

Board of Selectmen
August 17, 2017

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE BOARD OF SELECMTEN

The Board of Selectmen held a special meeting Thursday, August 17, 2017 in the Council Chamber, Newtown Municipal Center, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown. First Selectman Llodra called the meeting to order at 7:30p.m.

PRESENT: First Selectman Llodra, Selectman William F.L. Rodgers, Selectman Herbert C. Rosenthal.

ALSO PRESENT: Director of Planning George Benson, Deputy Director of Planning, Director of Parks & Recreation Amy Mangold, Assistant Director/Parks Carl Samuelson, Town Attorney David Grogins, Board of Fire Commissioners Chairman Rob Manna, Matt Dobson, Ron Bolmer and 100+ members of the public.

RECOGNITION: First Selectman Llodra opened the meeting by recognizing long time volunteers who recently resigned their positions after serving for many years:

Mark Korotash – Mr. Korotash was appointed to the Pension Committee in 1976 and is the last of the original members on the board. First Selectman Llodra presented an engraved pewter plate to Mr. Korotash. Selectman Rodgers knows Mr. Korotash as a fellow attorney; he is the consummate gentlemen. In addition to his devotion to the Pension Committee and the town Mr. Korotash brings boundless honor to the law profession. Selectman Rosenthal re-appointed Mr. Korotash several times; his father Jack Rosenthal appointed Mr. Korotash. The fund began at zero and is now in the multi-millions.

Andrew Willie – Mr. Willie was appointed as an original member in 2005 and helped move Fairfield Hills forward. First Selectman Llodra presented an engraved pewter plate to Mr. Willie. Selectman Rosenthal appointed Mr. Willie originally and thanked him for his many years of great service to the town. Selectman Rosenthal supported the original appointment of Mr. Willie and was always impressed by his common sense and business prospective on a fluid board.

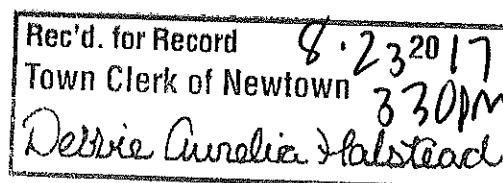
Charles “Skip” Annett – Mr. Annett was unable to attend as he has recently moved out of state. First Selectman Llodra stated Mr. Annett served for forty one years on the Zoning Board of Appeals. Forty one years is a remarkable amount of time.

All three volunteers have modeled a great level of community service and positive citizenship.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES: Selectman Rodgers moved to accept the minutes of the 6/20/17 meeting. Selectman Rosenthal seconded with the following amendments: item #6, page 2, Selectman Rosenthal stated under normal circumstances housing projects are not an appropriate target for the business incentive plan but was willing to pass along for further discussion. All in favor of the minutes as amended. Selectman Rodgers moved to accept the minutes of the 7/6/17 meeting. Selectman Rosenthal seconded. All in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS: First Selectman Llodra appointed Fran Pennarola to serve as the Land Use Citation Officer. A document on the 2017 revaluation was submitted (att.). First Selectman Llodra received a letter relative to the dock and construction plans at Walnut Tree Ball Field, a letter of appreciation to Joe Tani of the Department of Public Works and a letter of praise relative to the Household Hazardous Waste operation that was held in May. First Selectman Llodra shared a letter from Secretary Benjamin Barnes and the town response relative to the state budget and the financial status of municipalities (att.).

FINANCE DIRECTORS REPORT: none.



NEW BUSINESS

Discussion and possible action:

1. **Leaps of Faith application for license to use the Walnut Tree ball field:** First Selectman Llodra stated this discussion is not about the value or merits of the Leaps of Faith program; this is a valuable program that does a great service. The question revolves around a location. **Land Use:** Mr. Benson reviewed LOF history which began at 62 Housatonic Drive. As the program began to grow complaints were received relative to parking problems. At that time Leaps of Faith, along with Land Use began looking at alternate sites. A cease and desist was issued in August 2016 to discontinue use at Housatonic Drive. A meeting was held with LOF attorney, the town attorney, Land Use and Parks and Recreation in an attempt to avoid an injunction. The Walnut Tree ball field was considered at that point. First Selectman Llodra pointed out that every established access point to the lake was looked at. The impact to the neighbors was underestimated; they should've been notified, although there is no legal requirement to do so. Mr. Sibley explained an email Selectman Rosenthal spoke of relative to constructing a building for LOF was documentation between staff on next steps during an active court case. Land Use signed a dock permit and the temporary use license was granted through Parks & Recreation. Atty. Grogins said the application for the temporary injunction to show just cause was drafted on March 3. A temporary permit was issued in effort to find a solution. Selectman Rosenthal noted a special Board of Selectmen meeting could've been held relative to the signing of the temporary permit. **Parks & Recreation:** Ms. Mangold said the temporary permit was to solve an imminent problem. Selectman Rodgers questioned the frequency and scope of events. Ms. Mangold coordinated with Elizabeth Kloczko, of LOF, on short term events to ensure there was no conflict with athletic events on the field. There have been more events than anticipated. Parks and Recreation asked LOF to scale back until the 8/17 meeting. First Selectman Llodra said there is no implication that people were not being truthful but the lack of information left the town surprised. Mr. Samuelson stated the original emails were investigative to determine if it would be possible to build anything down the road. Ms. Mangold pointed out there was a definitive end date to the temporary permit, the town was trying to balance everything out to be able to be able to help everyone. Selectman Rosenthal said it was a disservice not to inform the neighbors beforehand. Mr. Benson took responsibility for underestimating the impact and not notifying the neighbors beforehand. First Selectman Llodra suggested Leaps of Faith have a community meeting with the neighborhood. **Leaps of Faith:** Joel Zeisler, 62 Housatonic Drive, founder and volunteer of LOF and Kathryn Wolf, current chairperson of LOF, were present to speak to the program and Walnut Tree ball field. Mr. Zeisler does not believe there is a problem with traffic. He said that a DEEP survey concluded that LOF is not violating any rules and the traffic pattern is minimum (att.). The season ended just as the cease and desist order came in, which is typically in September. Leaps of Faith clear cut 75-100 feet with permission. LOF did everything they were asked to do including acquiring all necessary permits and getting approval through First Light and DEEP. Walnut Tree ball field is a wonderful site, the participants and volunteers are enthusiastic. Safety is the biggest concern of LOF. The vision for a permanent location would include a level, waterfront site, clean water with not much boat traffic and a small building with room for expansion. Ms. Wolf noted that financially events need to be held in order to secure grants and funding. Half of the clinics are done with one boat; there is not constant boat traffic and events don't prohibit people from using the lake. LOF reached out to the neighbors attempting to meet with them. Elizabeth Kloczko explained the building envisioned for LOF and the Town of Newtown would create an accessible community area, including bathrooms and changing areas available to anybody using the park and office space and a small gym. If an association was formed the residents of Bridge End Farm and Parks & Recreation could use the space also. Mr. Zeisler addressed rumors saying the lake was not closed off, the grass was not damaged and LOF is not expecting any taxpayer money or town money. LOF events are more frequent but smaller in size. Mr. Zeisler asked for an extension to allow LOF to finish their season. **Bridge End Farm Lane:** Dan O'Donnell, 12 Bridge End Farm Lane and Todd Martin, 26 Bridge End Farm Lane were present to

speak for the residents. Mr. Martin stated all houses are built 100 yards away from the flood plain. Mr. Martin is familiar with LOF as his kids were volunteers. He said there were thirty one events listed between July 10 and Aug. 31 and he believes they are dominating the lake. Mr. Martin does not believe Walnut Tree Hill is a suitable location for the LOF clinics and asked the board to vote no to the application for a license to use the ball field (att.). Mr. O'Donnell was a LOF board member until December 2016. Residents noted excessive car and boat traffic, intimidation and deceit. He feels his children are unsafe swimming in the lake. There is a no trespassing sign on the ball field now. Mr. O'Donnell feels strongly that LOF is the right organization at the wrong location and requested the board not to allow any more events at this location. He suggested moving it back to Housatonic Drive where it existed for 25 years.

Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection: Mike Hayden, Supervisor for Navigation, Boating Infrastructure Unit, CT DEEP Boating Division clarified that the DEEP was only involved with LOF events previously because they fell under the category of requirements for a marine event permit which is for any parade, regatta, race, exhibition and by meeting one of four criteria: the use of a state boat launch, a restriction of the waterbody, an exemption to laws or regulations or that the event will hinder or obstruct navigation. LOF had dutifully applied for and received marine event permits from DEEP for the Housatonic location. When the location was changed to Walnut Tree DEEP had an officer observe LOF activities to determine if the activities warranted a marine event permit. DEEP didn't observe activity that would hinder navigation or use of the water and therefore did not require a marine event permit. Regulations, such as not allowing any vessel to pass within 100 feet of shore, dock, a float or an anchored or moored vessel, speed limits and observing the slow no wake zones, are enforced. Section 15-134(f) of the CT General Statutes requires any marked course or jump placed in the water must receive a permit from the DEEP. The State of CT doesn't take a position to support or not support the organization, the town or the residents. The DEEP encourages safe recreational boating; compliance with the law is the first responsibility.

VOTER COMMENTS: **Lincoln Sander**, 211 Walnut Tree Hill Rd., said the largest amount of shoreline is on Pootatuck Cove, an environmentally sensitive location. He thinks there should be an environmental impact study. **William Jones**, Sandy Hook, stated if he ran a business from his home he would've received a cease and desist order. Businesses should not be operated in a residential area. The Walnut Tree Park is land set aside, by development project regulations, as open space, for the enjoyment of all Newtown residents. Mr. Jones asked the board to vote no for LOF to use the Walnut Tree ball field. Mr. Benson said the town took the land possibly for a marina use in 1979. It was delegated to the Parks & Recreation Commission who has jurisdiction on the use. **Ken Serke**, 24 Bridge End Farm Lane explained he and his wife received a copy of a marine event permit, from Land Use, from last year. Mr. Serke contacted John Byran, whose name was on the permit. Mr. Byran provided Mr. Serke with dates LOF had requested to close the lake. Selectman Rodgers stated that DEEP didn't issue a current marine event permit because the events did not meet the criteria, which moots the lake closure issue. Elizabeth Kloczko said the permit was for the Housatonic location but never used because they relocated. **Tim O'Meara**, Housatonic Drive questioned the permit. Mr. Hayden said that a permit was not necessary because it did not meet the criteria required. Mr. Serke asked about liability. Leaps of Faith has insurance; the town is also named as an insured. Atty. Grogins said the town is protected under the Recreational Immunity Statute. **Lynn Simoneau**, Nunnawauk Meadows said the ball field is a perfect site. There has been no destruction of property and there has been no restriction to residents. The space is public, LOF is not trying to take it over. Other locations are sandy and difficult for wheelchairs. The distance of events from Mr. Zeisler's home takes away time from the events and decreases the time and efforts of volunteers. Participating in the events makes Ms. Simoneau feel like she does not have a disability. **Scott Porch**, Sandy Hook, LOF volunteer said there was vandalism to the dock. He fails to comprehend how people can act out against Leaps of Faith. The Walnut Tree ball park location is the perfect spot with level grounds, grass and wheel chair accessibility. **Alex Snow**, Bethel, has been skiing with LOF for twenty years; safety is their number

one concern. Recently a LOF boat was cut off by a public boat. LOF was observing safety, a member of the public was not.

First Selectman Llodra is hoping for a permanent home for Leaps of Faith that respects and honors the program. She is not sure if Bridge End Farm Lane is the right location for a permanent home. First Selectman Llodra advocates extending the permit to allow LOF to finish the season and suggested LOF look at Hanover boat launch. Mr. Samuelson said Eichlers Cove does not have parking and the topography doesn't serve the LOF program well. Selectman Rodgers stated any permanent solution will encounter the 'not in my back yard' problem. He suggested the clinics rotate at various locations. The town is limited to controlling land abutting the lake with no direct authority over the lake. Selectman Rodgers is in favor of a renewed event license that runs to the end of September with specific number of events. Additionally, he is in favor of a conditional permit that will be revoked if events are exceeded or rules of license are violated. First Selectmen asked LOF to work with Land Use to look at other location options and come back to the Board of Selectmen in March.

Dean Palmer, 46 Housatonic Drive, asked if the permit will shut down the waterway. First Selectman Llodra stated LOF does not have a permit, issued by DEEP, to close the waterway.

Mr. Zeisler stated he thinks the proposal is fair and voiced concern about rain dates. The selectmen are committing to the number of events. Selectmen Rosenthal asked about an environmental impact of the Pootatuck Cove. Mr. Sibley said the bridge project is having an impact on the cove, however, there should be no other impact on boat traffic other than the activities of the boats.

Selectman Rodgers moved that the Board of the Selectman grant a temporary license to Leaps of Faith to continue operations at the Walnut Tree Park provided it is with detailed frequency of events, committing to the attached schedule and continue through September 30 with provision for rain dates and conditional with automatic revocation if scope or duration is exceeded. Selectman Rosenthal seconded, noting it is the same general language as in the current license. All in favor. Selectman Rodgers noted that the proposal in the spring should not be for a temporary extension at the beginning of the season.

2. **2016-2017 Fiscal Year End Budget Transfers:** Mr. Manna, Mr. Bolmer and Mr. Dobson were present to talk to the Fire transfer request saying that the request is in anticipation of a possible overage on the new tankers that are on order. Current trucks will be sold at fair market value. There were less repairs and money left over in that line item. There is a savings in energy-oil because of the closing of the Hook & Ladder Building. A few items were purchased with alternative funding, leaving a surplus in capital. Selectman Rodgers moved the Town of Newtown 2016-2017 Fiscal Year End Budget Transfer in the total amount of \$106,765, (individual line items identified in attached document). Selectman Rosenthal seconded. All in favor.
3. **Road and Drainage Work Agreement:** Selectman Rosenthal moved the release of the \$50,200 Maintenance Bond relative to the Road & Drainage Work Agreement, Beaver Dam Road, Beaver Dam Subdivision, Samaha, LLC. Selectman Rodgers seconded. All in favor.
4. **Maintenance Bond Release:** Selectman Rosenthal moved the release of the remaining portion of the Maintenance bond for Boulder Creek Road, Boulder Creek Subdivision in the amount of \$4,169.00. First Selectman Llodra seconded. Selectman Rodgers abstained. Motion passed.
5. **Maintenance Bond Release:** Selectman Rosenthal moved the Maintenance Bond release, Road & Drainage Work Agreement, Plaza South, Bryan Lane/Washbrook Road, T.P. Properties in the amount of \$4,060. Selectman Rodgers seconded. All in favor.
6. **Transfer:** Selectman Rosenthal moved the transfer of \$3,500 from Contingency to Other Expenditures -- Hattertown (att.). First Selectman Llodra seconded. Selectman Rosenthal abstained. Motion passed.

7. **Resolution:** Selectman Rodgers moved the resolution: RESOLUTION WITH RESPECT TO THE CLOSE-OUT OF VARIOUS CAPITAL PROJECTS AND REDUCING THE APPROPRIATIONS AND AUTHORIZED AND UNISSUED AMOUNTS FOR SUCH PROJECTS, noting the aggregate amount of \$553,253, and further moved the reading of the resolution in its entirety (att.). Selectman Rosenthal seconded. All in favor.
8. **Contract proposal – Newtown Emergency Telecommunicator & Police Clerical local (2015-2018):** Selectman Rodgers moved to authorize the First Selectman enter into an agreement between the Town of Newtown and the Newtown Emergency Telecommunicator & Police Clerical local. Selectman Rosenthal seconded. All in favor.
9. **Appointments/Reappointments/Vacancies/Openings:** Selectman Rodgers moved the appointment of Charles Gardner as an alternate member of the Zoning Board of Appeals to fill a vacancy to the next general election. Selectman Rosenthal seconded. All in favor. Selectman Rodgers moved the appointments to the Lake Lillinonah Authority Law Enforcement Personnel, Officer Kelsey Sullivan and Assistant Tommy Robbins and the re-appointment of Renate Adler to the Fairfield Hills Authority for a term to expire 7/31/20. Selectman Rosenthal seconded. There was discussion on the C.H. Booth Library, the number of members appointed by the trustees, the number of members appointed by the Board of Selectmen, the amount of days since the vacancy and how it relates to the Charter and the library by laws. It was agreed a legal opinion would be sought. All in favor.
10. **Driveway Bond Release/Extension:** Selectman Rodgers moved the driveway bond extension of Garvin Yu, 33 Hi Barlow Road, M12, B5, L7 to 2/28/18 and the driveway bond release for R. Mastroni Excavating, 4 Anthony Ridge, M25, B1, L3 in the amount of \$1,000 and the driveway bond release for Keith Aragi Construction, LLC, Hi Barlow Road, M12, B5, L8 in the amount of \$1,000. Selectman Rosenthal seconded. All in favor.
11. **Tax Refunds:** Selectman Rodgers moved the July 2017 Tax Refunds, No. 1, in the amount of \$15,839.06 and the August 2017 Tax Refunds, No. 2 in the amount of \$6,965.00. Selectman Rosenthal seconded. All in favor.

VOTER COMMENTS: Paul Gibbons, 6 Bridge End Farm Lane spoke as a resident and a former volunteer of LOF. Lake Zoar Authority is currently investigating the Walnut Tree area of the lake to potentially make it a no-wake zone because that portion of the lake is narrow. He does not support any structure or long term use of the Walnut Tree Ball Field. Both the cease and desist and the injunction referred to LOF as a commercial business. Selectman Rodgers explained the topic was land use and land use distinguishes between commercial and residential; to clarify Selectman Rodgers suggested viewing it as residential and non-residential. Mr. Gibbons reported that the Bridge End Farm Lane residents were 100% opposed to LOF using the ball field on a permanent basis.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The Community Center Advisory Committee has been working with Parks & Recreation and will present options for allocation of space at the Sept. 5 Board of Selectmen meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Selectman Rodgers moved to enter executive session to discuss Legal Matters: Allstate a/s/o Jennifer Marlin subrogation claim; Hazel, Justin vs. McAnaspie, , Daniel Et Al; Joelle Devito vs. Canine Advocates of Newtown, Inc., Town of Newtown and Newtown Animal Control Center; Michael DeJoseph vs. Town of Newtown. Selectman Rosenthal seconded. All in favor. Executive session was entered into at 11:10pm and returned to regular session at 11:20 pm with the following motion:

Selectman Rodgers moved that the Town of Newtown defend itself in the legal matters: Allstate a/s/o Jennifer Marlin subrogation claim; Hazel, Justin vs. McAnaspie, , Daniel Et Al; Joelle Devito vs. Canine Advocates of Newtown, Inc., Town of Newtown and Newtown Animal Control Center; Michael DeJoseph vs. Town of Newtown. Selectman Rosenthal seconded. All in favor.

Board of Selectmen
August 17, 2017

ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business the special Board of Selectmen meeting was adjourned at 11:20p.m.

Susan Marcinek, clerk

Attachments: 2017 revaluation document; B. Barnes letter and response; DEEP email; T. Martin statement; Leaps of Faith event schedule; 2016-2017 FY end budget transfers; \$3,500 transfer; close out resolution; excerpt from BOS minutes

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE
Newtown Municipal Center
3 Primrose Street
Newtown, CT. 06470
(203) 270-4240
(203) 270-4243 FAX



TOWN OF NEWTOWN
OFFICE OF THE ASSESSOR

FYI

Date: August 9, 2017,

To: Pat Llodra

From: Penny Mudgett

Re: Assessor's Office – July/August

2017 Revaluation:

The following is the measure and listing numbers accountable as of July 24, 2017
Residential data collection was completed June 10, 2017. Inspection appointments continue, and total interior inspections has been updated.

Total Residential Improved Parcel Count	9,756
Total Measures	9732 100% (9732/ 9756)
Total Interior Inspections	3271 36% (3469/9732)
Refusals/no access	1603 16% (1603/9732)

- As of July 24, 2017, we have mailed 7113 callback letters. 1644 inspection appointments have been scheduled, a 23% response to date.

January 2017: Have begun database setup for 2017 valuation, and reviewing sales.

February 2017: Sales review and preparation for field review continues.

March 2017: Legal update completed April 3, 2017. Additional sales acquired for review, preparation for field review continues.

April 2017: sales review completed, analysis prior to field review is in progress. Electronic update of zoning per Assessor excel report has been completed.

May 2017: Analysis prior to field review is complete

June 2017: Meeting to review analysis results on June 15, 2017. Assessing Neighborhoods Newtown and Sandy Hook to be defined. Excel report defining parcels in each neighborhood received June 28.

July 2017: Sandy Hook assessing neighborhood created and applied to properties per excel report provided.

Commercial Valuation

Preliminary market rent study is to be started by 6/1/2017, and be completed by 8/1/2017.

June 2017: Rent and building cost schedules updated, I&E's entered.

July 2017: commercial valuation continues.

Residential Field Review

Residential review is to be started by 7/15/2017 and be completed by 9/15/2017.

June 2017: started 6/26/17.

July 2017: 50% complete

Commercial Field Review/Income Production/Reconciliation

To be started by 7/15/2017, and to be completed by 9/30/2017.

Penny

Newtown Municipal Center
3 Primrose St., Newtown, CT 06470
Tel. 203-270-4201
Fax 203-270-4205



E. Patricia Llodra
First Selectman
203-270-4202
pat.llodra@newtown-ct.gov

TOWN OF NEWTOWN

OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN

August 11, 2017

Secretary Benjamin Barnes
State of CT, Office of Policy and Management
450 Capitol Ave.
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Secretary Barnes:

I am in receipt of your letter dated August 7, 2017, requesting certain information on Newtown's fiscal health. The requested information can be found on the attached document. Our fund balance level represents an 8-year effort put forth by my office in concert with Newtown's Director of Finance to establish and institutionalize fiscally prudent policies and practices. All levels of municipal government and the Board of Education have partnered for Newtown's success. We weaned ourselves from the decades-old practice of using fund balance to mitigate tax increases and we established a strong fund balance policy that continues to guide and control budgeting and spending. We reduced spending substantially, cutting overhead, eliminating waste and inefficiency, consolidating work roles and staffing, and more. We bargained for changes in pension plans, moving from defined benefit to defined contribution. We held salaries at a point lower even than inflation, only just now with some salary agreement reaching over 2%. We moved to self-funding our medical/ health program and continue to thrive in that system, finding it even more reasonable in cost than the state's program. We commit to significant use of capital non-recurring in our annual operational budget so that we are able to save for anticipated capital items. We established an effective capital improvement planning process and we are continuing even under these economically difficult circumstances to invest about 8.5% of our annual operating budget in municipal improvement and facilities. We manage debt very well and are thoughtful and careful about how we use resources. And we dedicate \$1.6 million dollars annually in a local program of tax mitigation for seniors. All of these actions, policies, and leadership/management attributes resulted in two upgrades of our bond rating. Our residents and taxpayers have supported these changes, and have accepted the accompanying modest tax increases. We are proud of these accomplishments and point to them as examples of good management and strong leadership.

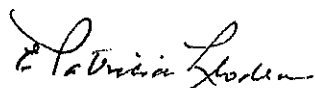
Now we cannot help but feel that our strong efforts over the past few years to gain solid financial footing, grow our fund balance, and reduce debt will serve us badly – that we are going to be punished, not rewarded, for our good behavior. One wonders if our current circumstances vis a vis the 'state' would be less daunting if we had not made the internal improvements in financial policy and practice. What if our fund balance was still at a measly 6.2%, and our debt ratio at 10%, and if we were still using

savings to mitigate tax increases, and if we did not save for known capital costs; did not bargain for changes in pension and health care, and more? Would we then be less vulnerable to reductions in state aid? Would we be rewarded for our failure to address necessary changes?

We are very aware of the fiscal crisis facing the state. And we are aware, too, that our cities, and some of our towns, are struggling and need more help. We don't presume to have an answer for these problems; they are too complex and too long-standing for any simple solution or quick fix. We do strongly feel however, that preemptive and draconian funding reductions in municipal aid may set us on a downward spiral. Such an action flies in the face of good planning, effective problem-solving, and strategic thinking. To harm Newtown and other municipalities in this fashion almost guarantees that CT's downward slide will continue. We, the very municipalities who are subject to having their piggy-banks raided by the state must remain stable and productive if the state itself is to survive and thrive. We can do the state no good if we are weakened, if our financial status is compromised and we become unable to provide quality services at a reasonable tax level.

Newtown is prepared to incrementally reduce its reliance on state aid. We know that is likely our future and we are poised to begin that journey thoughtfully, with good planning. That response began this year with a budget passed at referendum that anticipates more than 30% reduction in state aid. We have been open and honest with our residents and taxpayers. We have an excellent cadre of elected and appointed government officials at all levels and in all disciplines; and we have positive and committed employees throughout all departments and agencies. We can face this looming challenge head on and we can find ways to accommodate the impacts – but only if we are given the chance to plan forward and properly prepare.

Sincerely,



E. Patricia Llodra
First Selectman

Enc.

Cc: Senator Tony Hwang
Representative Mitch Bolinsky
Representative JP Sredzinski
Representative Duff



Dannel P. Malloy
GOVERNOR
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

August 2, 2017

Secretary Ben Barnes
Office of Policy and Management
450 Capitol Ave.
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Secretary Barnes:

As we know, municipal aid accounts for our single largest state expenditure – more than \$5 billion of our state budget. The vast majority of that funding is for educational aid, which amounts to \$4.1 billion, or 81 percent, of all state funding given to local government.

In recent years, I have made it a priority to protect aid to municipalities. In contrast, we have made drastic changes to how we fund other areas of state government – both in total funding and in our rationale for how limited dollars are allocated. We've reduced state services; we've cut funding to private providers; we've asked state employees to come to the table with concessions; and we've raised revenues. Throughout all of this, we've held town aid harmless. In fact, it could be said that we have sacrificed state services and raised revenues *in order* to shield town government from facing difficult choices required of state leaders and implementing reforms.

As our state struggles to finalize a biennial budget, how we fund our single largest expenditure must be on the table for discussion with the General Assembly and the public. If we fail to recalibrate aid based on shifting local demographics, economies, and need, we risk perpetuating an inequitable distribution of burden among our communities. We risk not investing in the communities that should be our assets in attracting economic development, young professionals, and families.

Therefore, in an effort to inform and facilitate the budget process now underway, I ask that you send me information and analysis regarding municipal aid, local tax levels, expenditure trends, fund balances, and any other criteria that could better inform our decisions. These reports should include both historic trends and current fiscal conditions. They should also be shared publicly when completed.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "D. Malloy".

Governor Dannel P. Malloy



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

August 7, 2017

Dear Selectman Llodra,

On August 2nd, the Governor directed the Office of Policy and Management to produce a series of reports on the fiscal health of municipalities (please see attached).

To that end, I am requesting updated information on your municipality's fund balance. We have historic data already reported to our office, which we have included below. We are looking for estimates of your General Fund's total fund balance and unassigned fund balance for as of June 30, 2017. In addition, we are requesting projections of your municipality's General Fund total fund balance and unassigned fund balance as of June 30, 2018, based on the assumptions from your adopted FY 18 budget.

NEWTOWN

General Fund

	<u>Total Fund Balance</u>	<u>Unassigned Fund Balance per GASB 54</u>
FY 15 Actual	11,306,923	10,608,535
FY 16 Actual	12,312,290	11,444,280
FY 17 Estimated	12,500,000	11,600,000
FY 18 Projected (based on adopted municipal budget)	12,500,000	11,600,000

Finally, please provide any supplemental information about the potential impact of a continuing state budget impasse on your community's finances, such as contingency plans to utilize fund balance, issue supplemental taxes or reduce spending.

Please email the requested information to Michael Izadi on my staff at michael.izadi@ct.gov by August 16, 2017.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Barnes
Secretary

Cc: Robert G. Tait, Finance Director
Michael Izadi, Office of Policy and Management
Kerry Kelley, Office of Policy and Management

Mariani, Eleanor

From: Mariani, Eleanor
Sent: Friday, August 04, 2017 9:47 AM
To: Payton, Mike; Byron, John
Subject: FW: Lake Zoar Boating Traffic (Leap of Faith)
Importance: High

FYI.

Eleanor Mariani
Director DEEP Boating Division/ State Boating Law Administrator
Bureau of Outdoor Recreation
333 Ferry Road, PO Box 280, Old Lyme, CT 06371-0280
P: 860.447-4359 | F: 860.434-3501 | E: Eleanor.mariani@ct.gov

From: Buckley, Sean
Sent: Thursday, August 03, 2017 2:38 PM
To: Mariani, Eleanor
Cc: Schneider, Cynthia; Overturf, Kyle
Subject: Fw: Lake Zoar Boating Traffic (Leap of Faith)
Importance: High

Eleanor,
Please see below in response to your inquiry last Thursday.
Sean

From: Mazzotta, Vincent
Sent: Thursday, August 3, 2017 2:33 PM
To: Buckley, Sean
Subject: Lake Zoar Boating Traffic (Leap of Faith)

Sgt. Buckley,

On July 27th while patrolling Lake Zoar in the area of River Road in Southbury and Bridge End Farm Lane, in Newtown I observed the Leap Of Faith Organization on the lake and no other boat traffic during the time of my observation. I returned on July 28th and again observed the Leap of Faith Organization on the lake. On July 28th I only observed one boat and one jet ski in the area that was not part of the function. Both were able to navigate the area uninterrupted alongside the Leap of Faith boat and water-skier.

On July 29th I responded to a call from the Leap of Faith organization (case number 17-17070) complaining about a boat that was traveling recklessly while they had a water-skier in tow. I spoke to the complainant, Joel Zeilser, who complained that the operator of another boat, Dan O'Donnell, was operating recklessly. While speaking to Joel Zeilser and others that were at the event I observed one bass boat and two jet skis on the lake and all traveled past without having to stop or alter their course.

I tried to speak with Dan O'Donnell concerning the incident and did not make contact with him until today, August 3rd. Dan O'Donnell advised me he would check his calendar so we can schedule a time to meet concerning the ongoing investigation.

The times I had patrolled the Lake Zoar area where that the Leap of Faith Organization I notice very little boating traffic or none at all.

Ofc. Mazzotta #659

Attention Board of Selectmen

August 17, 2017

Thank you for your time and for giving me the opportunity to speak today. My name is Todd Martin and I live at 26 Bridge End Farm Lane in Sandy Hook. My wife and I are both lifetime residents of Newtown, and we moved to Bridge End Farm Lane in 1990.

I started volunteering with Leaps of Faith in 1995 and raised both of my kids as LOF Volunteers. We have many great memories from Leaps of Faith events.

Once Leaps of Faith surpassed (6) clinics per year in Shady Rest, it became a nuisance to the local residence, preventing them from enjoying the use of their own property and recreation on Lake Zoar. Tensions escalated between neighbors and Leaps of Faith, causing volunteers to disengage and pursue legal actions.

When Leaps of Faith was given temporary permission to use the Walnut Tree Field, I was removed from their Email distribution. Furthermore, they pulled the clinic schedule from their website attempting to mislead others regarding the number of clinics planned—a total of (31) between July 10th and August 31st.

As a Leaps of Faith volunteer, I am disappointed with the disrespect shown to volunteers and neighbors, as well as the environment and our park field. Leaps of Faith also continues to obstruct recreation on Lake Zoar by dominating an already-narrow passage of the lake.

Imagine us having an annual fundraiser running race around Bridge End Farm Lane we would have many resident volunteers and supporters. If we had (31) races between July 10th and August 31st this would become a nuisance.

Walnut Tree Hill Field is not a suitable location for Leaps of Faith to run clinics from. Many alternative locations were dismissed because a building for office space and storage was not available. My recommendation is for Leaps of Faith to lease office space in a commercial area, purchase a trailer for equipment storage and transportation, and find suitable locations for clinics. Hopefully once this conflict is over I can become an active volunteer again.

Please vote “No” to the Leaps of Faith application for a license to use the Walnut Tree Ballfield.

**LEAPS OF FAITH
AUGUST 2017**

Date	Day of Week	Hours	Group
7/25/2017	Tuesday	9am-2pm	Newtown Reach
7/26/2017	Wednesday	9am-2pm	Fellowship Place
7/27/2017	Thursday	9am-2pm	Burke Rehab Hospital
7/28/2017	Friday	9am-2pm	Mount Sainai Rehab. Hosp.
8/1/2017	Tuesday	9am-2pm	Helen Hayes Rehab. Hosp.
8/2/2017	Wednesday	9am-2pm	Danbury
8/3/2017	Thursday	9am-2pm	Newtown Reach
8/4/2017	Friday	9am-2pm	TBI Center
8/7/2017	Monday	9am-2pm	Oak Hill
8/8/2017	Tuesday	9am-2pm	CHD Springfield
8/9/2017	Wednesday	9am-2pm	Newtown Reach & Blind Sports Org.
8/10/2017	Thursday	9am-2pm	Burke Rehab Hospital
8/11/2017	Friday	9am-2pm	Chapter 126
8/14/2017	Monday	9am-2pm	Butterflies with Voices
8/15/2017	Tuesday	9am-2pm	Newtown Reach
8/16/2017	Wednesday	9am-2pm	Sibling Splash
8/17/2017	Thursday	9am-2pm	Helen Hayes Rehab. Hosp.
8/18/2017	Friday	9am-2pm	Magee Rehab. Hosp.
8/21/2017	Monday	9am-2pm	CT Spinal Cord Inj. Assoc.
8/22/2017	Tuesday	9am-2pm	Adpt NY United Cerbral Palsy
8/23/2017	Wednesday	9am-2pm	Magee Rehab. Hosp.
8/24/2017	Thursday	9am-2pm	Burke Rehab Hospital
8/25/2017	Friday	9am-2pm	Mount Sainai Rehab. Hosp.
8/31/2017	Thursday	9am-2pm	Oak Hill
9/1/2017	Friday	9am-2pm	TBI Center
9/14/2017	Thursday	9am-2pm	CHD Springfield
open clinic			
7/29/2017	Saturday	8:30am-3pm	
8/12/2017	Saturday	8:30am-3pm	
8/26/2017	Saturday	8:30am-3pm	
closed clinic not on above list			
8/28/2017	Sunday		

Town of Newtown

2016-17 Fiscal Year End Budget Transfer Request

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<u>Department</u>	<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	
			<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Police	1-101-12-310-5220	Social Security Contributions	(2,332)	
Police	1-101-12-310-5230	Retirement Contributions		2,332
Outside Agencies	1-101-14-415-5820	Contributions to Outside Agencies		
Childrens Adventure Center	1-101-14-410-5230	Retirement Contributions	(1,911)	1,911
Parks & Recreation	1-101-16-550-5505	Contractual Services		
Parks & Recreation	1-101-16-550-5230	Retirement Contributions	(7,079)	7,079
Library	1-101-14-670-5210	Group Insurance		
Library	1-101-14-670-5230	Retirement Contributions	(857)	857

EXPLANATION:

The retirement contributions account accounts for contributions to the town and police pension plans and for the town's contribution to the defined contribution plan for new employees of various unions and management. The overages are due to turnover and the resulting new employees joining the defined contribution plan. These amounts cannot be budgeted for because the turnover cannot be planned. The above does represent positions coming off the pension plans which reduces pension long term liabilities. These are the new positions affected:

Police	2
Childrens Adventure Center	1
Parks & Recreation	3
Library	1

Town of Newtown

2016-17 Fiscal Year End Budget Transfer Request

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<u>Department</u>	<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	
			<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Social Services	1-101-11-110-5110	Salaries & Wages - Full Time	(1,154)	
Social Services	1-101-11-110-5210	Group Insurance		100
Social Services	1-101-11-110-5220	Social Security Contributions		1,054

EXPLANATION:

Short fall in social security contributions due to town share of VOCA grant social security not budgeted for. Two positions are fully funded in the VOCA grant. There is a town share for their social security payments. Short fall in group insurance due to increase in life insurance premium. Amount available in salaries due to an open position.

<u>Department</u>	<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	
			<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Technology	1-101-11-205-5445	Software/Hardware maintenance	(422)	
Technology	1-101-11-205-5580	Dues, Travel & Education		422

EXPLANATION:

Additional training was required for new employees. There were savings in the software/hardware maintenance account.

<u>Department</u>	<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	
			<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Contingency	1-101-24-570-5899	Contingency	(5,000)	
Unemployment	1-101-11-240-5250	Unemployment Compensation		5,000

EXPLANATION:

June's unemployment compensation state bill comes in late August. Currently there is \$145 left in the account. Last fiscal years June payment was \$2,084. The \$5,000 request is just to make sure the account does not go over. 2015-16 total cost for unemployment was \$33,656. So far this year (before the June payment) the total cost is \$24,855.

Town of Newtown

2016-17 Fiscal Year End Budget Transfer Request

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<u>Department</u>	<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	
			<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Land Use Selectmen	1-101-15-490-5350	Professional Services - Legal	(4,944)	4,944
	1-101-11-100-5350	Professional Services - Legal		

EXPLANATION:

Selectmen legal fees account over due to increased activity compared to what was budgeted. This account is hard to budget for. Estimate is based on prior experience. 2015-16 total cost = \$213,328. 2016-17 total cost = \$204,944.

<u>Department</u>	<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	
			<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Transfer Station Transfer Station Transfer Station	1-101-13-515-5210	Group Insurance	(88)	12
	1-101-13-515-5290	Other Employee Benefits		
	1-101-13-515-5430	Repair & Maintenance Services		

EXPLANATION:

Amounts immaterial.

<u>Department</u>	<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	
			<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Public Building Maintenance Public Building Maintenance Public Building Maintenance	1-101-13-650-5622	Energy - Electricity	(3,988)	3,916
	1-101-13-650-5411	Water/Sewerage		
	1-101-13-650-5749	Capital		

EXPLANATION:

Water/Sewerage under budgeted; offset by savings in electricity

Town of Newtown

2016-17 Fiscal Year End Budget Transfer Request

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<u>Department</u>	<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	
			<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Selectmen	1-101-11-100-5800	Other Expenditures	(5,000)	
District Contributions	1-101-11-730-5803	Other Expenditures - SHOP	(7,000)	
Sustainable Energy Commission	1-101-11-755-5800	Other Expenditures	(1,000)	
Contingency	1-101-24-570-5899	Contingency	(3,750)	
Capital Non-Recurring	1-101-25-860-5870	Transfer Out - Capital Non-Recurring		16,750

EXPLANATION:

Selectmen \$5,000 relates to the approved transfer request from contingency for the banner system (cost to be shared with the Borough). This project has not started yet. It is requested that the amount be transferred to the capital non-recurring fund to be used for the banner project.

There is a \$7,000 balance in the district contributions to SHOP account. It is requested that this amount be transferred to the capital non-recurring fund for future SHOP streetscape projects.

There is a \$1,000 balance in the sustainable energy account and a \$3,750 balance in a prior year sustainable energy account (was carried forward). It is requested that this total amount (\$4,750) be transferred to the capital non-recurring fund for future sustainable energy projects. The \$3,750 amount is shown to be coming out of the contingency account instead of the prior year sustainable energy account. This is done for accounting purposes (it is easier done).

Town of Newtown

2016-17 Fiscal Year End Budget Transfer Request

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Department	Account Number	Account Name	Transfers	
			From	To
Fire	1-101-12-320-5436	Truck Repair	(20,000)	
Fire	1-101-12-320-5624	Energy - Oil	(15,000)	
Fire	1-101-12-320-5749	Capital	(15,000)	
Capital Non-Recurring	1-101-25-860-5870	Transfer Out - Capital Non-Recurring		50,000

EXPLANATION:

It is requested that savings in truck repair, oil and capital be transferred to the capital non-recurring fund to act as a contingency in the event the planned fire apparatus trade-in(s) do not bring the required money to offset the new fire apparatus purchase cost (funded by bonds).

Bonding has been authorized from the 2015-16 and 2016-17 CIP's in the amount of \$1,550,000. \$400,000 was authorized in the capital non-recurring fund, bringing the total appropriation to \$1,950,000 for the replacement of various fire apparatus. The replaced fire apparatus were scheduled to be traded in or sold to off set the total cost. This request creates a cushion just in case the replaced apparatus does not bring in what was hoped (from a market estimate). The replaced fire apparatus cannot be sold until the new fire apparatus are operational. It takes at least a year to get delivery of the new fire apparatus.

Department	Account Number	Account Name	Transfers	
			From	To
Fire	1-101-12-320-5412	Hydrants	(9,215)	
Fire	1-101-12-320-5622	Energy - Electricity		9,215

EXPLANATION:

Electricity was underestimated (as it was in the prior year). Hydrants were overestimated.

GRANT TOTAL 2016-17 FISCAL YEAR END BUDGET TRANSFER REQUESTS
AS A RESULT OF OVERAGES
AS A RESULT OF TRANSFER REQUESTS TO CAP NON-REC

Transfers	
From	To
(40,015)	40,015
(66,750)	66,750
(106,765)	106,765

TOWN OF NEWTOWN APPROPRIATION (BUDGET) TRANSFER REQUEST
--

7/31/17

USE NEGATIVE
AMOUNT

USE POSITIVE
AMOUNT

Replacement of Hattertown district signs. There are 5 signs located on the roads intersecting the Hattertown Green which is the central focal point. Signs were installed early to mid 1990's. All are in poor condition and beyond repair. It is respectfully requested that all current signs be replaced with superior materials meant to withstand the abuse and elements that such signs are subjected to. Granite posts, PVC sign material and stainless steel hardware are the materials that are requested. An additional 5 signs are requested as future replacement stock.

date:

Hattertown Historic District Commission Chair (see attached) 3/20/2017

Rel Test

C. P. Hodra

For a complete list of references, see the end of the article.

6

Figure 1. The effect of the number of trials on the number of correct responses. The number of correct responses was plotted against the number of trials for each condition. The number of correct responses increased with the number of trials for all conditions. The number of correct responses was highest for the condition with the highest number of trials (10 trials) and lowest for the condition with the lowest number of trials (2 trials).

FIRST 335 DAYS	<p>>>>>WITH IN A DEPT.>>>>LESS THAN \$50,000>>>> (1), (2) & (3) SIGNS OFF; MORE THAN \$50,000>>>> (1), (2), (3) & (5)</p> <p>>>>>ONE DEPT TO ANOTHER>>>>LESS THAN \$200,000>>>>ALL EXCEPT (6); MORE THAN \$200,000>>>>ALL SIGN OFF</p>
AFTER 335 DAYS	<p>>>>>(1), (2), (3), (5) & (6) ANY AMOUNT FROM CONTINGENCY>>>> ALL SIGN OFF</p>

**RESOLUTION WITH RESPECT TO THE CLOSE-OUT OF
VARIOUS CAPITAL PROJECTS AND REDUCING THE
APPROPRIATIONS AND AUTHORIZED AND UNISSUED
AMOUNTS FOR SUCH PROJECTS**

WHEREAS, certain of the projects and purposes set forth on Schedule A attached hereto (collectively, the "Projects"), are complete or are no longer intended to be completed and the Town of Newtown (the "Town") desires to close-out the Projects; and

WHEREAS, the Town desires to reduce the remaining appropriations and authorized and unissued bond amounts which will not be needed for the Projects.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

RESOLVED: The appropriations and authorized and unissued bond amounts for the Projects are hereby reduced in accordance with Schedule A attached hereto. The aggregate amount of such reductions in Schedule A totals \$553,253.

SCHEDULE A

The remaining \$500 appropriation and authorized and unissued balance of the \$1,402,500 appropriation and bond authorization for the Newtown High School roof by a resolution entitled, "Resolution Appropriating \$1,402,500 For A Special Appropriation In The Amount Of \$1,402,500 For The Planning, Design, Construction And Reconstruction Of Improvements To The Newtown High School Roof As Authorized In The Capital Improvement Plan (2016-17 to 2020-21) And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$1,402,500 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Special Appropriation And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purpose", adopted by the Legislative Council on May 18, 2016 and at a Special Town Meeting on June 22, 2016.

The remaining \$25,000 appropriation and authorized and unissued balance of the \$475,000 appropriation and bond authorization for the replacement of a boiler at Middlegate School by a resolution entitled, "Resolution Appropriating \$475,000 For The Planning, Design, Construction And Replacement Of A Boiler At Middlegate School As Authorized In The Capital Improvement Plan (2016-17 to 2020-21) And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$475,000 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Special Appropriation And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purpose", adopted by the Legislative Council on May 18, 2016.

The remaining \$464,501 appropriation and authorized and unissued balance of the \$4,257,690 appropriation and bond authorization for roof replacement at Newtown Middle School by a resolution entitled, "Resolution Providing For A Special Appropriation In The Amount Of \$4,257,690 For Roof Replacement At Newtown Middle School And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$4,257,690 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriation And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purpose", adopted by the Legislative Council on July 6, 2011 and at a Special Town Meeting on August 1, 2011.

The remaining \$10,252 appropriation and authorized and unissued balance of the \$866,112 appropriation and bond authorization for Dickinson Playground by a resolution entitled, "A Resolution Providing For A Special Appropriation In The Amount Of \$774,162 For The Demolition Of The Existing Playground Area And The Planning, Design, Acquisition And Construction Of A New Playground Area At Dickinson Park Located In The Town Of Newtown, Connecticut As Authorized In The Capital Improvement Program (2013-14 to 2017-18, Inclusive) And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$774,162 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Special Appropriation And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purpose ", adopted by the Legislative Council on August 7, 2013 and at a Special Town Meeting on September 16, 2013, which resolution was amended by the Legislative Council on October 16, 2013.

The remaining \$23,000 appropriation and authorized and unissued balance of the \$238,000 appropriation and bond authorization for culvert replacement by a resolution entitled, "Resolution Providing For A Special Appropriation In The Amount Of \$238,000 Culvert Replacement On Boggs Hill Road And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$238,000 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriation And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purpose", adopted by the Legislative Council on August 3, 2011.

The remaining \$30,000 appropriation and authorized and unissued balance of the \$80,000 appropriation and bond authorization for Church Hill Road sidewalk improvements by a resolution entitled, "Resolution Providing For A Special Appropriation In The Amount Of \$80,000 For The Design, Engineering And Construction Of Church Hill Road Sidewalk Improvements As Authorized In The Capital Improvement Plan (2015-16 to 2019-20) And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$80,000 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriation And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purpose", adopted by the Legislative Council on July 1, 2015.

Excerpt for Minutes of Board of Selectmen Meeting
Held Thursday, August 17, 2017

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Newtown was held in the Council Chamber of the Newtown Municipal Center, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT, on August 17, 2017, at 7:30P.M. (E.T.).

* * *

Members present and absent were as follows:

Present

E. Patricia Llodra
William F.L. Rodgers
Herbert C. Rosenthal

Absent

* * *

Selectman Rodgers introduced and read the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That the resolution entitled "Resolution With Respect To The Close-Out Of Various Capital Projects And Reducing The Appropriations And Authorized And Unissued Amounts For Such Projects", a copy of which is attached hereto, is hereby adopted and recommended to the Board of Finance for consideration and action.

Selectmen Rodgers moved that said resolution be adopted as introduced and read and the motion was seconded by Selectman Rosenthal. Upon roll call vote the ayes and nays were as follows:

AYES

E. Patricia Llodra
William F.L. Rodgers
Herbert C. Rosenthal

NAYS

First Selectman Llodra thereupon declared the motion carried and the resolution adopted.

* * *