

February 25, 2008

The regular work session meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Newton was held on the above date at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mr. Elvidge, Mr. Diglio, Mr. Ricciardo, Mr. Storm, Mayor Unhoch and Town Manager, Eileen Kithcart. Mayor Unhoch the following declaration that “in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this work session meeting was given to the two newspapers of record and posted on the official bulletin board on December 26, 2007”.

**SUSSEX COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP – MARY EMILIUS**

Ms. Mary Emilius, Director of Client and Community Services, for Sussex County Economic Development Partnership (SCEDP), addressed the governing body and outlined the services that SCEDP provides and explained what services may assist the Town of Newton. The SCEDP is dedicated to the creation of sustainable economic opportunity and prosperity to improve the quality of life in Sussex County and will proactively facilitate the recruitment, retention and expansion of business that will complement, and be consistent with the character and environment of Sussex County.

Ms. Emilius advised that she continuously works with Carola Hartley, Executive Director of the Main Street Program.

**MAIN STREET MINUTE – CAROLA HARTLEY**

Mrs. Hartley, Executive Director, updated Council on the current happenings in the Town of Newton. Four (4) teams are organized and continue working on projects and activities for the downtown area.

On Tuesday, March 25, 2008, a “Newton Design Day” has been set. A team from the Main Street New Jersey office will be in town to observe downtown and make suggestions regarding the buildings in the Newton Main Street district. The State team will provide a training session in the

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afternoon and a public meeting will take place in the evening to the general public.

Mrs. Hartley updated on events that are upcoming, including Saturday, March 15, 2008, which is the St. Paddy's Day Parade to be hosted in Newton on Spring Street.

The Main Street Newton has been nominated by the Sussex County Chamber of Commerce for "Quality in Business, Quality in Living" Business Partnership Award. This award will be presented to the winner on Thursday, March 13, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. at Lafayette House.

### **ST. PATRICK'S PARADE PARTICIPATION**

Mayor Unhoch requested Council's participation in the St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday, March 15, 2008. Mayor Unhoch, Mr. Ricciardo and Mr. Elvidge would be marching the parade. Mr. Storm and Mr. Diglio have other obligations scheduled.

### **UPDATE WITH DEB MILLIKIN:**

#### **Martorano**

Mrs. Millikin advised Council that the Martorano matter, currently in front of Newton Planning Board has been carried until April 16, 2008 meeting. In addition, a planning report, as well as a traffic report will be presented at the next Planning Board meeting.

#### **Live-Where-You-Work-Program**

Ms. Millikin outlined the three main benefits of Live-Where-You-Work Program is strengthen your neighborhood and increase community involvement, attract individuals for housing; and develop positive relationships between community and the municipality. Trenton is currently the only municipality to participate in this program.

#### **COAH**

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Mrs. Millikin advised that at the next Council meeting the Town Planner will be in attendance to update Council on the new COAH rules and regulations.

Mrs. Millikin advised of the seminar she attended regarding COAH and outlined the pending obligations of COAH with regard to Thor Labs. After a lengthy discussion, the governing body is willing to investigate and pursue, all avenues of the COAH obligations in order to keep Thor Labs in the Town of Newton. But it was noted the Town is “not committed” to any monetary obligation until further discussion with Thor Labs.

### **Master Plan**

Mrs. Millikin advised Council that a full draft of the master plan is expected to be received by March 19, 2008 at 4:30 p.m.

### **Redevelopment**

Mrs. Millikin updated Council on the redevelopment matters currently underway.

### **2008 PRELIMINARY BUDGET (CONTINUATION FROM 2/4/2008) CAPITAL**

Ms. Kithcart outlined the 2008 budget cap status, after working the preliminary budget figures again, due to the cap levy formula changes by the State. There is a 3.5% limitation on the inside-cap appropriations as well as a new 4% cap levy on the amount to be raised by taxation.

Ms. Kithcart recommended the following: That the preliminary budget be further reduced from \$9,800,000 to \$9,769,000 (a reduction of \$31,000); Council policy of a 15% increase in surplus balance is met (\$403,000 for 2008 vs. \$350,000 in 2007); The tax point increase is at 8 (which is worst-case scenario). This tax point increase includes a 3.75% for non-union employees.

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After a lengthy discussion, Council agreed to review the recommendations and capital request list and comment at the next meeting on March 3, 2008.

**GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT ADVISORY CORRESPONDENCE**

Ms. Kithcart requested Council's schedule to meet with Mr. Fehenback on March 12, 2008. Ms. Kithcart arranged a schedule and will forward a memo for their reminder.

Ms. Kithcart requested a meeting with the Newton Board of Education for preparation, if the Board of Education budget is defeated on Tuesday, April 15, 2008.

Mr. Ricciardo addressed complaints being received by residents, regarding parking issues at the Newton High School. Mr. Ricciardo advised that the Board of Education should be addressing these issues, "not the Town Council". Ms. Kithcart will forward a letter to the Newton Board of Education with Council's concerns on parking.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Upon motion of Mr. Ricciardo, seconded by Mr. Storm and carried, the Town Council went into executive session at 9:58 p.m.

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council of the Town of Newton (hereinafter referred to as the "Town Council"), convened a meeting in full compliance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, set forth in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12, and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 allows a public body to enter executive session during a public meeting to discuss certain matters, and

**WHEREAS**, it has become clear to the Town Council that there is a need to enter executive session to discuss one or more of the exceptions to the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, as set forth in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12, and

**WHEREAS**, this work session meeting of the Town Council will not reconvene;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Town Council of

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the Town of Newton that it will enter executive session to discuss issues related to personnel issues and litigation;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the discussion conducted in executive session by the Newton Town Council shall be disclosed to the public as follows:

**LITIGATION**

Ms. Kithcart updated Council on a few pending litigation issues.

**PERSONNEL**

Ms. Kithcart updated Council on personnel issues.

Upon motion of Mayor Unhoch seconded Mr. Ricciardo and carried, the Town Council left executive session at 10:25pm

Mayor Unhoch declared the meeting opened to the public.

There being no one from the public to be heard, upon motion of Mr. Ricciardo, seconded by Mr. Diglio and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine A. Read, RMC  
Municipal Clerk