

**BOROUGH OF NEWTOWN  
NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT**

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Borough of Newtown Board of Burgesses on **Tuesday, August 14, 2018** in the Borough Office at Edmond Town Hall, Newtown, CT. Warden Gaston called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**Present:** Warden James Gaston, Senior Burgess Jay Maher, Second Senior Burgess Betsy Kenyon, Burgess Anthony Baiad, Burgess Bill Eder and Treasurer Paula Brinkman and.

**Absent:** Burgess Bill Lucas, Burgess Chris Gardner, Tax Collector Jodie Enriquez, Tree Warden Rob McCulloch and Clerk Ann Scaia

**Also Present:** 3 members of the public.

**Second Senior Burgess Kenyon made a motion to accept the July 10, 2018 regular meeting minutes,** seconded by Senior Burgess Maher. Motion passed.

**Public Participation:** Ray Wisniewski, of 3 Little Brook Lane, would like to have the flag up at the soldiers and sailor's memorial by Labor Day weekend. Mr. Wisniewski, of the VFW, visited the soldiers and sailor's memorial site and assessed what repairs were needed for the flagpole. He estimated the cost of repair to be approximately \$105.

**Senior Burgess Maher made a motion to a cover the expenses associated with restoring the flagpole at the war memorial for \$105.00,** seconded by Second Senior Burgess Baiad and unanimously approved.

Burgess Eder will be contacting Ken Burns, the electrician, to address the issue with the spotlights at the soldiers and sailor's memorial.

John and Sara Philips, of 35 Main Street, noted cracks in a stretch of sidewalk in front of their property which is between 33 and 39 Main Street. Senior Burgess Maher is aware of the portion of sidewalk from a letter he received previously from Mrs. Philips. Senior Burgess Maher will review and present the estimated cost of repair at the September Borough meeting.

**Warden's Report:** Warden Gaston is anticipating an outline from Rob Sibley outlining a procedure of the Borough, Land Use and Zoning working together. Since Joan Crick no longer lives in the borough, the Borough is allowed to appoint a new health department representative. Donna Culbert, Health Department Director, suggested an interested party, Dr. Jocelyn Taweh, of 46 Mt. Pleasant Road to be appointed.

**Burgess Baiad made a motion to appoint Dr. Jocelyn Taweh as an elected Health Department Official replacing Joan Crick,** seconded by Second Senior Burgess Kenyon and unanimously approved.

**Tree Warden's Report:** No report due to Rob McCulloch's absence.

**Tax Collector's Report:** In Tax Collector Enriquez absence, Warden Gaston reported the following for July 2018: Total Taxes Due for the List of 2017: \$225,867.24; Current Taxes: \$204,673.44; Back Taxes: (\$217.50); Interest: \$79.02; Liens & Fees: \$24.00. Total Submitted to Treasurer to Date: \$210,600.00. Current Taxes Collected: \$204,673.44 representing 90.62%.

**Second Senior Burgess Kenyon made a motion to accept the Tax Collector's Report for July 2018,** seconded by Burgess Baiad and unanimously approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Paula Brinkman read the July 2018 report: A deposit of \$28,501.00 was made from Borough Zoning Office. A deposit of \$123,900.00 was made from Tax Collector Jodie Enriquez. A transfer of \$25,600.00 was made to cover last month's invoicing. Interest on the 12 mo. CD was \$114.38 making a total of \$75,715.45.

**Burgess Baiad made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for July 2018,** seconded by Second Senior Burgess Kenyon and unanimously approved.

The following motions are transfers and a special appropriation for the 2017-2018 fiscal year budget.

**Burgess Eder made a motion to transfer \$1,715.44 from Payroll Taxes to Legal Fees,** seconded by Senior Burgess Maher and unanimously approved.

**Burgess Eder made a motion to transfer \$1,363.22 from Building Clerk to Legal Fees,** seconded by Burgess Baiad and unanimously approved.

**Burgess Eder made a motion to transfer \$448.97 from Zoning Office to Legal Fees,** seconded by Second Senior Burgess Kenyon and unanimously approved.

**Burgess Eder made a motion to transfer \$100.00 from Flagpole to Legal Fees,** seconded by Second Senior Burgess Kenyon and unanimously approved.

**Burgess Eder made a motion to transfer \$100.00 from Historic District to Legal Fees,** seconded by Second Senior Burgess Kenyon and unanimously approved.

**Burgess Eder made a motion to transfer \$10.00 from Health District to Legal Fees,** seconded by Burgess Baiad and unanimously approved.

**Burgess Eder made a motion to transfer \$10.00 from Soldiers & Sailors to Legal Fees,**  
seconded by Burgess Kenyon and unanimously approved.

**Burgess Eder made a motion to transfer \$10.00 from Social Work Fund to Legal Fees,**  
seconded by Burgess Baiad and unanimously approved.

**Burgess Eder made a motion to make a supplemental appropriation of \$17,707.57, from the  
Borough Operating Fund Balance to the following 17-18 FY budget lines:**

<u>Legal Fees</u>	<u>\$9.17</u>
<u>Street Lights</u>	<u>\$2,543.21</u>
<u>Advertising</u>	<u>\$196.80</u>
<u>Streets &amp; Parks</u>	<u>\$600.00</u>
<u>Office Supplies</u>	<u>\$104.63</u>
<u>Fire Hydrants</u>	<u>\$11,079.48</u>
<u>Data Processing</u>	<u>\$3,174.28,</u>

seconded by Burgess Baiad and unanimously approved.

**Zoning Officer's Report:** Nothing to report. A replacement is currently being investigated.

**Historic District:** Second Senior Burgess Kenyon had nothing to report.

**Sidewalks:** Refer to Senior Burgess Maher's comments in the public participation regarding the sidewalk review on Main Street.

**Streets & Parks:** Senior Burgess Maher gained the approval from Timothy Holian, of 3 Wendover Road, to remove questionable trees from his property along Church Hill Road. Senior Burgess Maher will obtain a cost estimate for removal and report his findings at the September Borough meeting.

**New Business:** None.

**Old Business:** None.

**Public Participation:** None.

**The annual meeting the Board of Burgesses will be held on Tuesday, September 11, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. followed by the regular meeting in the Borough Office in Edmond Town Hall, Newtown, CT**

**There being no further business, Burgess Eder made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m.,** seconded by Senior Burgess Maher and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Scaia  
Borough Clerk

# NEWTOWN BOROUGH TAX

MONTHLY REPORT FOR: JULY 2018

TOTAL TAXES DUE FOR GRAND LIST 2017: \$225,867.24

## AMOUNTS COLLECTED TO DATE:

CURRENT TAX:	\$204,673.44
BACK TAX	\$217.50
INTEREST:	\$79.02
LIENS & FEES:	\$24.00
<b>TOTAL COLLECTED TO DATE:</b>	<b>\$204,993.96</b>

<b>TOTAL SUBMITTED TO TREASURER TO DATE:</b>	<b>\$210,600.00</b>
REFUND GIVEN FROM CURRENT YR TAX	\$0.00
REFUND GIVEN DUE FROM PRIOR YR	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL COLLECTIONS</b>	<b>\$210,600.00</b>

\*(Waiting to post for a ck for \$5,677.19)

## TAX COLLECTION SUMMARY:

GL 2017	TAXES COLLECTED	\$204,673.44	
	TRANSFERS	\$0.00	
	REFUNDS	\$0.00	
	<b>TOTAL CURRENT TAX COLLECTED</b>	<b>\$204,673.44</b>	90.62%
	TAXES OUTSTANDING	\$21,193.80	9.38%
	OVERPAYMENTS	9.81	
	<b>TOTAL TAX DUE GL 2016</b>	<b>\$21,203.61</b>	

## NOTE:

BACK TAXES OUTSTANDING FOR LIST 2016 AND PRIOR:	\$320.95
	<b>\$320.95</b>
CREDIT FROM PRIOR YEARS	\$168.80
	<b>\$489.75</b>

DATE:

8-Aug-18

SIGN: \_\_\_\_\_  
BOROUGH TAX COLLECTOR

**Borough of Newtown**  
Newtown, CT  
Monthly Treasurer's Report  
For month ending July 31, 2018

**Beginning Balance ( July 1, 2018) \$479,549.35**

**OPERATING ACCOUNT (#673)**

**Income (Deposits)**

Date	Description	Amount
July 11, 2018``	Tax Collector	\$39,000.00
July 30, 2018``	Tax Collector (YTD:\$123,900)	\$84,900.00
July 30, 2018``	BZE	\$28,112.00
July 31,2018	BZE	\$389.00

**Interest income (July 31, 2018) \$20.58**

**Total Income \$152,421.58**

**Expenses (checks written)**

Date	Payable To	Description	Amount
July 13,2018	Treasurer's Acct (331)	check #261	\$25,600.00

**Total Expenses \$25,600.00**

**Ending Cash Balance (July 31, 2018) \$606,370.93**

Outstanding Checks	Payable To	Description	Amount
	Total Outstanding Checks		<b>\$0.00</b>

**RECONCILED BANK BALANCE (July 31, 2018) \$606,370.93**

**12 MONTH CD ACCOUNT (#814) matures 2/14/19 **\$75,601.07****

<b>Interest income (July 31, 2018)</b>	interest 1.80 APY	<b>\$114.38</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$75,715.45</b>

**Respectfully submitted on August 14, 2018**

# Where Newtown Pauses To Remember: Monument's Intention Was To Glorify Peace

May 28, 2010

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By Nancy K. Crevier

Astride three towering pillars of granite, her stony visage gazes out over the head of Main Street. She is a striking figure carrying fronds of palms, a flag topped with a spear, and an oak and laurel wreath crowning her head, all indicating victory. She is the lady of the Liberty and Peace Monument, the Goddess of Liberty, and for the past three-quarters of a century Newtown residents have gathered for solemn ceremonies at her feet to honor the veterans of wars fought on American and foreign soils.

Known to most as the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, the memorial was the last of the gifts benefactress Mary Hawley bestowed on Newtown through the generosity of her will, according to Town Historian Dan Cruson. Ms Hawley, who died in 1930, decreed in her will that along with a public library built to honor her grandfather Cyrenius H. Booth, a war memorial should be erected on the triangular piece of property she had purchased, formerly occupied by the North Center District School at Hanover Road and Main Street (then called Newtown Street or The Street).

Designed by Frank L. Naylor, a noted New York memorial designer, the 30-foot-tall granite statue was executed by McGovern Granite Company of Hartford. It is on his blueprints that the official title of the monument is to be found. Two original bronze plaques embedded in slabs of granite at the base of the monument include the names of local veterans of the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, and World War I.

Although it is thought of as “the war memorial,” the monument’s original intention was not to suggest battle, but as stated in a May 15, 1931, *Newtown Bee* article, to give Newtown a memorial “symbolic not only of the three great victories of the American people, but representative, as well, of the nobler things of the spirit — it was not the actual conflict that it desires to commemorate, but rather the spirit and idealism that prompted the sacrifice of thousands of youthful lives for honor and principle.”

An article from one week earlier emphasized that the monument is “to commemorate three periods in the history of our development when force of arms inspired by the spirit of righteousness and lofty ideals brought our country into being; protected it through civil strife; and raised it to the position of Champion of World Democracy and Guardian of Peace. This triple dedication inspires the Trinity as the symbolic translation of ideals to material granite.”

Following through on the theme of the Trinity, triplicates repeat in the design of the monument. “Above each of the three columns is affixed a star of triple significance, Religion, Statehood, and Hope for future,” read the May 8, 1931, *Newtown Bee* article. Carved doves, alternating with the star, signify lasting peace and happiness, and even in the Goddess of Liberty are found three ideals, explained the article: Truth, Purity, and Beauty. “The Goddess embraces the flag and palms of victory while in her hand she displaces the shattered manacles of tyranny and slavery,” the article goes on to explain the designer’s symbolism.

The selection of the monument was not without controversy. In an open letter to *The Bee* on May 29, 1931, Grace L. Conger wrote, “We share in the general gratitude to Miss Hawley’s memory for our town hall, for our beautiful cemetery and for the school. [The three gifts of the benefactress prior to her death.] Now we are to have a War Memorial and we fondly hoped it would be simple and appropriate, fitting into our lovely old street. Instead, we are

shown a tall, gaudy monument, not even the work of a sculptor" a stonemason's dream or nightmare." Ms Conger went on to request a public review of "some of the other 27 models" submitted for consideration, and in return on June 12, 1931, two members of the selection committee responded through the newspaper.

"There were in reality 17 who submitted models and drawings. Of this number seven were sculptors, the rest being architects and designers," wrote back committee members Emma D. Mitchell and Orrin W. Mills. They also agreed to secure photographs of some of the other entries to be presented to the public.

Whether or not that came to be is unclear, but the McGovern Granite Co. began work, following a brief note in *The Newtown Bee* on September 4 that "Some crazy or vicious individual backed his auto across a section of the little triangle where the soldiers' memorial is to be erected after Mr Steck had finished grading. "Some boys have been tracking the plot up, and cows have been allowed to walk across the newly graded plot."

On November 20, 1931, the monument was erected on the triangular piece of property selected and purchased by Miss Hawley before her death, at the head of Main Street.

It was not until May 1939, though, that the war memorial was officially dedicated during an extravagant Memorial Day celebration that included a parade from Sandy Hook Center to the top of Main Street, the decoration of the streets and businesses with flags and bunting, specially selected speakers, bands, poetry, and what Town Historian Dan Cruson said is famous actress and opera singer Grace Moore's only Newtown performance.

At the close of this short address, Mr Hull introduced Mr and Mrs Valentin Parera and Mr and Mrs Frank Chapman, who so kindly consented to attend this dedication. Mrs Parera, together with Mr and Mrs Chapman, then led the assemblage in the singing of "America." Or "as it turned out," reads part of a June 2, 1939, story in *The Bee*, "this famous trio did all the singing."

Sandy Hook resident Mrs Valentin Parera was better known by her stage name of Grace Moore. Mrs Chapman, a contralto, sang under the professional name of Gladys Swarthout. Her husband was a well-known baritone.

Up until the early part of the 1990s, the war memorial included only the names of Newtown veterans through World War II.

After more than a decade of research, the Newtown Veterans Memorial Society, formed in 1989, raised local funding to see that all of Newtown's military veterans were honored. Those names that had been overlooked from the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Mexican War, the Spanish American War, the French-Indian War, the Civil War, World War I and II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War were added to new plaques.

In 1998, a project organized by the Veterans Memorial Society provided two more bronze markers, installed by Carol Selvagg of Barre Granite of Stratford, commemorating the veterans from Korean and Vietnam Wars. New walkways, stone benches, and landscaping updated the small park at that time, as well, said a *Newtown Bee* story that year.

Like so many other outstanding features of Newtown, the monument was itself memorialized in 1999. That year, the annual pewter holiday ornament created by the Woman's Club of Newtown featured the Liberty and Peace Monument.

In the spring of 2004, a restoration and beautification project for the monument and small park surrounding it was launched. Funded by the Borough and private donations, landscape designer Brid Craddock provided a design that included night lighting for the monument, a brick pathway and a granite and wooden fence that proved to be so controversial, that the granite posts were pulled out and a boxwood hedge planted in the fall of 2005.

On Veterans Day 2008, the most recent addition of names was unveiled at the Liberty and Peace Monument to honor of the veterans of the Persian Gulf War, making a total of six plaques that now encircle the monument.

When gathered about the monument on Memorial Day, residents might bear in mind the intent of the memorial statue. As inscribed on the base, it honors Newtown's "sacred dead, her honored living, who ventured all unto death that we might live a republic with independence, a nation with union forever, a world with righteousness and peace for all."