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TOWN OF NEWTOWN

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

TOWN OF NEWTOWN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING NEWTOWN MUNICIPAL CENTER, NEWTOWN, CT DECEMBER 19, 2018 MINUTES

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

ALSO PRESENT: First Selectman Dan Rosenthal, Finance Director Bob Tait, Selectman Maureen Crick Owen, Selectman Jeff Capeci, Representative Mitch Bolinsky, Senator Tony Hwang, Superintendent Dr. Lori Rodrigue, School Finance Director Ron Bienkowski, School Facilities Director Gino Faiella, Board of Ed Michelle Embree Ku, Debbie Leidlein, Andy Clure, Board of Finance Mark Boland, Steve Hinden, Ned Simpson, James Gaston, Parks and Rec Commission Ed Marks, 2 press, 2 public.

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Lundquist called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:30 pm.

VOTER COMMENT: None.

MINUTES: MR. WIEDEMANN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 5, 2018 REGULAR MEETING. SECOND BY MR. EIDE. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION PASSES. (12-0)

COMMUNICATIONS: Mr. Lundquist shared comments on fracking ordinance from the Pootatuck Watershed Association. (ATTACHED)

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Mr. Knapp said ordinance committee is working on individual items separately, committee will be meeting soon.

FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT: Mr. Rosenthal said the BOS ratified the Department of Public Works contract and will share it with Council. The 401A in for all new hires, 4-year health contract, hsa option, move the crew chief positions out of public works union to gain efficiency, management, and accountability, better to be in a separate bargaining unit.

NEW BUSINESS

Open Budget Planning Discussion Relating to 2019-2020 Operating Budget with BOE, BOS, BOF
Mr. Lundquist began with the discussion on open budget planning. High level discussion, pre-budget budget discussion, early discussion, hear external or emerging factors from state representatives. Mr. Bolinsky thanked Council for being here, budget discussions are underway at the state capital, the governor has not yet been sworn in, so budget information is speculative at this point. Mr. Hwang advised a word of caution and does not support a redistribution of teacher pensions. Education is a priority and every town deserves quality education.

Mr. Lundquist asked for questions or comments. Mr. Knapp referred to 2 years ago, budget period, Newtown will need to pass the budget in April, though not knowing what the state budget will be, he asked about the budget timeline. Mr. Bolinsky said there will be an opportunity to testify, see budget books in February, will work together to represent Newtown's best interest.

Mr. Lundquist said to be tuned into budget drivers and important for boards to take that into consideration, don't presume the worst but be ready to react and adjust to the news.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Mr. Rosenthal said tomorrow is the first of department head meetings, talked about an IT plan, senior center component, shared services, community center is looking to hire a program coordinator.

Mr. Lundquist advised to look at budget items that are typical plus expectations, what is new for next year, community center and shared services.

Mr. Simpson has a concern about senior center and community center expenses, fees, space rental. Mr.

Lundquist said there needs to be coordination with entities involved.

Dr. Rodrigue, Ms. Embree Ku, and Mr. Bienkowski reviewed Board of Ed Long Term Influences: Strategic Plan. (ATTACHED) Dr. Rodrigue discussed class size and specialized needs of students, passed a class size policy in the district, looking at class size differently. Elementary schools enrollment is increasing sooner than expected, overall enrollment in the district has declined. Mr. Knapp commented about the number of administrators in the district relative to enrollment. Dr. Rodrigue pointed out requirements for special services needs.

Ms. Johnson stated the importance of measureable outcomes, move in a direction of analytics. Also commenting on the chain of custody relating to responsibility from the time of bus pickup through drop off.

Ms. DeStefano said role of administrators has changed over the years and administrators can have a big impact on students, citing an example of a positive experience between student and administrator at the Reed School.

Mr. Knapp asked about ductless, pricing, need for clarity. Mr. Wiedemann asked for any economy of scale in doing field projects together. Mr. Tait said regarding debt service and plan, ratings agencies would not look negatively. Mr. Knapp expressed concern about the total estimated debt service numbers. Manage budget, from a strategic standpoint, may want to consider in future years. Mr. Knapp said bonding for roads is back, know it's a priority, also increasing in budget. Mr. Rosenthal looked at historical road funding. (ATTACHED)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2019-2020 to 2023-2024 CIP

MR. KNAPP MOVED TO AMEND THE CIP TO MOVE THE SANDY HOOK PERMANENT MEMORIAL IN YEAR ONE AND YEAR TWO FORWARD A YEAR TO YEAR TWO AND YEAR THREE. SECOND BY MR. CARROLL. Mr. Rosenthal said it is more realistic to put on the November ballot and start in 2020, funding, commitment, and plans are in place to move forward, an adjustment in timeline will be beneficial. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION PASSES. (12-0)

Neglected Cemetery Account Grant Program Certified Resolution

MR. WIEDEMANN MOVED TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE \$2,500 NEGLECTED CEMETERY GRANT AND FURTHER MOVED TO WAIVE THE READING OF THE FULL RESOLUTION. SECOND BY MR. EIDE. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION PASSES. (12-0) (ATTACHED)

VOTER COMMENT: Ed Marks, Parks and Rec, commented about decisions and disappointment in level of funding approved for Parks and Rec items.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
June Sgobbo, Clerk

Attachments: Pootatuck Watershed Association communication, CIP Legislative Council questions & responses, BOS Budget, BOE Long Term Influences: Strategic Plan, Neglected Cemetery Account Grant Program Resolution and Impact Statement.

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

TO: Newtown Legislative Council

December 5, 2018

FROM: Pootatuck Watershed Association

RE: Public Hearing on Proposed Fracking Waste Ordinance

As the Council considers the proposed Fracking Waste ordinance the Pootatuck Watershed Association (PWA) would like the Council to consider some of the longer-term changes occurring in Newtown's streams.

The Mission of the Pootatuck Watershed Association is to:

- **Protect and preserve** the Pootatuck River, its drainage basin and its underlying aquifer (collectively, the "watershed"), as a recreational resource and as a source of safe, clean drinking water for the benefit of the people of Newtown, Connecticut, now and for generations to come;
- **Promote** the reasonable and prudent use and consumption of water from the Watershed to assure its availability for future generations;
- **Protect, preserve and enhance** the environmental health of land in the Watershed so as to safeguard the water supply and provide suitable habitat for wild flora, fauna and aquatic life;
- **Encourage** and promote land use and development plans and practices in the Watershed and adjacent areas which will further the foregoing goals; Conduct research and collect data and information regarding the Watershed and its components;
- **Educate** the public, especially students, regarding the Watershed, its importance and value, its state, capacity and condition, and relevant threats, risks and opportunities.

For the last 12 years the PWA in cooperation with the Town of Newtown has been conducting a twice per year monitoring program on several Newtown's waterways. One of the parameters analyzed is conductivity, a measure of water's ability to conduct electricity and closely correlated with the chloride ion concentration in water. Chloride is a major component of the materials used in treating roads during the winter.

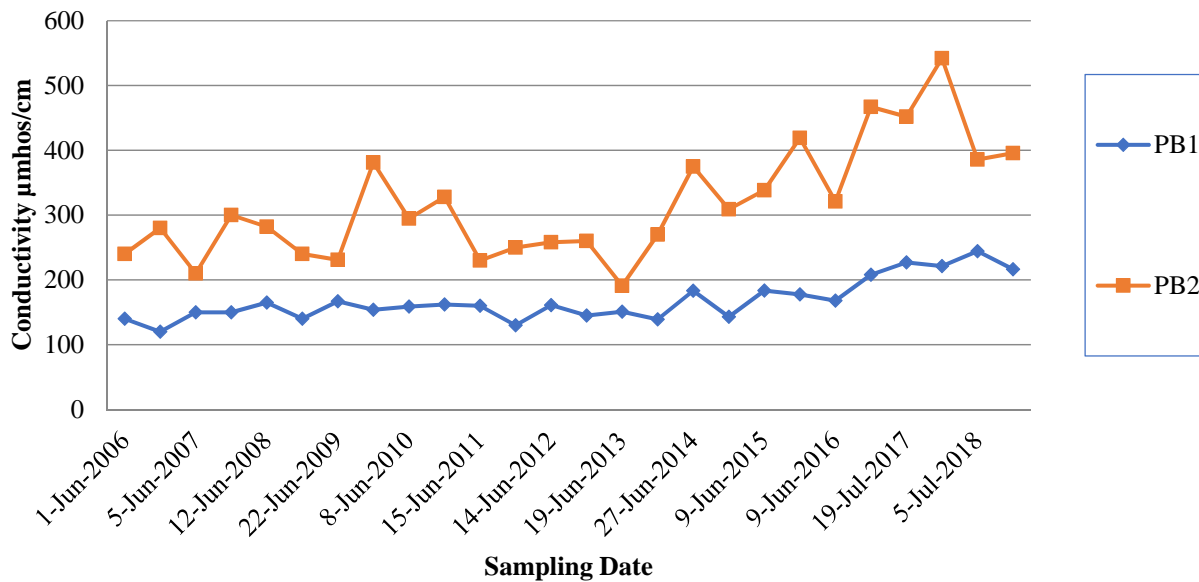
The chart below shows results of monitoring at 2 locations on Pond Brook, PB1 which is the outlet from Taunton Lake and PB2 which is downstream from runoff from Interstate 84. Over the past 12 years the conductivity downstream of the I-84 area shows significant increases over time. This is likely as a result of chemicals used for winter road treatments. Similar results are seen for Tom Brook, a perennial stream which drains the I-84 area near Edmund Road and flows into the Pootatuck at the end of Commerce Road.

Drinking water in Newtown is supplied from underground sources including the Pootatuck aquifer. Stream surface water and our ground water supply aquifers are connected. It is important to protect both for quality of life in our Town.

One of the possible uses for fracking wastes is as a road treatment alternative. As shown by the sampling program, materials placed on the roadways can have significant and continuing impacts on stream water quality. Given that many of the materials contained in fracking waste are not known or their environmental impacts are not well understood, prohibiting their use is a prudent course of action.

For questions or additional information, contact PWA Vice President Joe Hovious, 3 Leopard Drive, Sandy Hook, at 203-470-2952.

Pond Brook Conductivity



CIP

Legislative Council Responses

Chris Smith - asked for details on why amounts changed in the 2018 CIP versus the 2019 CIP (HS and Hawley).

Changes were made to the budget by utilizing the Eversource Conservation program at both locations. Hawley School's ECM's or Energy Conservation Measures greatly reduce the costs for Hawley School AND include all new LED lighting throughout the space to include the exterior lighting – thus, the reduction of \$\$ from 18 plan to 19 plan.

High School shows an increase due to converting this project into an *Energy Conservation Project*.

In the 18 CIP plan we only identified the boilers servicing the main building from 1969, with the 19 CIP plan we have identified Lighting upgrades to LED (internal and external), high efficiency boilers servicing the entire building, high efficiency VFD's (variable frequency drives), high efficiency pumps and high efficiency domestic hot water boilers.

Also included will be an upgrade to the Building Management System controls to tie into all new equipment not identified in the previous 18 CIP plan.

Chris Eide - wanted to know more detail about how removing the lighting controls would change the cost and anticipated savings.

There are no lighting controls proposed in the ECM's. The controls listed in ECM-2 are for the BMS or Building Management System. These new controls are necessary to run/control the new boiler plant(s) and equipment at both Hawley and High School.

Rob Pickard - asked about the current air quality at Hawley and MS (is it 20% fresh?).

Hawley, Middle Gate and Middle School do not have mechanical ventilation systems; therefore, these schools are unable to bring in 20% fresh air. These three buildings use exhaust fans to expel CO2 from the facility naturally drawing in fresh air.

Ryan Knapp - wanted more information about the HS turf/field replacement cost and why it is significantly more than the replacement for the Parks and Rec turf.

The High School field and track pricing was determined based on discussions and assistance from Carl Samuelson. The High School Stadium field is over 25% larger than the field P&R is going to replace and they do not have a track. Track costs may vary due to the heavy equipment which will traverse the track surface and possibly damage the asphalt base.

We have power and drainage all around the field as well which will be impacted during the replacement project.

Judit Destefano

Why is the plan to use the capital non-recurring instead of CIP?

There are only two A/C projects proposed under the current Non-Lapsing account utilization request. Both of these requests are under the CIP threshold. The HAW multi-purpose room for \$25,000 and the NMS cafeteria \$75,000, were to be proposed for inclusion in the budget for next year. The request is to address the climate condition in an incremental fashion to provide immediate relief areas for these schools.

How does paying for these yr. 1 from the cap no-recurring fund impact subsequent years of the CIP, if at all?

No material impact to the ventilation component that is in the CIP, as this is such a small piece of the bigger project. We have recently engaged an engineering firm to help further define the HAW project and to provide order of magnitude budget and scope for this project to have a better number going forward.

What is the cost?

Will be determined after the engineering firm concludes its study.

Will it last 20 yrs.?

At least 15-20, Gino is researching further.

2019-20 budget discussion

BOARD OF SELECTMEN BUDGET

Wages = 30% of Board of Selectmen budget

- Town hall employees – 2.25%; parks & recreation – 2.5%; public works – 2.25%; telecommunicators and police clerical – 2.25%; police 2.5%; non-union – 2.25%.

Fringe benefits = 14% of Board of Selectmen budget

- Contribution to medical insurance fund (7% of BOS budget) – preliminary 0% increase.
- Pension contribution (4% of BOS budget) – 7% increase (approx. 115,000).

Operating expenses = 18% of Board of Selectmen budget

- Senior center operational costs - ??
- Other operations will be between flat and inflation.

Capital expenditures = 8% Board of Selectmen budget (of which capital roads = 4% of BOS)

- Increase capital road expenditures by \$250,000 (14% line item increase)

Town agencies = 5% of Board of Selectmen budget

- ??

Debt service = 22% of Board of Selectmen budget (8% of total budget).

- Projected to increase by 2%

REVENUES

- Grand list increase - ??
- Flat state revenues
- Flat charges for services
- Investment income will increase (\$100,000 ?)

Average General Wage Increases

General Wage Increase by Fiscal Year: Arbitration Awards

The following are select summary statistics related to all arbitration awards reported to CCM from July 1, 2011. Each month the data below will be updated to reflect new settlements received by CCM.

	FY 12	FY 13	FY 14	FY 15	FY 16	FY 17	FY 18
Average	1.87%	1.85%	1.99%	2.21%	2.31%	2.52%	2.33%
Minimum	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1.00%	1.25%	2.25%	2.25%
Maximum	3.50%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.50%	2.90%	2.50%
Sample Size	26	20	21	21	16	8	4

General Wage Increase by Fiscal Year: Negotiated Settlements

The following are select summary statistics related to all negotiated settlements reported in the Data Reporter from July 1, 2013. Each month the data below will be updated to reflect new settlements received by CCM. For information regarding a particular municipal settlement, please contact CCM.

	FY14-15	FY15-16	FY16-17	FY17-18	FY18-19	FY19-20	FY20-21
Average	2.27%	2.31%	2.33%	2.29%	2.30%	2.33%	2.25%
Minimum	1.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
Maximum	3.76%	3.50%	3.35%	3.35%	6.00%	3.00%	3.00%
Mode	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%	2.50%	2.50%
Sample Size	261	233	188	155	116	53	21

Number of Wage Freezes Achieved: Negotiation Versus Arbitration

The following are the number of wage freezes reported in the Data Reporter from July 1, 2013. It is important to note that for negotiated settlements, the number reflects only those contracts received by CCM and reported in the Data Reporter and corresponds to the sample sizes in the preceding tables. Each month the data below will be updated to reflect new settlements received by CCM. For information regarding a particular municipal settlement, please contact CCM.

	FY 13	FY 14	FY 15	FY 16	FY 17	FY 18	FY 19
Negotiated	26	14	3	1	0	0	0
Arbitration	3	2	3	2	0	0	0

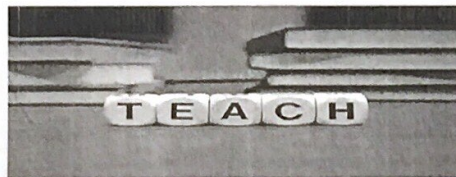
Long Term Influences: Strategic Plan

Newtown Mission

The mission of the Newtown Public Schools, a partnership of students, families, educators and community, is to **INSPIRE EACH STUDENT TO EXCEL** in attaining and applying the knowledge, skills and attributes that lead to personal success while becoming a contributing member of a dynamic global community.

We accomplish this by creating an unparalleled learning environment characterized by

· **High expectations** · **Quality instruction** · **Continuous improvement** · **Civic responsibility**



ASSUMPTIONS
2019-20 BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET

- The Newtown Board of Education's mission to inspire every student to excel will be the foundation of all decision making.
- Open and honest communication and cooperation will be maintained with other municipal boards and the community throughout the budget process.
- State and Federal financial support of education will not keep pace with increased programming mandates and will be further reduced by legislation and reductions of grants and other supports to local communities.
- Safety, security and health standards will be supported through continued training of staff; e.g., District Security, Safe School Climate, Blood Borne Pathogens, Sexual harassment/Title IX, Mandated reporting, OSHA (Office of Safety and Health Administration).
- Salaries and benefits will be based on commitments incurred through collective bargaining and other employment agreements.
- Existing programs and services will be reviewed, evaluated, maintained or adjusted as the educational needs of students change.
- Overall certified and classified staffing levels will be adjusted based on enrollment, programming, safety factors and facility considerations.

PRIORITIES
2019-20 BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET

- Support funding for appropriate class sizes at all levels of instruction.
- Maintain a contingency item in the budget for Special Education enrollment changes.
- Continue a level funding plan for expansion and sustainability of technology with access and equity for all students.
- Create a plan for maintenance of facilities and vehicles that includes a budget increase to provide air-conditioning capacity in the identified schools.
- Continue to pursue opportunities to share services, where appropriate, between the Board of Education and all town departments and participate in regional services when they are beneficial to the district.
- Ensure adequate funding for mental health resources to meet student needs
- Ensure adequate funding for special education that meets needs including those that are identified in the self-study.
- Evaluate funding for all extracurricular activities to determine an appropriate level of support.

A Focus on Quality Instruction and Enhanced Learning

A focus on **quality instruction**, including implementing concept-based teaching and learning so that students are prepared for college and career

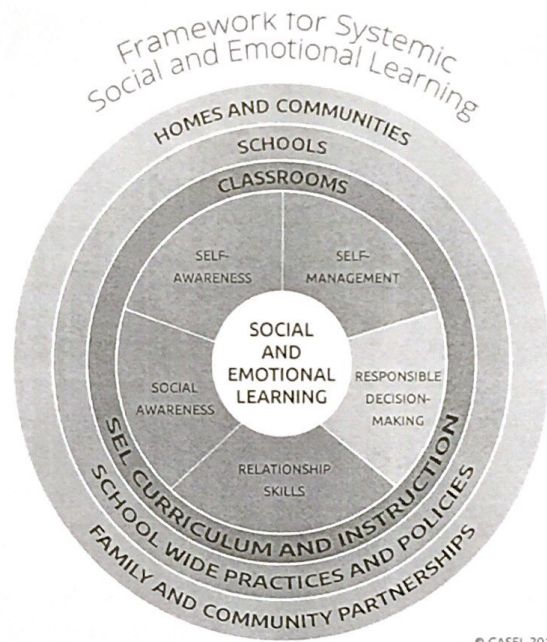
Student attributes for **personal well being, including social and emotional practices.**

Setting and achieving goals and **demonstrate their learning** through multiple modes (pathways)

What is SEL?

Social and Emotional Learning is the process through which children and adults acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

Newtown Public Schools aligns its SEL approach with the Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning's Framework for Social and Emotional Learning (www.casel.org).



© CASEL 2017

Influences on the Budget

Major Drivers

District Vision/Strategic Plan

Contractual Obligations

Enrollment

Economy

State mandates and new legislation

State funding

2019-20

Budget Priorities and Educational Goals

Enrollment - number of staff

Contractual obligations and economic factors

- Maintenance

- Salaries

- Benefits

- Supplies

Changes in programs or services

- graduation req - 25 credits

- student privacy

- IESS

- Special Education

- Behavioral Intervention

Influences on the Budget

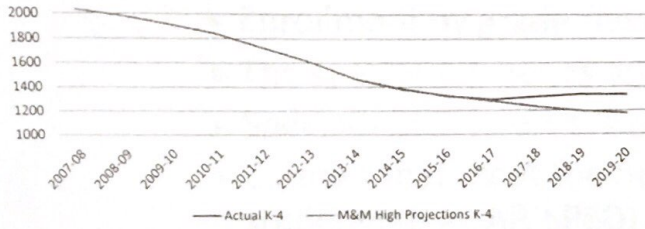
Long Term

2019-20

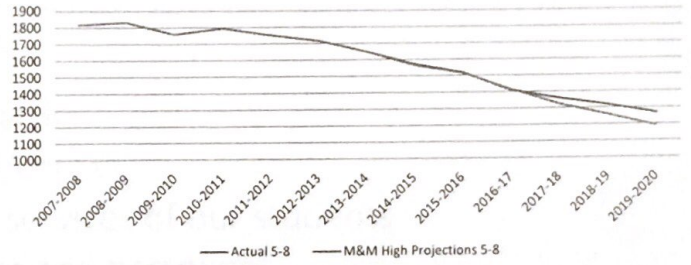
- The Strategic Plan —————> • Budget Priorities and Educational Goals
- Changes in enrollment —————> • Enrollment – number of staff
- Contractual obligations and economic factors —————> • Contractual obligations and economic factors
 - Maintenance
 - Salaries
 - Benefits
 - Supplies
- Changes in programs or services —————> • Changes in programs or services
 - graduation rqts - 25 credits
 - student privacy
 - NGSS
 - Special Education
 - Behavioral interventions

Newtown Public Schools
 Enrollment
 Actual vs. Milone MacBroom high projections

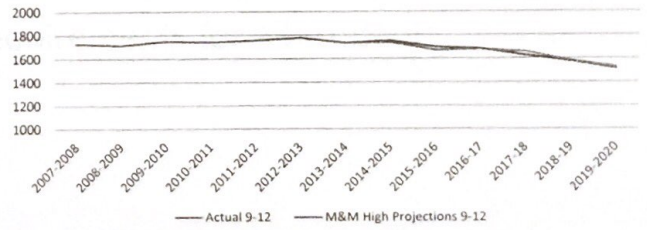
Elementary Schools



Reed & Middle School



High School



New High School Graduation Requirements

The Complexity of Class Size

When we talk about class size, we need to *consider* the following variables:

- ▶ Current enrollment as a District
- ▶ Enrollment by grade /level/course
- ▶ The specialized needs and services of our students
- ▶ Specialized support systems and personnel
- ▶ Courses that meet the needs of diverse niche of students (e.g., AP, SPED)
- ▶ Future credit and course requirements for all students

New High School Graduation Requirements

Subject	Current	Year 2023
Humanities- (9 Total)		
English	4	4
Social Studies	3	3
Fine Arts/B.E.A.T.	1	0
Elective (Humanities)	0	2
STEM- (9 Total)		
Math	3	3
Science	3	3
Elective (Math/Science/Engineering/Tech)	0	3
Physical Education	1	1
Health	0.5	1
Financial Literacy	0.5	0
Elective (Career/Life Skills)		
World Language	1	1
Capstone (Sr. Project)	1	1
General Electives	6	3
Requirements	24	25

9

CERTIFIED RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management has the capacity to extend financial assistance for this Neglected Cemetery Account Grant Program under Section 19a-308b of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS); and

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of Newtown enter into an agreement with the State of Connecticut for a \$2,500 grant for the Sandy Hook Cemetery cleanup project;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town of Newtown Legislative Council:

1. That is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for the State Assistance imposed by C.G.S. 19a-308b.
2. That the acceptance of State financial assistance by The Town of Newtown in an amount not to exceed \$2,500 is hereby approved and that Daniel C. Rosenthal, First Selectman is directed to execute an agreement with the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management, to provide such additional information, to execute such other documents as may be required, to execute any amendments, decisions and revisions thereto, and to act as the authorized representative of the Town of Newtown, Connecticut.

Paul J. Lundquist, Chair, Legislative Council

Certified a true copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Town of Newtown, Connecticut at a meeting of its Legislative Council on October 17, 2018 and which has not been rescinded or modified in any way.

Date

Debbie A. Halstead, Town Clerk

**TOWN OF NEWTOWN
FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT
(Per Town Charter 6-100)**

REQUESTING DEPARTMENT LAND USE

PROJECT: NEGLECTED CEMETERY ACCOUNT GRANT PROGRAM

PROPOSED APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$ 2,500

PROPOSED FUNDING:

BONDING	
GRANT	\$ 2,500
OTHER	
	<u>\$ 2,500</u>

ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT ON OPERATING BUDGET (GENERAL FUND):

List any financial impact your request will have on the Town's annual operating budget. Attach spreadsheet(s) showing your calculation of the estimated impact.

EXPENDITURE CATEGORY:	**FOR BRACKETS USE NEGATIVE SIGN BEFORE NUMBER**	(POSITIVE IMPACT) / NEGATIVE IMPACT	Attachment #
SALARIES & BENEFITS			
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES			
CONTRACTED SERVICES			
REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE			
UTILITIES			
OTHER			
DEBT SERVICE (1st year)			
TOTAL IMPACT ON EXPENDITURES		<u>\$ -</u>	

REVENUE CATEGORY:	POSITIVE IMPACT / (NEGATIVE IMPACT)	Attachment #
PROPERTY TAXES		
CHARGES FOR SERVICES (FEES)		
OTHER		
TOTAL IMPACT ON REVENUES		<u>\$ -</u>

TOTAL FINANCIAL IMPACT ON OPERATING BUDGET \$ -

EQUIVALENT MILL RATE OF TOTAL IMPACT 0.0000 mills
(using current year's information)

COMMENTS:

NO IMPACT ON THE OPERATING BUDGET

The Neglected Cemetery Account Grant Program was established under Section 19a-308b of the Connecticut General Statutes to provide municipalities with an opportunity to receive financial assistance to reclaim and maintain neglected cemeteries.

Section 19a-308 of the Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S) defines a "neglected cemetery", and subsection 19a-308(b) relieves municipalities, municipal employees, and agents and officers of municipalities from criminal or civil liability for undertaking the care and maintenance of a neglected cemetery.

Section 205 of Public Act 14-217 created the Neglected Cemetery Account and directed the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to make grants to municipalities that wish provide upkeep to local, neglected cemeteries. Municipalities can apply for up to \$2,500 per year to be used: to clear weeds, briars and bushes; to mow cemetery lawn areas; to repair fences and walls; to straighten memorial stones and to keep neglected cemeteries in an orderly and decent condition.

PREPARED BY: Rock Taylor

DATE: 9/18/18