

July 17, 2008

The special meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Newton was held on the above date at 6:30 p.m. Present were Mr. Elvidge, Mrs. Unhoch Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Le Frois, Mayor Ricciardo and Town Manager, Eileen Kithcart.

Mayor Ricciardo made the following declaration that “in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this public meeting was given to the two newspapers of record and posted on the official bulletin board on July 15, 2008.

Mayor Ricciardo led all present in the Lord’s Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. The Deputy Clerk called the roll.

Prior to New Business, Mayor Ricciardo read the following prepared statement.

“The Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Newton have selected Mr. Thomas S. Russo, Jr. as the replacement for retiring Town Manager, Eileen Kithcart. Mr. Russo is a graduate of Rutger’s University holding a Bachelors of Arts Degree. He has a Masters Degree in Public Administration from Seton Hall University. Mr. Russo is a N.J. Certified Public Manager.

He comes to Newton from his present position as Deputy Town manager in the Township of Randolph, New Jersey. During his tenure in Randolph, he managed the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council. He participated in negotiations with employee bargaining units. He directed the day to day operations of all department heads. He managed Randolph’s information technology. Created the paperless council, and received awards from Rutgers Center for Government Services for work he performed in creating the Townships annual reports and Township Website.

Prior to his present position, Mr. Russo was a member of the

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Parsippany Governing Body where he was Council President. He was the Manager of Development for Chilton Memorial Hospital. He also was the Director of Public Affairs and Information for the Morris County Sheriff's Office.

Some of Mr. Russo's affiliations include the following:

The NJ Municipal Managers Association
The International Managers Association
Morris County Sheriffs Crime Stoppers
Board Member of the N.J. Battered Women's Service
Kiwanis Club of Morris County

"The Mayor and Council attended many meetings and conducted individual interviews prior to its final selection. The Governing Body is certain that Mr. Russo is the proper choice to manage the Town of Newton. The Council was impressed by his research of the Town of Newton, his attendance at various Town meetings, his experience in managing numerous responsibilities' simultaneously, his background in the budgets, and the accolades he received from the references who were contacted. The Governing Body is confident that the trust they are placing in Mr. Russo and the welfare of the citizens of Newton will be well guarded."

Under New Business, Mayor Ricciardo requested a resolution to authorize the appointment of Town Manager and Execution of an Employment Agreement with Thomas S. Russo, Jr.

The following RESOLUTION was offered by Mrs. Le Frois who moved its adoption, seconded by Mrs. Becker and roll call resulted as follows:

Mr. Elvidge	Yes	Mrs. Unhoch	Abstain
Mrs. Becker	Yes	Mrs. Le Frois	Yes
Mayor Ricciardo	Yes		

RESOLUTION #128-2008

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Newton hired the firm

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of Government Management Advisors, LLC to assist them in recruiting the most suitable replacement for Newton's Town Manager, Eileen Kithcart, who's last working day in the Town Manager's Office will be August 15, 2008 while on approved vacation leave until her official last day of employment with Newton being September 12, 2008, and

WHEREAS, the recruitment process culminated with the Town Council's offer of the position of Newton Town manager to Thomas S. Russo, Jr., based on the terms and conditions set forth in a form of employment Agreement after review by the town Attorney, and

WHEREAS, said Employment Agreement was accepted and executed by Thomas S. Russo, Jr.;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Thomas S. Russo, Jr. is hereby appointed as Acting Town manager effective Monday, August 18, 2008 through September 12, 2008, during Ms. Kithcart's vacation leave and will become Newton's Town Manager on September 13, 2008;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Town Council of the town of Newton that the Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to execute said Employment Agreement with Thomas S. Russo, Jr. on behalf of the Town of Newton, said Agreement being attached to and made part of this Resolution.

The Governing Body congratulated Mr. Russo and welcomed him to the "Town of Newton family."

At this time, Mr. Russo thanked the Governing Body, Mrs. Lorraine Read, and Mrs. Eileen Kithcart for all their support. Mr. Russo stated he is "very humbled and honored" and looks forward to working for the Town of Newton.

Mayor Ricciardo opened the meeting to the public.

There being no one from the public to be heard, upon motion of Mr. Ricciardo, seconded by Mrs. Le Frois and carried, the Council adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Irene M. O'Connor
Deputy Municipal Clerk