

MEETING MINUTES

TOLLAND TOWN COUNCIL HICKS MEMORIAL MUNICIPAL CENTER 6th FLOOR COUNCIL ROOM FEBRUARY 23, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT: Frederick M Daniels, Chairman; MaryAnn Delaney Tuttle, Vice Chairperson; Dale Clayton; Jack Flynn; Harvey Gilbert; Craig Nussbaum and April Teveris

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Steven R. Werbner, Town Manager; Michael Wilkinson, Director of Administrative Services; Christine Hutton, Finance & Records Director; Philip Bogner, President Board of Directors Tolland Public Library Foundation; Ray Steadward, Building Official

1. **CALL TO ORDER** Frederick Daniels called the meeting to order at 7:30 p m.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** Recited.
3. **MOMENT OF SILENCE** Observed.
4. **PROCLAMATIONS:** None.
5. **PUBLIC PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** *(on any subject within the jurisdiction of the Town Council) (2 minute limit)*

Amy Buongiorno of 10 Fernwood Road – She doesn't want to see any Board of Education ("BOE") decreases. She would like to see the budget approved as presented. She would like the Town Council and Town Manager to address the issue of the recurring budget referendum difficulties, by implementing a system that allows the Town Manager to do his job; approving or making increases to the town budget that are normal and customary. Whether good or bad economic times, people do not want to pay more even when it is necessary. Doing what is right for the future of our children and Tolland may not be easy, but it is necessary.

Christine Gray of 31 Sandy Drive – She is opposed to any town gun restrictions. The State of Connecticut has already provided us with sufficient legislation and she feels that further prohibitions are unnecessary.

William Murphy of 42 Dockerel Road – He understands better now item 8.3. He does not believe anything is necessary in the town and believes there are adequate regulations provided by the State statutes. He is wondering how many incidences have the State Police responded to involving unsafe conduct with a firearm.

Sally Balukas of 296 Mile Hill Road – She doesn't think that we need to enact any more laws regarding gun safety in Tolland. She agrees with the reasons already cited, and because the original complaint, which brought this issue up, has been resolved.

Beth Penney of 84 Angela Drive – Requests that the BOE budget, as it has been proposed, be presented to the town.

Ken Kittredge of 37 Farmbrook Drive – The question last year was: Would the residents of Tolland support a tax rate increase greater than 0%? There are a lot of different answers. Last year's referendum results: light voter turnout (1,813 votes); recent referendums have seen over 3,000. Do you know how

many are no voters? Only 199. There was almost no resistance to the 0% tax increase. Most of the people, who vote no, didn't even show up last year. This year, let's make a 0% tax increase something that we arrive at as a last resort, not something that we start with. He is in support of funding both the BOE budget and the Town side budget at levels beyond the 1% requested as outlined in the Town Manager's budget. Passing another 0% increase is not an option; it's a disaster waiting to happen.

Doreen Sauter of 27 Mountain Laurel Drive - In the late Fall she attended a BOE meeting. At that meeting, a BOE member communicated that he had been advised that the Town Council would be looking for a budget from the BOE with an increase similar to that of the prior year, which was zero. This comment bothered her. She doesn't believe this is how the process should work. She thinks it's the responsibility of the BOE to develop a budget that is in the best interest of our town, without trying to meet some pre-established target. As tax payers and community members, it is our responsibility to vote and pass a reasonable budget that not only will best serve our children, but all of the children of Tolland. She thanked the BOE for doing the right thing, keeping the programs at their current level and allowing the taxpayers to vote on this budget. She supports the current BOE budget as it is.

Jen Miller of 27 Pepperwood Drive - She supports the current BOE recommendation, as well as the municipal side. She thinks any further cuts are detrimental to our children, to our community, to our State and our Country. Cutting educational programs like World Language in the middle school is a disgrace. It is irresponsible; it's an opportunity that most of us had.

Kathie Angers of 88 Old Kent North - She supports the BOE budget. The World Language program is very important to our students. They need to have second languages. The tax payers have the right to at least go and vote. If we keep hacking our budgets, our housing values will go down.

Abigail Jeffries of 121 Wildwood Road - She supports the BOE budget as presented and urges that no cuts be made. If cuts are necessary, she would support a greater than a 1% budget that has been recommended by the town manager for both the BOE and town side. She would encourage the Town Council to communicate openly and often with the BOE beginning now. It would be disappointing if the Council did not fully engage the BOE and use all other resources available to them to really understand why the BOE has requested this budget and why it is so important. She asked that the Council to please be clear about the cost of the budget for both the town side and the BOE side, putting that into a dollars per household context so that residents have some idea what they are choosing between.

Gary Lotreck of 12 Holly Road - Agrees pretty much with what everyone else said. We have been doing this for many years. Times are hard for everyone. He would like to see the BOE budget go through as is. If they could show a "per household cost", people may pay. Give it a shot.

Carolyn Ward of 35 Anderson Road - She is afraid for our schools. Please let the BOE budget increase go. It is important for the kids. Let us vote. She loves the town and all the services.

Patricia Doyle of 52 Susan Drive - She encourages the Council to put forth the BOE budget as presented. If she had her way, it would be even higher. She doesn't want to see the World Language program cut either. It is a global economy. In any Country you go to, most people are bi-lingual. Americans are not good at following that standard. To see something like this get cut, is negligent in terms of being world citizens.

Stephanie Howard of 6 Center Road - She supports the BOE budget as presented.

Mark Devaney of 33 Cortland Drive - The average American spends \$1,600 a year on coffee, from a vendor. People are spending money on coffee. A World Education program is significantly more important than \$1,600 in coffee. Maybe if they skipped all their coffee, we'd be able to afford World Language programs in town. He thinks that it is important for people to see what the dollar cost would be

to them on their taxes and understand what they are getting for it in this town. Not only the education, which is extremely important to a lot of us, but the services in this town that are important to us. There are a lot of important services that are funded with minimal tax repercussions for many people in the scope of their lives. So, he too implores the Council to accept the BOE budget as is.

Mike Byam of 70 Woodfields Drive – He supports the BOE budget. He has 3 kids in the school system and coaches. Tonight, his son told him to come here to fight and make sure we do the right thing. Provide them with an education that allows them to be competitive in the future.

Sam Belsito of 55 Lee Lane – 3 Thoughts – 1) part-time summer help – maybe instead of the position going to a college student, it could go to a resident who doesn't have a job; 2) He thanked Dave Smith for serving the Town of Tolland for a number of years. Dave's leaving presents an opportunity to the town to reorganize that department. Maybe we can look ahead and say we really don't need a full-time engineer and we could farm it out. Could be a cost savings to the town; 3) As work progresses on the geo-thermal heating system for our town hall, he has not yet seen a payback period or cost study for this building. He would like to see it before we progress further

Jane Pasini of 11 Cortland Drive – She supports BOE budget as it has been presented. Some parents may be missing from the meeting tonight because of the concert. She knows there are a lot of second grade parents in town and she speaks for them as well.

Richard Bozzone of 9 Elm Road – He saw in the Journal Inquirer that Soldream, Inc. is moving to Vernon, because they do not have enough square footage. He asked how much additional tax revenue will be lost. Mr. Werbner could not comment off hand. Dr. Daniels said we'd get the information for him.

Karen Giangregorio of 60 Carter Drive – Not only is she a parent, she is an educator in another town. She knows how the budget process works. Give the people the right to vote on that budget. She approves and wants the budget to go through.

A letter dated February 23, 2010 and authored by **Ken Adamson of 29 Clearbrook Drive** was received by the clerk – he supports an increase of 1% or more in our budget consistent with a recommendation by the Town Manager.

6. PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS:

- 6.1 Consideration of a resolution making an additional appropriation of \$2,150.00 to the Board of Education's 2009-10 Budget for Medicaid payments.

Harvey Gilbert motioned to open the public hearing; Seconded by Jack Flynn. All in favor None opposed.

Dr. Daniels commented that this is an additional appropriation for a Medicaid payment to the BOE budget. This is mandated by State statute.

A straw poll was conducted of all those in favor of making an additional appropriation for the Medicaid payment. 8 were in favor, 0 were opposed.

Harvey Gilbert motioned to close the public hearing; Seconded by Jack Flynn. All in favor None opposed.

MaryAnn Delaney Tuttle read the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Tolland Board of Education participates in the Medicaid Reimbursement Plan as administered by the Department of Social Services of the State of Connecticut, through which it bills Medicaid for the cost of speech and language, psychological, occupational and physical therapy services for students that are eligible for Medicaid; and

WHEREAS the Board of Education has received a payment in the amount of \$2,150.00 from the Department of Social Services' Medicaid Reimbursement Plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Tolland Town Council that it hereby appropriates an additional \$2,150 00 in Medicaid payments to the Board of Education's 2009-10 budget

Seconded by Harvey Gilbert. All in favor None opposed

7a. **REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMITTEES RESPONSIBLE TO THE COUNCIL:**

7.a.1 Library Foundation Update

Dr. Daniels commented that background material on this subject was provided in the members packets. Philip Bognar, President of the Board of Directors for the Tolland Public Library Foundation presented – He began by giving an update on the selection of an advisor. It has gone very well. The firm that they have selected to recommend is Apex Investment Services, Inc., because they had the best qualifications. Recommendations were outstanding. He has provided the Council members with the contract and a letter from the town attorney, who reviewed the contract. Mr. Bognar concurs with almost all of the town attorney's revisions. If the Council has any further changes, he'd like to bundle them all and send a letter to Apex asking them to make adjustments in the contract. Once they receive the revised contract back, Steve Werbner and he will review.

Next, he spoke about a By-Law change: The town attorney in his review made mention of the By-Laws specifying that they would establish two funds. That is too restrictive. We have the book fund, the operating account, the unrestricted endowment fund, and the Elizabeth C. King Eaton/Phoebe Dimock King endowment. That is four (4) and we are growing. He recommends changing the By-Laws to have the following sample wording: we will maintain separate endowment funds (with no number on there). If the Council agrees to that, he can work on that with Mr. Werbner and then get it approved. Ms. Teveris commented that they were looking for individual accounts and this is housekeeping. Dr. Daniels thought that made sense. We can discuss this and direct the town manager and town attorney to work up some language for that. The members of the Council agreed to that.

Budget – Mr. Bognar discussed their proposed budget as outlined in his letter dated February 12, 2010 to the Council. One possible change to the budget could be the accounting costs. They may be higher should they be required to file a full IRS 990 and the State of Connecticut may require complex filings even if the federal government does not. Dr. Daniels asked about the outcome of seeking a flat fee from the advisor. Mr. Bognar commented that when looking at the value of what they were going to get, for what they had to spend, they thought it was worth it. Dr. Daniels believed they would end up with a percentage.

Lastly, Mr. Bognar said that on June 19th they are expecting to hold a Phoebe Dimock King and Elizabeth C. King Eaton Endowment Recognition and Celebration. They will advise once things get firmed up.

Mr. Flynn asked if all the expenses were recurring. Mr. Bognar said for the most part. Although, the legal fees may drop next year if there are no contracts to renew, or if the contract looks similar to the current one. Dr. Daniels thanked Phil Bognar and the rest of the Foundation for all their work.

7b. **REPORTS OF TOWN COUNCIL LIAISONS:** Dr. Daniels commented that the IC/BOE Hour for February 10th was canceled because of a snow day. Mr. Clark, School Board Liaison, reported that there will be meeting tomorrow night and that next week is the joint meeting between the BOE and IC.

8. **NEW BUSINESS (ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS):**

- 8.1 Approval of the recommendation of the Library Foundation for the selection of a Financial Advisor for Foundation Trust Funds and authorization for Philip Bognar, President of the Board of Directors, to enter into a contract with the selected firm.

MaryAnn Delaney Tuttle read the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council shall hereby approve the recommendation of the Library Foundation for the selection of a financial Advisor and authorize Philip Bognar, President of the Board of Directors, to enter into a contract with the selected firm.

Seconded by Harvey Gilbert.

Mr. Gilbert asked if the Foundation had an opportunity to talk with any of Apex's clients, other than the people he recommended. Mr. Bognar responded no. The 3 references were very strong. Also, their treasurer knows this individual and his regard for him was high.

Mr. Clayton questioned if the Directors and Officers Coverage covers theft of assets. Mr. Werbner believed it should. We would need to double check. Clayton said in looking at Certificate of Liability Insurance, he didn't know if it would cover that type of situation. Also, the Certificate Holder should be the Town of Tolland, not Apex. We should be covered as a client against those types of losses. He also points out that they will endeavor to provide notice if the coverage is canceled. He doesn't like 'endeavor language' in the Certificates, because it doesn't really provide you anything. There is no requirement that they notify you. So this policy could lapse during a period of time and there could be a loss sustained during that time. He would like the Foundation to go back to them and ask them to re-issue striking all 'endeavor language', and there is an affirmative obligation to provide notice of cancellation of the policy. They should confirm also that the \$1,000,000 limit is per occurrence so that it is not across the board of all the accounts. He recommends that Apex talk to Starkweather, or the Foundation talk directly to Starkweather to see if they can make that change. He would push hard on this. Dr. Daniels commends the Foundation on their hard work.

All in favor. None opposed.

- 8.2 Consideration of a **Resolution** to approve proposed increases and additions to Building Permit fees (§ A173-4, F, Building Permits) effective April 1, 2010 and the setting of a public hearing thereon for March 9, 2010.

Mr. Werbner commented that there are three (3) things being recommended by Ray Steadward, Building Official: 1.) Currently, we have no policy in place to charge for re-inspections; 2.) We have no policy in place for work commencing prior to issuance of permit; and 3.) Raising permit fees – this schedule would bring us more in-line with towns in the surrounding area.

Ms. Delaney Tuttle questioned issue # 2, leveling out the fine at \$40,000. It is almost rewarding the bigger contractors for going and starting their work without a permit. Mr. Steadward explained that it is graduated up to that \$40,000 point. He doesn't feel there is a need to limit it. He just thought it wouldn't be a bad idea to put a limit somewhere, although it is not a huge problem in Tolland. This can be discussed further. The fine would be subject to the work covered by the permit. The graduated schedule makes sense to him, as far as the limit that can be subject to the Council.

Mr. Werbner commented that permit fees are not to be set to develop a profit. Dr. Daniels does believe there should be some justification in terms of what the costs are.

Mr. Flynn does think there should be a limit. He is not sure what it should be, but doesn't think it should be open-ended. He requested clarification of the language in Sub-Section I – Mr. Werbner explained that \$500 is the cap, plus the permit cost. Dr. Daniels agreed the language is confusing and needs to be cleaned up.

Mr. Clayton explained a situation he had with a client who was selling a house that they had purchased. When the inspection was done, it was determined the prior owners refinished the basement without pulling any permit. In a case like this, where they are an innocent party? Mr. Steadward commented that unfortunately this is becoming more common these days. No one is coming in to check the files with regards to permits/inspections. Ultimately, they would need to pay the fine. The present sellers could have recourse against their inspector possibly. Ms. Teveris doesn't know if it is really part of an inspector's job to check records for permits.

Dr. Daniels asked the members if they wanted to change the cap on the penalty. Would the \$500 re-coup our costs on a large job? Mr. Werbner commented that for the amount of times it comes into play, Mr. Steadward thought it was a fair estimate. He does not see many people trying to sneak work without getting a permit. Getting fined 1-2 times may motivate them to do things properly in the future. Unfortunately, there will be times when someone who is not deserving of it, would be on the receiving end. We can only hope when people are purchasing a home, they do their due-diligence.

Delaney Tuttle admitted she doesn't know the system well, but it seems as though we are penalizing the homeowners, and don't have repercussions for the big corporate people, although her main concern is re-offenders. She would impose the same fine across the board.

Mr. Werbner suggested the following language change to Sub-Section I: Penalty capped at not more than \$500 for first offense per permittee on a project, and no cap for subsequent violations of permittee on that same project. For purposes of going to public hearing, Dr. Daniels said we can go with that.

MaryAnn Delaney Tuttle moved to introduced and set down for a public hearing on March 9, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. in Tolland Town Council Chambers the following changes to the following **Resolution**, which changes § A173-4, Building Permits, of the Code of the Town of Tolland:

§ A173-4. Building permits. [Adopted 6-12-1990]

The Tolland Town Council adopts the following fee schedule applicable to all building permits:

- A. Fire Code compliance inspection for one- or two-family dwellings: \$25
- B. Building Code compliance inspection for one- or two-family dwellings: \$25. **This fee is included in the building permit fee. An additional \$25 fee may be assessed for every re-inspection after the first re-inspection, for the same violation.**
- C. Plan review fee for Fire Code compliance for all other use groups: \$100. This fee is included in the building permit fee if the structure is built.
- D. Residential Building Code compliance plan review fee: \$50. This fee is included in the building permit fee if the structure is built.
- E. Building Code compliance fee for all other use groups: \$100. This fee is included in the building permit fee if the structure is built.
- F. The building permit fee is based on each \$1,000 or portion thereof of a structure's

value. A fee shall be charged for each \$1,000 of said value at the rate of \$20 \$30 for the first \$1,000 estimated cost, plus \$12 for each additional \$1,000 of estimated cost. This fee also applies to all mechanical construction and demolition [Amended 8-17-1999; 8-26-2003; 7-8-2008]

- G. Filing fee for mechanical construction, inclusive of elevators, electrical, plumbing, heating, ventilating and air conditioning, refrigeration, low-voltage wiring systems, sprinklers, etc., as deemed necessary by the Building Official and/or the State of Connecticut Basic Building Code or the General Statutes of Connecticut: \$10 filing fee if value is covered by project with a building permit. [Amended 8-26-2003]
- H. Certificate of occupancy processing fee: \$5 **This fee is included in the building permit fee.**
- I. **Penalty capped at not more than \$500 for first offense per permittee on a project, and no cap for subsequent violation of permittee on that same project.**

Seconded by Harvey Gilbert

Mr. Flynn wants to make clear that the Permittee is responsible for the fine. Dr. Daniels suggested the town attorney take a look at this language. The members agreed.

All in favor. None opposed.

- 8 3 Consideration of a proposed ordinance to adopt gun safety regulations and the setting of a public hearing thereon March 9, 2010.

Dr. Daniels mentioned this was discussed at the last meeting. The Council had a gracious offer from a member representing the Rockville Fish and Game Club ("RFGC") to work with Mike and Steve on revisions to the ordinance. RFGC provided us with a letter stating that their position is that current State statutes cover the concerns voiced by members of the community and members of the Council. The Committee from RFGC made some enhancements to the proposed ordinance. This proposal takes pieces from the towns of Avon, South Windsor, City of Stamford and some discussion from the last meeting.

Mr. Nussbaum does not believe that minors under the age of 16 should be firing a weapon of that sort *without* supervision. It should be kept at 16 years old.

Mr. Clayton asked what the legal age is for hunting. Sally Balukas, RFGC, commented 12, following a state provided hunter safety course and with supervision. At age 16, supervision is no longer a requirement.

Mr. Flynn commented that he would like to remove the portion regarding distance to roads or streets. How big of a threat is that really. Dr. Daniels does admit that when you include public road or street, it is much more restrictive. Even with all the permission you may get from your neighbors, you still may be limited with the street provision. Ms. Delaney Tuttle said that the perceived danger to her is the same if someone is shooting within 250' of a house, or if you are driving down a street and someone is shooting across the road. It's equally dangerous if you feel you need to restrict someone's right to do this activity. Just responding to the true fear or the fear of being injured, shooting across the road seems just as dangerous as shooting in your backyard, if you were to think it was dangerous.

Ms. Teveris commented that negligence has been brought up several times. It is also covered by the State statute. That has much lower standard than recklessness. You do not have to have reckless activity to be fined or charged with a violation of the State law. You just need to have negligence. The laws we have now cover this scenario.

Dr. Daniels commented that "municipal" should be added to the definition of Building.

The members further discussed the provision including public road, street or highway. Mr. Flynn believed the qualifying language seems to apply to the whole paragraph including the streets. Ms. Delaney Tuttle suggested leaving the language as it is and sending it to public hearing, to get a sense of how the public interprets that phrase. Dr. Daniels said we can tighten it up if we wanted to.

MaryAnn Delaney Tuttle motioned that the following Ordinance be introduced and set down for a public hearing on March 9, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. in Tolland Town Council Chambers and read the following draft ordinance:

BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of Tolland that it hereby approves the following addition to the Code of the Town of Tolland:

Discharge of firearms

(a) No minor under 16 years of age, shall discharge any firearm, air rifle or air pistol within the limits of the Town, unless such discharge shall be in the presence and under the supervision an adult (21 years or older) or of the parent or legal guardian of such minor, or a qualified instructor on an authorized range.

"Firearm" is defined as any weapon that is designed to expel any projectile by the action of an explosive; or the frame or receiver of any such weapon.

(b) Unless otherwise permitted by law, no person shall discharge any firearm, air rifle or air pistol outdoors and within 250 feet of any building **or any public road, street or highway** situated anywhere in the Town, except as to buildings on his/her own land or on land used in conjunction with a **military funeral**, duly organized fish and game, **and/or** gun club, or such discharge is with the **written** permission of the owners or occupants of all dwellings within 250 feet
"Building" is defined as any dwelling or commercial or municipal building

(c) A landowner may extend to others by written consent, the right to use his/her property for hunting, target practice or other purposes requiring the use of firearms, air rifles or air pistols in accordance with section (b) above.

(d) Any person violating any provision of this section, or an adult or parent or legal guardian permitting violation by a minor less than 16 years of age, shall be fined \$100.00. Each day such violation shall continue after notice to the owner may be deemed a separate offense

(e) This section shall not apply to any person who shall discharge any firearm, air rifle or air pistol in reasonable defense of his or her person or property or in the performance of any legal duty or to put down an otherwise injured animal on his or her own property.

State law references: Penalty for ordinance violations, G.S. § 7-148(c)(10)(A); Unlawful discharge of firearms, G.S. § 53-203, **Hunting or discharging firearm from public highway, G.S. § 53-204 & Carrying of dangerous weapons prohibited, G.S. § 53-206.**

Seconded by Harvey Gilbert.

Mr. Clayton remarked that we've made great strides from where we started. This is not to say that people shouldn't always be safe in the handling/use of firearms. His concern is that he is unsure of what we are protecting against. Is it the perception of danger or the actual danger of firearms? It is interesting that the State Police commented that there have only been 5 incidents in the last year where they were called out to address a perception of danger and it didn't sound like any actual action was taken. Even more telling is the situation with the one neighbor that came out. That situation has been resolved. If he visited with his neighbor before coming to the Council, we would not have heard of this or spent time on this. He thinks

you are restricting the use of a person's property and there has been no evidence or proof of any danger. He does commend everyone on the great strides made. Although, he is not sure we are going down the right path.

Dr. Daniels said we owe it to the community to bring this to public hearing. He commended the RFGC for participating in the process and would welcome them back on March 9th.

Frederick Daniels, MaryAnn Delaney Tuttle, Dale Clayton, Jack Flynn, Harvey Gilbert and Craig Nussbaum were in favor. April Teveris was opposed.

Ms. Teveris commented that it was her hope that anybody who has an interest on either side of this issue come to the public hearing. She would be more than happy to hear them. However, she took the position at the last meeting that she did not think this should go any further. She has not changed her position.

8.4 Appointments to vacancies on various municipal boards/commissions.

No appointments were made.

9. **OLD BUSINESS (ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS):** None

10. **REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER (A WRITTEN REPORT SHALL BE PROVIDED THE 1ST MEETING OF THE MONTH ONLY)**

Steve Werbner commented that there will be a meeting Thursday night on the Capital Budget and March 4th is the meeting at the IHS Library with the BOE.

11. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

11.1 February 9, 2010 Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes – MaryAnn Delaney Tuttle moved to adopt the minutes; Seconded by Harvey Gilbert. All in favor. None opposed.

12. **CORRESPONDENCE TO COUNCIL**

- 12.1 Gun Safety Ordinance Correspondence
- 12.2 BOE Budget Correspondence
- 12.3 Correspondence from the DEP re: Chaplin Fire Dept. is holding an ISO Workshop
- 12.4 Eagle Court of Honor
- 12.5 On the Job Safety
- 12.6 OPM Report re: arrest warrants
- 12.7 CRRA Report

13. **COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS FROM COUNCILPERSONS**

April Teveris asked if we will have the Green Study brought back at the next meeting. Mr. Werbner believed they will be ready. She asked what the plan would be for that. Dr. Daniels said we'll look to see what the recommendations are, and see if we can go forward with them as presented. If there is a consensus that we should involve the public again, we can do that. Ms. Teveris' thought is we should. Unless we reject it, then it won't go any further.

14. **PUBLIC LISTED PARTICIPATION** *(on any subject within the jurisdiction of the Town Council)*
(3 minute limit)

Sam Belsito of 55 Lee Lane – Showed the Council the headline from JI - **Rell Reels in Bonding** – the new budget is coming, we are trying to hold the taxes down and we are trying to make everyone happy, which is impossible to do. There is one thing we can do. We can hold back the bonding in this town. It is going to kill us. It's killing the federal government; it's killing the state government. It has to start right here. Bonding should be eliminated. We should try a new method of financing. He knows we've been doing this for years, and for years we are paying the debt. He asked the Council to please use common sense.

Richard Bozzone of 9 Elm Road – Would he need a permit if he installed an electric garage door? Mr. Werbner said yes, if he was putting in wiring. Mr. Bozzone asked if there is any type of education that can take place. Dr. Daniels agrees education is a valid point. He suggested maybe in an e-blast. Mr. Flynn asked if there is anything on the website. Mr. Werbner commented that Mr. Steadward is planning on redoing the building website.

Sally Balukis of 296 Mile Hill Road – Maybe “call ahead” to see if you need a building permit would help. Since the ordinance you are recommending is not set in stone, she recommends that the members go back to the justification regarding 12 year olds. That reference had to do with the tradition of bee-be guns. Also, to go back to the idea that it is not necessary to even have this, as it is referring again to Unlawful discharge of firearms, G.S. § 53-203. This seems to cover what most of you are saying.

Ken Kittredge of 37 Farmbrook Drive – When is the next TC/BOE? Dr. Daniels said he believed it was March 13th from 3-4 p.m. at the Library.

15. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Harvey Gilbert motioned to go into Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining at 9:35 p.m., thus ending the Regular Meeting of the Town Council. Seconded by Jack Flynn. All in favor.
None opposed.

15.1 Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining

16. ADJOURNMENT

Harvey Gilbert moved to adjourn the meeting; Seconded by Jack Flynn at 10:06 p.m. All were in favor.

Frederick M. Daniels, Council Chair

Michelle A. Finnegan
Town Council Clerk