

February 8, 2018

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 Deputy Mayor Elvidge, Mr. Flynn, Mrs. Le Frois, Mrs. Diglio, Mayor Levante and Town Manager, Mr. Thomas S. Russo, Jr. Also present were Ms. Dawn Babcock, CFO, and Mrs. Ginny Raftery, Treasurer.

Mayor Levante 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 1, 2018."

TOWN MANAGER'S REVIEW OF BUDGET

The Town Manager began the review of the budget indicating the increase of this 2018 Municipal budget on the average assessed residential property will be \$39.00 – an increase of \$3.25 a month or about .11 cents a day.

Mr. Russo noted the fiscal facts: The property tax is divided among the County of Sussex, County Library, County Open Space, Newton Board of Education and the Town of Newton. The chart below illustrates the percentage that each of the jurisdictions received in 2017 from the average taxpayer in the Town.

Newton Board of Education	51.70%	\$2.191
Town of Newton	34.29%	\$1.453
County of Sussex	13.14%	\$.557
County Library	.83%	\$.035
<u>County Open Space</u>	<u>.05%</u>	<u>\$.002</u>
Total	100.0%	\$4.238 per \$100 of assessed value

Mr. Russo provided an overview of the 2018 Revenue Budget for Current Fund.

Mr. Russo and Ms. Babcock addressed questions regarding the 2018 Revenue budget.

Mr. Russo then proceeded to review the State Aid Revenue w/o Offset; Construction; Interlocal Service Agreements; Public and Private Revenues; and Other Special Items of Revenue. He then reviewed the Receipt of Delinquent Taxes; Amount to be raised by taxation and Amount raised by taxation; and Misc. Revenue not Anticipated.

POLICE DEPARTMENT BUDGET REVIEW AND CAPITAL PROJECTS – 6:15pm

At this time, Chief Richards came forward to review and discuss the police budget.

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Chief Richards also explained and reviewed the capital budget requests that consist of Patrol Rifles; Morpho Trak Fingerprinting equipment; and Antenna Systems for Patrol Vehicles.

Councilwoman Le Frois noted the Police budget came in under budget and commended the Chief and his department for same.

Mayor Levante thanked the Chief for coming in and reviewing his budget.

FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET REVIEW AND CAPITAL PROJECTS – 7:00pm

Chief Scott Verkon and Chief Jason Miller came forward at this time and reviewed the Fire Department budget. Chief Verkon also outlined and explained the capital improvements items requested. The Governing Body had questions that were addressed by Chief Verkon and Chief Miller. Chief Verkon requested Council restore full funding for education/training and personal protection gear.

Mayor Levante thanked Chief Verkon and Chief Miller.

SHORT BREAK

TOWN MANAGER'S REVIEW OF BUDGET

Mr. Russo then proceeded to review the 2018 Expenditure budgets with various department budgets. He outlined the Town Manager's budget; Town Clerk's budget; Elections budget; Town Council budget; Human Resources budget; Finance Administration budget; Assessment of Taxes budget; Collection of Taxes budget; Legal Services budget; Municipal Court budget; Planning/Zoning Admin. budget; Historic Commission budget; Community Development budget; Employee Group Insurance; and various insurances costs. Mr. Russo reviewed Inspection of Buildings; Code Enforcement; OEM budget; Board of Health budget; Various Events; Senior Citizen Program Interlocal contracts; and Public & Private Programs. Mr. Russo then reviewed Capital Improvements; Debt Service payments; Deferred Charges; the Statutory Expenditures; as well as the Reserve for Uncollected Taxes (RUT).

Throughout the budget meeting, the Town Council asked questions which were addressed by Mr. Russo and Ms. Babcock.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mayor Levante opened the meeting to the public.

Ludmilla Mecaj, 9 Madison Street, Newton, asked various questions on different areas of the budget which were addressed by Mr. Russo and Ms. Babcock.

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There being no one else from the public to be heard, Mayor Levante closed this portion of the meeting.

COUNCIL & MANAGER COMMENTS

Councilwoman Le Frois commended the Town Manager, his team and all the department heads for their hard work on the budget.

There being no further business to be conducted, upon motion of Mrs. Le Frois, seconded by Mrs. Diglio and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine A. Read, RMC
Municipal Clerk