

February 5, 2009

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 Mr. Elvidge, Mrs. Unhoch, Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Le Frois, Mayor Ricciardo and Town Manager, Tom Russo, Jr.

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 January 30, 2009.”

Mayor Ricciardo led everyone present in the Pledge of Allegiance and the Clerk called the roll.

**WATER / SEWER BUDGET REVIEW AND CAPITAL PROJECTS**

Mrs. Debra Millikin, Deputy Town Manager and Mr. William Grennille, Superintendent of Water/Sewer, outlined the 2009 Revenue Budget for Water/Sewer Utility; Salary & Wages; Water & Sewer Debt Service; as well as the Operating Costs.

The Town Council had several questions which were addressed by Mr. Grennille, Mrs. Millikin and Ms. Babcock, CFO.

Mrs. Millikin and Mr. Grennille outlined the Water & Sewer Capital Improvement Requests which included: Capital Improvement Fund; Capital Outlay; Acquisition of Vehicles; Acquisition of Meters/Hydrants; STP Plant Modification; Sewer Rehab Work; Morris Lake Dam Improvements; and Water Tank Improvements.

It was also noted that Mr. Grennille will be retiring as of June 1, 2009.

Mr. Russo proceeded with the Departmental Budgets. Mr. Russo outlined and reviewed the Inspection of Buildings (Construction Dept.); Emergency Management; Misc. Operating Expense (for Right to Know training); Board of Health; Vehicle Maintenance; Dog Regulations; Utility

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Expense/Bulk Purchase; and the Contributions Paid by the Municipality.

At this time, Mr. Thomas Trudgeon, Sr. and Brock Kithcart, Park Caretaker, outlined and reviewed their budget for: Swimming Pool; Parks & Playgrounds; Celebration of Public Events; and the Senior Citizen Program Contributions.

Mr. Trudgeon, Sr. outlined the 2009 Capital Improvement Requests which included: Park/Playground Equipment; Reserve for Acquisition of Community Center; and Reserve for Acquisition of Senior Bus.

Mayor Ricciardo directed Mr. Russo to check on the status of why the tractor purchased for DPW can not be used for Recreation, as indicated at time of request by Public Works.

Prior to the Fire Department budget presentation, Ms. Babcock reviewed and explained the Debt Service expenses; Deferred Charges expenses; and the Statutory Expenditures, outlined on pages 58 through 60.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET REVIEW AND CAPITAL PROJECTS**

Representing the Newton Fire Department is Assistant Chief, Derek Wechtler, Assistant Chief, Mike Teets, and Captain Brian Fox. It was noted that Chief Schiffner could not attend due to work obligations. Chief Wechtler outlined and explained the Fire Department expenditures on page 33.

The governing body members had several questions which were addressed by the Fire Department representatives.

The Fire Chiefs outlined and addressed the Capital Improvement Requests which included: Tank Containment/Booster Pump for R805 Cascade System; Tools/Equipment/ID Card System; High Band Pagers; and the Reserve for Acquisition of Fire Truck – Engine 803 (for future purchase).

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It was noted that the overall 2009 budget request has an increase of \$5,792.00. Mr. Russo noted that the Fire Department has a balance left from their 2008 budget and perhaps could utilize those funds. Mr. Russo directed them to check with Mrs. Raftery, our Treasurer.

### **MANAGER'S REVIEW OF DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS AND CAPITAL PROJECTS**

The Town Manager continued the Departmental budgets. Mr. Russo outlined and reviewed the 2009 Capital Improvements, under Manager, which included: Supplemental Redevelopment Planning; Energy Audit; Copier – Manager/Planning/Com. Dev./Assessor/HR; Town Hall Server Upgrades; Council Chambers Renovation – Architect; Card Reader Access – Court, Clerk, Finance, Ground Floor; Municipal Building Electrical Upgrades; and Municipal Building Renovations.

### **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Mayor Ricciardo opened the meeting to the public.

Mr. Neil Flaherty, 154 Sparta Avenue, had questions regarding Bond Anticipation Notes, which were addressed by Ms. Babcock, CFO. Mr. Flaherty questioned the Town Planner, he received in the mail recently and was advised that it is not a Town produced product. That is published by an outside vendor, who obtains funds through local merchants.

### **COUNCIL & MANAGER COMMENTS**

Each Councilmember made comments and addressed individual questions regarding the 2009 Preliminary Budget, which was addressed by Mr. Russo and Ms. Babcock.

After a lengthy discussion, the governing body commended the presented budget figures, but would still like to cut more out of the 2009 Preliminary Budget.

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At this time, upon motion of Mrs. Le Frois, seconded by Mrs. Becker and carried, the Town Council went into Executive Session at 9:57 p.m.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**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

**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.

The Council discussed the options for additional cuts within the 2009 Preliminary Budget.

After a brief discussion, the consensus of the Council was to make additional cuts in the 2009 Preliminary Budget.

The Council left executive session at 10:22 p.m.

There being no further business to be conducted, upon motion of Mrs. Le Frois, seconded by Mayor Ricciardo and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 10:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine A. Read, RMC  
Municipal Clerk