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TOWN OF NEWTOWN

TOWN OF NEWTOWN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING

SEPTEMBER 6, 2017

7:00 PM

NEWTOWN MUNICIPAL CENTER, NEWTOWN, CT

PRESENT: George Ferguson, Phil Carroll, Chris Eide, Neil Chaudhary, Judit DeStefano, Ryan Knapp, Paul Lundquist, Mary Ann Jacob, Dan Amaral, Tony Filiato, Dan Wiedemann, Dan Honan.

ALSO PRESENT: First Selectman Pat Llodra, Attorney David Dobin, 9 public, 2 press.

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Knapp called the public hearing to order at 7:04 pm to discuss the following:

Tax Abatement for Volunteer Fire, Ambulance and Underwater Rescue Personnel Ordinance per the charge set forth by the Legislative Council on October 7th, 2015.

Roads and Sidewalks Ordinance per the charge set forth by the Legislative Council on July 20th, 2016.

Farm Building Property Tax Exemption as allowed by Public Act 14-33, an Act Concerning the Assesment of Horses and Ponies and Farm Machinery and the Transfer of Land Classified as Farm Land, Open Space Land, Forest Land and Marine Heritage Land, per the charge set forth by the Legislative Council on October 5th, 2016.

VOTER COMMENT:

Geordie Elkins, 20 Taunton Lane – speaking to the farm building tax exemption, Mr. Elkins said that he worked at Planters Choice in Newtown and is strongly in favor for anything that benefits farming, when one group receives a benefit, it is important that others in the town receive benefits, glad to pay taxes to cover, he is supportive of the spirit of preserving rural character of the town and is supportive of the ordinance if it applies to farms that have permanent conservation easements.

Chuck Newman, Planters' Choice Nursery, 140 Huntingtown Road – speaking to the farm building tax exemption, Mr. Newman own 150 acres in Newtown, keeping it off the tax base from development, other towns offer similar benefits up to \$100,000 abatement, understands Hartford challenges, he appreciates any help and what the town does for them.

Dean Sepe, Sepe Farm in Sandy Hook - sheep farm on Toddy Hill Road – Mr. Sepe moved here for rural character 25 years ago, speaking to the farm building tax exemption he said that this action will enhance young farmers that may want to start farming.

Andrea Haas, 159 Hattertown Road, Maple Corner Farm – she came to Newtown in 1966, sold farms over the years, came here due to affordability, the town welcomed people with horses, she started with Morgan horses, developed a breeding program, she thinks the farm building tax exemption is a great idea,

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she would like to see us help the farmers, avoid urban sprawl. She questioned the exemption if barns have living quarters. Ms. Jacob said that will be discussed after the public hearing.

Anthony D'Angelo, 18 Cedarhurst Trail, Sandy Hook – Mr. D'Angelo spoke to the roads and sidewalk ordinance and added that he was in favor of the other two ordinances, he spoke to sections of the ordinance regarding private road ordinance, he wondered if in deliberations that would have any impact in non-assessment of personal property given drainage work, non-conforming roads that could be accepted, impact on private roads and what would change.

Janice Nazvesky, 24 Clearview Drive – owns Sam's Tree Farm – speaking to the farm building tax exemption, she would like to continue to maintain the family farm, issues with taxes in the past. Ms. Nazvesky also spoke to the ordinance regarding the fire department and as a member of Botsford fire and rescue, they put in a lot of hours to service the Town, like to keep that going, good service for the town, and would like to see that benefit continue.

Kim Macy, 45 Huntingtown Road – Ms. Macy has been in Newtown over 30 years, keeps horses, chickens, hay, and wants to stay in Newtown, she is in favor of the exceptions for buildings and machinery, farms need the help, good to keep the rural character of the town. Good for kids to see farm animals in town. Also, supports help to the fire department, first responders.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business the public hearing adjourned at 7:23 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
June Sgobbo, Clerk

Attachments:

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.