversight and regulatory power to challenge any proposed rate increases, and ensure a fair and reasonable resolution to this debilitating affront to Eversource customers, who already pay the third highest rates for electricity in the nation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to a swift resolution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Rosenthal".

Daniel C. Rosenthal
First Selectman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Lundquist".

Paul Lundquist
Chairman, Legislative Council

[illegible]

[illegible]

Town of Newtown									PAGE 3 OF 5
2019-20 Fiscal Year End Budget Transfer Request									
							Transfers		
Department		Account Number		Account Name			From	To	
PW - Building Maintenance		101-13-650-0000-5624		Energy - Oil			21,500		
PW - Building Maintenance		101-13-650-0000-5411		Water/Sewerage				5,000	
PW - Building Maintenance		101-13-650-0000-5430		Repair & Maintenance Services				1,500	
PW - Building Maintenance		101-13-650-0000-5615		General Maintenance Supplies				15,000	
							21,500	21,500	
	EXPLANATION:								
	Inter-departmental transfer.								
	Amount available in Energy -Oil due to mild winter.								
							Transfers		
Department		Account Number		Account Name			From	To	
Parks & Recreation		101-16-550-0000-5115		Salaries & Wages - Part Time			8,000		
Parks & Recreation		101-16-550-0010-5117		Wages - Seasonal - Life Guards				7,000	
Parks & Recreation		101-16-550-0013-5117		Wages - Seasonal - Gate Attend.				1,000	
							8,000	8,000	
	EXPLANATION:								
	Inter-departmental transfer (between salary & wage accounts).								
							Transfers		
Department		Account Number		Account Name			From	To	
Library		101-14-670-0000-5230		Retirement Contributions			50		
Library		101-14-670-0000-5210		Group Insurance				50	
							50	50	
	EXPLANATION:								
	Inter-departmental transfer								

[illegible]

Town of Newtown									
2019-20 Fiscal Year End Re-appropriation Request									PAGE 5 OF 5
							Amount to be		
							Re-appropriated		
							to 2020-21		
<u>Department</u>		<u>Account Number</u>		<u>Account Name</u>					
Registrars		101-11-180-0000-5360		Prof. Svs. - Elections			36,000		
	<u>EXPLANATION:</u>								
	Primary was delayed to 2020-21. This will also cover extra costs due to COVID								
Police		101-12-310-0000-5580		Dues, travel & education			8,500		
	<u>EXPLANATION:</u>								
	De-escalation training was delayed due to COVID restrictions								
Legislative Council		101-11-600-0000-5800		Other expenditures			9,245		
	<u>EXPLANATION:</u>								
	A transfer to this account for code update was recently approved by LC.								
	Transaction will not occur till 2020-21.								
				TOTAL RE-APPROPRIATIONS			53,745		

VARIOUS DEPARTMENT TRANSFERS (TRANSFERS FROM)								
DEPARTMENT	ACCOUNT #				ACCOUNT NAME		TRANSFER	
							FROM	
Selectmen	101	11	100	0000	5110	SALARIES - REGULAR	1,000	
Selectmen	101	11	100	0000	5350	PROF SVS - LEGAL	38,000	
Selectmen - Other	101	11	105	0000	5531	POSTAGE	2,000	
Selectmen - Other	101	11	105	0000	5540	ADVERTISING	2,000	
Selectmen - Other	101	11	105	0000	5590	MEETING CLERKS	9,000	
Social Services	101	11	110	0000	5110	SALARIES - REGULAR	13,000	
Social Services	101	11	110	0000	5220	SOCIAL SEC CONTRI	1,000	
Social Services	101	11	110	0000	5301	FEES & PROF SERVICE	4,000	
Social Services	101	11	110	0000	5580	DUES, TRAVEL & EDUC	1,000	
Tax Collector	101	11	140	0000	5220	SOCIAL SEC CONTRI	1,000	
Registrars	101	11	180	0000	5580	DUES, TRAVEL & EDUC	1,000	
Registrars	101	11	180	0000	5611	OFFICE SUPPLIES	1,000	
Tax Assessor	101	11	190	0000	5110	SALARIES - REGULAR	30,000	
Tax Assessor	101	11	190	0000	5220	SOCIAL SEC CONTRI	3,000	
Tax Assessor	101	11	190	0000	5370	PROF SVS - AUDIT	1,000	
Tax Assessor	101	11	190	0000	5580	DUES, TRAVEL & EDUC	2,000	
Finance	101	11	200	0000	5220	SOCIAL SEC CONTRI	2,000	
Finance	101	11	200	0000	5800	OTHER EXPENDITURES	1,000	
Technology	101	11	205	0000	5110	SALARIES - REGULAR	10,000	
Technology	101	11	205	0000	5220	SOCIAL SEC CONTRI	1,000	
Technology	101	11	205	0000	5445	SOFTWARE/HARDWARE M	25,000	
Technology	101	11	205	0000	5580	DUES, TRAVEL & EDUC	9,000	
Technology	101	11	205	0000	5611	OFFICE SUPPLIES	2,000	
Technology	101	11	205	0000	5744	MACH & EQUIP - TECH	4,000	
Probate Court	101	11	255	0000	5310	PROF SVS - OFFICIAL	2,000	
Insurance	101	11	350	0000	5520	INSURANCE, OTHER TH	3,000	
Insurance	101	11	350	0000	5800	OTHER EXPENDITURES	8,000	
Economic Dev	101	11	740	0000	5301	FEES & PROF SERVICE	4,000	
Communications	101	12	300	0000	5430	REPAIR & MAINTENANC	4,000	
Communications	101	12	300	0000	5442	RENTAL OF EQUIPMENT	30,000	
Communications	101	12	300	0000	5501	OTHER PURCHASED SER	3,000	
Communications	101	12	300	0000	5580	DUES, TRAVEL & EDUC	5,000	
Police	101	12	310	0000	5110	SALARIES - REGULAR	8,000	
Police	101	12	310	0000	5117	SALARIES - SEASONAL	7,000	
Police	101	12	310	0000	5130	SALARIES - OVERTIME	17,000	
Police	101	12	310	0000	5220	SOCIAL SEC CONTRI	16,000	
Police	101	12	310	0000	5290	OTHER EMPL BENEFITS	14,000	
Police	101	12	310	0000	5505	CONTRACTUAL SERVICE	4,000	
Police	101	12	310	0000	5746	EQUIPMENT	15,000	
Fire	101	12	320	0000	5435	RADIO & PAGER SERVI	8,000	
Emergency Mgt	101	12	330	0000	5310	PROF SVS - OFFICIAL	2,000	
Emergency Mgt	101	12	330	0000	5505	CONTRACTUAL SERVICE	1,000	
Emergency Mgt	101	12	330	0000	5580	DUES, TRAVEL & EDUC	3,000	
Animal Control	101	12	340	0000	5290	OTHER EMPL BENEFITS	1,000	
Building Official	101	12	460	0000	5110	SALARIES - REGULAR	16,000	
Building Official	101	12	460	0000	5220	SOCIAL SEC CONTRI	1,000	
Building Official	101	12	460	0000	5611	OFFICE SUPPLIES	1,000	
Highway	101	13	500	0000	5626	STREET LIGHTS	2,000	
Winter Maint.	101	13	510	0000	5130	SALARIES - OVERTIME	40,000	

	DEPARTMENT	ACCOUNT #					ACCOUNT NAME	TRANSFER	
								FROM	
	Winter Maint.	101	13	510	0000	5220	SOCIAL SEC CONTRI	11,000	
	Winter Maint.	101	13	510	0000	5661	TREATED SALT	24,000	
	Transfer Sta.	101	13	515	0000	5290	OTHER EMPL BENEFITS	2,000	
	Transfer Sta.	101	13	515	0000	5505	CONTRACTUAL SERVICE	3,000	
	Building Maint.	101	13	650	0000	5110	SALARIES - REGULAR	10,000	
	Building Maint.	101	13	650	0000	5130	SALARIES - OVERTIME	5,000	
	Building Maint.	101	13	650	0000	5622	ENERGY - ELECTRICIT	15,000	
	Building Maint.	101	13	650	0000	5749	CAPITAL OUTLAY	4,000	
	Senior Services	101	14	220	0000	5110	SALARIES - REGULAR	7,000	
	Senior Services	101	14	220	0000	5220	SOCIAL SEC CONTRI	2,000	
	Senior Services	101	14	220	0000	5580	DUES, TRAVEL & EDUC	1,000	
	Senior Services	101	14	220	0000	5611	OFFICE SUPPLIES	3,000	
	Senior Services	101	14	220	0000	5800	OTHER EXPENDITURES	25,000	
	Land Use	101	15	490	0000	5110	SALARIES - REGULAR	14,000	
	Land Use	101	15	490	0000	5220	SOCIAL SEC CONTRI	1,000	
	Land Use	101	15	490	0000	5350	PROF SVS - LEGAL	15,000	
	Land Use	101	15	490	0000	5505	CONTRACTUAL SERVICE	1,000	
	Land Use	101	15	490	0000	5550	PRINTING,BINDING &	1,000	
	Parks & Recr.	101	16	550	0000	5130	SALARIES - OVERTIME	25,000	
	Parks & Recr.	101	16	550	0000	5220	SOCIAL SEC CONTRI	1,000	
	Parks & Recr.	101	16	550	0000	5290	OTHER EMPL BENEFITS	1,000	
	Parks & Recr.	101	16	550	0000	5505	CONTRACTUAL SERVICE	9,000	
	Parks & Recr.	101	16	550	0000	5580	DUES, TRAVEL & EDUC	5,000	
	Parks & Recr.	101	16	550	0000	5611	OFFICE SUPPLIES	1,000	
	Parks & Recr.	101	16	550	0000	5615	GENERAL MAINTENANCE	1,000	
	Parks & Recr.	101	16	550	0000	5749	CAPITAL OUTLAY	20,000	
	Debt Service	101	18	580	0000	5861	BOND INTEREST	2,000	
	Contingency	101	24	570	0000	5899	CONTINGENCY	15,000	
							TOTAL	603,000	