

February 4, 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 29, 2006”.

**7:00 PM RECREATION COMMISSION CANDIDATE INTERVIEW-
MEGHAN GILL**

Mrs. Meghan Gill introduced herself and expressed her interest in serving on the Newton Recreation Advisory Commission. After a question and answer period, the Town Council agreed to appoint Mrs. Gill to the vacant position on the Newton Recreation Commission. Ms. Kithcart was directed to place a resolution on the next regular Council meeting for approval.

7:15 PM NEWTON FIRST AID SQUAD – IRV KINNEY

Mr. Irv Kinney, Captain of the Newton First Aid & Rescue Squad as well as members of the squad, appeared before the Town Council to discuss some manpower issues and mutual aid calls. Ms. Kithcart invited the Squad to attend due to complaints from neighboring Towns about excessive backup coverage for NFAS. A lengthy discussion ensued and several ideas were discussed to promote volunteers to the Newton Fire Aid Squad. The Squad will return with updates

ELIZABETHTOWN GAS REQUEST

Mrs. Millikin updated Council on information she obtained from Elizabethtown Gas on the proposed work in the Foster Street area. As

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Council is aware, Foster Street is still under a moratorium for repaving done a couple of years ago. Elizabethtown Gas has requesting the street be opened, due to the upgrading of their gas mains to 4 inches (from 2 inches). Mrs. Millikin advised that Mr. Cory Stoner, PE, from Harold Pellow and Associates, has requested a performance guarantee be posted with the Town in the amount of \$72,960.00, prior to construction of upgrades of the existing gas mains. After a brief discussion, the Council requested that Elizabethtown Gas representatives attend the next regular Council meeting on February 11, 2008 to address their request.

SLATE QUARRY ACTIVITY

Mrs. Millikin briefed the Council on concerns of activity going on at the Slate Quarry property off of West End Avenue. Mrs. Millikin inquired with Soil Conservation, who has permits on file, which allows for slate quarry activity. Mrs. Millikin and Ms. Kithcart was directed to contact our Town Attorney for further review.

MISCELLANEOUS

Chief Mike Teets requested the use of the senior shuttle for transportation to and from the Newark Airport, for the members attending the fire truck inspection which will be held in Wisconsin. The several members of the truck committee will be leaving on February 10th and returning on February 12th. After a brief discussion, Council agreed to allow the use of the senior shuttle for transportation to and from Newark Airport.

Mrs. Millikin addressed an inquiry from Donna DeValle regarding the purchase of 100 Main Street and the request for municipal endorsement from the Town. After a brief discussion, Council agreed to the concept, but will wait on additional information from Ms. DeValle prior to any decisions.

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2008 PRELIMINARY BUDGET – FINANCE DIRECTOR PRESENT

Councilman Ricciardo addressed several questions and expressed his opinion that the maximum on salary and wages should be 3.5%. It was noted that this would only be for non-union employees, due to all others are contractual.

Councilman Storm addressed his concerns with the Municipal Budget and addressed his opinion of a 2% cut across the board, among all the departments at Town Hall. Ms. Kithcart requested Councilman Storm and the Council to look at the budget again and show her exactly where the budget can be cut by 2%.

Councilman Diglio, Councilman Elvidge and Mayor Unhoch had several questions, which were addressed by Ms. Babcock, Finance Director and Ms. Kithcart, CFO. Council requested additional information regarding the Municipal Budget. Council will review the 2008 Preliminary Budget again at the next regular meeting.

After a lengthy discussion, Ms. Kithcart advised that the Municipal Budget, as presented tonight, is a reflection of a nine (9) point increase to the Town of Newton. The budget will be introduced at the March 11th Council meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion of Mr. Ricciardo, seconded by Mr. Storm and carried, the Town Council went into executive session at 10:08 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

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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 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 pending litigation issues.

PERSONNEL

Ms. Kithcart updated Council on several personnel issues.

Upon motion of Mr. Storm, seconded Mayor Unhoch and carried, the Town Council left executive session at 10:30 p.m.

Mayor Unhoch declared the meeting opened to the public.

There being no one from the public to be heard, upon motion of Mr. Storm, seconded by Mr. Diglio and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine A. Read, RMC
Municipal Clerk