

George Ferguson, Chair  
Dan Amaral  
Tony Filiato, Vice Chair  
Ryan Knapp  
Paul Lundquist



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## TOWN OF NEWTOWN

Draft Minutes of the Legislative Council Finance and Administration Committee Meeting.

The Finance and Administration Committee met on Tuesday, March 28, 2017, in Room 1, Newtown Municipal Center, 3 Primrose Lane, Newtown. Vice Chairman Filiato called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

Present: Mr. Amaral, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Filiato, Ms. Jacob, Mr. Knapp, and Mr. Lundquist

Also present: First Selectman Llodra, Mr. Wiedemann, a Member of ETH BOM and an ETH employee

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

A motion was made for the Minutes of the March 17, 2017 meeting and the March 20, 2017 (joint meeting w/ Municipal Operations Committee) meeting, by Mr. Ryan and seconded by Mr. Amaral. The minutes were accepted, with Mr. Filiato and Ms. Jacob abstaining as to the March 20 minutes citing their lack of attendance at that meeting.

Mr. Knapp led a discussion of town revenues, particularly in regard to raising the anticipated collection rate of taxes from 99% to 99.2%. Mr. Knapp expressed concern that historically the number trended toward 99%. Ms. Llodra addressed the issue stating that Mr. Tait had proposed the adjustment and clearly was comfortable with the change.

Mr. Filiato led a discussion concerning the Pension and Medical funds, noting a presentation by Mr. Tait given at the last Council meeting in which Mr. Tait suggested that the proposed 2% increases in each fund be delayed a year. Ms. Llodra explained that this proposal involved holding the current discount rate for another year. Ms. Llodra was comfortable with the proposal.

MS. JACOB MOVED THAT THE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO THE COUNCIL THAT THE LINE ITEM DENOTED PENSION FUND BE REDUCED BY \$133,030 AND THE LINE ITEM DENOTED MEDICAL SELF INSURANCE FUND BE REDUCED BY \$63,630. MR. FILIATO SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED 5-1 (MR. FERGUSON AGAINST).

Ms. Jacob led a discussion in regard to reducing revenues in the budget in light of certain potential impact of the state budget. Discussions had been had with both Ms. Llodra and Dr. Erardi, who were reported to be in agreement. A proposed Resolution would be circulated to the Council for potential action at the next Council meeting.

Mr. Knapp led a discussion concerning the impact on the non-recurring fund of the proposed actions. Ms. Llodra agreed that Mr. Tait should make a presentation to the entire Council.

Mr. Filiato inquired as to the increase in the Technology budget of approximately \$20,000. Ms. Llodra explained that approximately 80% of the Town's desktop computers had met or exceeded their 5 year planned retirement date as the replacement schedule had been pushed back in prior budgets.

Ms. Jacob led a discussion regarding Debt Service noting Mr. Tait's prior presentation and suggestions to the Council.

MS. JACOB MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE COUNCIL THAT THE DEBT SERVICE LINE ITEM BE REDUCED BY \$188,406. MR. LUNDQUIST SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED 6-0.

Ms. Jacob led a discussion concerning the line item concerning the Town's contribution to ETH operating costs. The budget proposed an increase from \$75,000 to \$95,000. A discussion ensued with the ETH Board Member and staffer concerning the outlook for increased revenues and physical needs of the facility. Ms. Llodra detailed the unique legal position of the building. Mr. Knapp expressed concern that the current conversation was virtually identical to last year's conversation. ETH BOM member noted that they had approached Borough Zoning concerning a change in zoning to permit office rental in the building, which would greatly increase revenue. Ms. Llodra noted that as the Town owned the building that it had joined in the request. No action has been taken to date by Borough Zoning.

MR. KNAPP MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE COUNCIL THAT THE LINE ITEM CONCERNING ETH BE REDUCED FROM \$95,000 TO \$75,000. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MS. JACOB.

THE MOTION FAILED 3-3 (MR. AMARAL, MR. FILIATO, AND MR. LUNDQUIST AGAINST)

MR. FILIATO MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE COUNCIL THAT THE LINE ITEM CONCERNING ETH BE REDUCED FROM \$95,000 TO \$85,000. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. LUNDQUIST.

THE MOTION PASSED 5-1 (MR. KNAPP AGAINST)

Voter Comment: None

Date of Next Meeting: None Scheduled

Upon the Motion of Ms. Jacob and seconded by Mr. Knapp, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Anthony R. Filiato, Esq., Vice Chair  
Legislative Council Finance and Administration Committee