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## TOWN OF NEWTOWN

### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING TOWN HALL SOUTH, 3 MAIN STREET, NEWTOWN, CT JANUARY 9, 2019 MINUTES

**PRESENT:** Chris Eide, Chris Smith, Jordana Bloom, Judit DeStefano, Ryan Knapp, Dan Wiedemann, Paul Lundquist, Kelley Johnson, Jay Mattegat, Dan Honan.

**ABSENT:** Robert Pickard, Phil Carroll.

**ALSO PRESENT:** First Selectman Dan Rosenthal, Finance Director Bob Tait.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Lundquist called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:32 pm.

**VOTER COMMENT:** None.

**MINUTES:** MR. HONAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 2, 2019 REGULAR MEETING. SECOND BY MR. KNAPP. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION PASSES. (10-0)

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Attached.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** None.

**FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT:** Mr. Rosenthal said the Board of Selectmen met on Monday January 7, 2019 and it has been challenging to keep the community center on budget, there are more bid packages to come in. The minutes of the Board of Selectmen meeting posted on the Town website can be viewed for more details. Mr. Wiedemann asked how space was authorized, Mr. Rosenthal said during the planning phase, and is within scope of what the voters ratified. The senior center has gift fund available to tap into if necessary. Mr. Knapp asked about how to avoid same scenario with projects like the new police station, Mr. Rosenthal said the construction manager will be involved at the beginning. Mr. Lundquist stated that a real understanding of how the GE money will be used, Mr. Rosenthal assured that all will be disclosed. Ms. Johnson suggested a published schedule to keep schedule on track. Mr. Rosenthal added that the schedule is discussed at Public Building & Site meetings. Mr. Rosenthal ratified the dispatch contract. The last administration negotiated that contract and needed to be renegotiated. Mr. Knapp asked if any language from the state, how to reconcile. Mr. Rosenthal he would need to pull the exact language, said they can make decisions to restructure and there is broad flexibility with all bargaining agreements.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### 2019-2020 to 2023-2024 CIP

Consideration of BOF recommendations based on review of Legislative Council's modified CIP.

Mr. Lundquist said the Board of Finance had no question about moving the Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial, but did recommend that the pickleball project be in year 2 instead of year 1. The main point was discomfort that a donor can influence when a project can be done, there was some question about timing of the donation and if it can be applied year 2. There is still time through appropriation to make changes.

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Mr. Knapp attended the Board of Finance meeting and was uncomfortable with the discussion saying that Newtown has a strong history of private philanthropy and the amount offered represents 8.6% of the budget and to try to work with the donor.

MR. KNAPP MOVED TO REJECT THE BOARD OF FINANCE RECOMMENDATION TO MOVE THE PICKLEBALL COURT PROJECT FROM YEAR 1 TO YEAR 2 AND ACCEPT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDED CIP AS IT WAS AMENDED AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING LAST WEEK. SECOND BY MS. JOHNSON. Mr. Lundquist discussed regulation language and review process to make a modification.

Mr. Mattegat expressed concerns over using money for pickleball instead of on other items in Town. Mr. Mattegat suggested that voters decide.

Ms. Bloom said projects have been prioritized by department, good schools, parks and recreation provide economic benefits adding to the community which people look for when considering a to move to a town. Mr. Rosenthal agreed and added roads, low taxes are also contributing factors.

Ms. Johnson spoke to philanthropy and to be responsive to our constituency.

Mr. Eide said it may be unfair the way it was characterized at the Board of Finance meeting, it may not be the way the donor intended.

Mr. Knapp said the basis for this motion is based on the Legislative Council authority, it is a better fit in year one of the CIP schedule and will end up saving money. Regarding the donation, the donor had good intentions.

Mr. Rosenthal said it is an appropriation that the Legislative Council will need to put forward, the Board of Selectmen did not originate it.

Mr. Wiedemann said it is common practice for donations to be earmarked for something specific.

Mr. Lundquist said that he is comfortable with the language of the motion and the appropriation can be reviewed again for better understanding of costs. Mr. Smith said to consider that costs may go up in the future.

MOTION PASSES. (8-2) (Mr. Eide, Mr. Mattegat)

**VOTER COMMENT:** None.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

June Sgobbo, Clerk

Attachments: Communication.

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

On Wed, Jan 2, 2019 at 10:08 PM Dan Rosenthal <[dan.rosenthal@newtown-ct.gov](mailto:dan.rosenthal@newtown-ct.gov)> wrote:

I know, I can't resist. One final thought after tonight's change to the CIP. Assuming the BOF follows suit and accepts moving pickle ball to year 1, I respectfully ask when it comes time to send projects to referendum that this one be sent to the voters. It is unquestionably an elective project and I think if we are going to ask the voters whether they approve roads, boilers, etc. that we should give them the opportunity to weigh in on projects such as this.

Thank you,  
Dan

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