

February 12, 2014

The special meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Newton was held on the above date at 6:00 p.m. Present were Mrs. Diglio, Mr. Flynn, Deputy Mayor Elvidge, Mayor Ricciardo, and Town Manager, Mr. Thomas S. Russo, Jr. Also present were Mrs. Debra Millikin, Deputy Town Manager, Ms. Dawn Babcock, CFO, Mrs. Kerry Deckert, Recreation Supervisor, Mr. Rick Straway, DPW Foreman, Mr. Ken Jaekel, DPW Supervisor, Mr. Adam Vough, DPW Assistant Supervisor, Harold Pellow and Cory Stoner, Town Engineers. Mrs. Becker was present via telephone.

Mayor Ricciardo made the following declaration that "in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this special meeting was given to the two newspapers of record and posted on the official bulletin board on February 3, 2014."

TOWN MANAGER'S REVIEW OF BUDGET

Mr. Russo asked Mrs. Millikin to update the Council on the Water and Sewer Capital roof project.

Mrs. Millikin stated that they received updated cost estimates from our engineers and make the recommendation to push off the repair/replacement of one RBC until next year and put that money into the roofing category. Mayor Ricciardo thanked Mrs. Millikin, and the Council members agreed with the recommendation.

Mr. Russo, stated the Council received a memo regarding the Human Resources full-time status. To give the Council adequate time to review the memo, the discussion on such will take place at the February 24th Town Council meeting.

Mr. Russo asked Mrs. Babcock to update the Council on the Utilities budget. Mrs. Babcock stated that she did a reallocation to move some of the costs to 911, which would give us more accurate figures when billing outside agencies for cencom, resulting in a \$10,000 reduction. She increased Electric and Propane by \$10,000, bringing it more in-line. The money was taken from DPW Salary and Wages. Mrs. Babcock stated, that currently we have one employee out on disability and we are being reimbursed by insurance for 70% of his salary.

Mr. Russo advised he will be adjusting the Marketing line on page 16 to cover the cost of the branding and Special Improvement District if it comes to fruition.

Finally, Mr. Russo asked Deputy Mayor Elvidge to advise the Council on the plans for the Town 150th anniversary. Mr. Elvidge outlined the plans for the yearlong celebration, and advised the approximate cost would be \$16,000 to \$18,000, he asked

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the Council to consider allocating money in the budget to help pay for the celebration. Mayor Ricciardo polled the Council, and all (Mrs. Becker's telephone connection was lost at 6:21pm) agreed it is a worthwhile expenditure and will look to place \$15,000 in the budget. Mr. Elvidge advised that any money raised by donations would be given back to the Town to offset the costs. Mayor Ricciardo thanked Deputy Mayor Elvidge and Councilwoman Diglio for their dedication to this celebration.

PUBLIC WORKS/ENGINEERING/RECREATION BUDGET REVIEW AND CAPITAL PROJECTS

Mrs. Diglio started off by stating for the record that she has received several compliments on the great work the DPW has been doing in Town.

At this time, Mr. Jaekel reviewed several areas of the Public Works budget. The Council had several questions which were addressed by Mrs. Babcock, Mr. Jaekel, Mr. Vough and Mr. Straway.

Before reviewing the Public Works Capital expenditures, Mr. Russo asked Mrs. Deckert to review the Recreation and Pool Budget. Mrs. Deckert reviewed the numerous programs and events that took place this year through the Recreation Department and their overall success.

Mrs. Deckert reviewed the Swimming Pool budget; Parks & Playgrounds budget as well as the Capital expenditures. Mrs. Deckert stated restructuring of personnel saved money. Mrs. Deckert also advised Council on improvements made to the filters that resulted in a cost savings in relation to chemical costs.

Mr. Russo asked Mrs. Deckert to review the success of the Action Alliance program. Mrs. Deckert thanked the Council for their support of her efforts and outlined all the programs the Alliance sponsored throughout the year. The Action Alliance is considering funding part of Newton Day if the Greater Newton Chamber of Commerce would agree to not have a beer tent, making the event more family friendly.

Mr. Russo also addressed several areas of the capital improvement expenditures. Mrs. Becker's phone connection was lost.

Mr. Pellow, Town Engineer, updated Council on the Road Improvements/Resurfacing/Curbing/Sidewalks. Mr. Pellow stated that Diller Avenue and Stuart Street should be done as they are in the worst shape. A discussion ensued on the paving and crosswalks on Spring Street. Mr. Pellow suggested, removing Townsend from the list of paving projects and allocating that money to put in the crosswalks on Spring Street.

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Mr. Pellow and Mr. Stoner further reviewed some other capital improvements. The Fire Museum – Roofing and Windows, the Council discussed and agreed to decrease the project amount to \$35,000 and asked the remainder be raised through fundraising. The Mayor proposed leaving the money allocated for the Drainage and Easement project but to study the matter further before any easements are signed. At this time, Mr. Pellow and Mr. Stoner left the meeting.

Next, Mr. Russo invited Kenneth Jaekel, Adam Vough and Rick Straway back to discuss their capital requests. Mr. Jaekel and Mr. Straway addressed several questions presented by the Council regarding their capital requests. The consensus of the Council is to replace Truck 7 & 10 dump bodies and hold off on replacing Truck 8 Mason Dump. Council further discussed the replacement of the Firehouse floor. Mayor Ricciardo directed the Public Works crew to have the flooring tested to see if it contains asbestos, so they can accurately estimate the costs for the project.

Next, the Council discussed Parks & Playground items on the capital budget. Mrs. Deckert outlined the capital budget items for the Council. Mrs. Decker stated that as a result of our Statewide Insurance Fund inspections some items must be done to bring us in compliance. Mayor Ricciardo recommended removing the bleachers at this time and possibly budget for them in the future. This will eliminate the liability and be a cost savings. Council all agreed. Mr. Vough reviewed the remaining items for Council. The Council had several questions regarding the backstop and a warning track at the Babe Ruth field. Mr. Vough, Mr. Jaekel and Mrs. Deckert addressed the Council's concerns. Mayor Ricciardo asked that Mr. Jaekel and his crew reviewed the matter further to see if they could cut the costs by \$20,000. Mr. Russo, dismissed Mr. Jaekel, Mrs. Deckert, Mr. Straway and Mr. Vough at this time.

Mr. Russo suggested a brief intermission at 7:47pm.

FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET REVIEW AND CAPITAL PROJECTS – 8:00pm

Mr. Derek Wechtler, Fire Chief, Jason Miller, Deputy Fire Chief, and Mike Teets, Assistant Chief, addressed several areas of the Fire Department Operating budget and expenses.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the replacement of Engine 803 and refurbishment of Snozzle 802. The Council stated they would leave the replacement of Engine 803 in the capital budget, but the refurbishment of Snozzle 802 and replacement

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of the Incident Command vehicle will be removed.

Mayor Ricciardo asked the Fire Chiefs whether or not any discussion or consideration was ever given to regionalization of fire services with neighboring municipalities. The Fire Chiefs stated they would be willing to consider the idea.

TOWN MANAGER'S REVIEW OF BUDGET

Mr. Russo continued reviewing several areas of the capital improvement requests from various departments.

Mr. Russo advised Council he will rework the numbers on the capital budget and email them updated figures for the February 24th meeting.

COUNCIL & MANAGER COMMENTS

Mayor Ricciardo again brought up the topic of regionalization. He would like \$25,000 put into the budget to do a study on regionalization. Mr. Russo, stated he would get several quotes and have them at the next Council meeting to discuss.

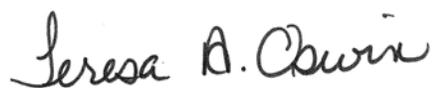
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mayor Ricciardo opened the meeting to the public.

There was no one from the public to be heard.

There being no further business to be conducted, upon motion of Mrs Diglio seconded by Mr. Flynn and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8.36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Teresa A. Oswin, RMC
Deputy Municipal Clerk