

February 6, 2019

The special meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Newton was held on the above date at 5:08 p.m. Present were Mr. Dickson, Mrs. Diglio, Deputy Mayor Flynn, Mr. Schlaffer, Mayor Le Frois and Town Manager, Mr. Thomas S. Russo, Jr. Also present were Ms. Dawn Babcock, CFO, and Mrs. Ginny Raftery, Treasurer.

Mayor Le Frois 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 28, 2019."

TOWN MANAGER'S REVIEW OF BUDGET

Mr. Russo began the review of the budget document noting the appropriations; reserve for uncollected taxes/tax appeals; and health care coverage.

Ms. Babcock reviewed the 2019 Town of Newton Cap Calculation.

Mr. Russo reviewed the Tax Rate History with the Governing Body.

The Town Manager continued the review of the budget indicating the new average residential property assessment has gone down slightly from the 2018 level of \$185,611 to the new 2019 level of \$184,841. Therefore, the municipal taxes on an average residential property are estimated to go from \$2,731 in 2018 to \$2,743. **In 2019 – an increase of only \$1 a month or about 3 cents a day.**

Mr. Russo noted the fiscal facts: The property tax is divided among the Newton Board of Education, Town of Newton, County of Sussex, County Library, and County Open Space. The chart below illustrates the percentage that each of the jurisdictions received in 2018 from the average taxpayer in the Town.

Newton Board of Education	51.04%	\$2.176
Town of Newton	34.51%	\$1.471
County of Sussex	13.49%	\$.575
County Library	.89%	\$.038
<u>County Open Space</u>	<u>.07%</u>	<u>\$.003</u>
Total	100.0%	\$4.263 per \$100 of assessed value

Mr. Russo provided an overview of the 2019 Revenue Budget for Current Fund.

Mr. Russo and Ms. Babcock addressed questions regarding the 2019 Revenue budget.

Mr. Russo then proceeded to review the Local Revenues; State Aid Revenue w/o Offset; Construction; Interlocal Service Agreements; Public and Private Revenues; and

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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.

Mr. Russo then proceeded to review the 2019 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.

POLICE DEPARTMENT BUDGET REVIEW AND CAPITAL PROJECTS – 6:00pm

At this time, Chief Richards came forward to review and outlined the police budget. Chief Richards outlined various issues in the Department; ie. Upcoming Retirements and Officers Update.

Chief Richards also explained and reviewed the capital budget request that consist of an upgrade to the in-car cameras, backup system for same, and server.

After a lengthy discussion, Mayor Le Frois commended the Police Chief for his leadership and commended his Department.

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

SHORT BREAK

FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET REVIEW AND CAPITAL PROJECTS – 6:30pm

Chief Scott Verkon and Deputy Chief Mike Razzano came forward at this time and outlined the current Fire Department membership status and the new firehouse under construction. Chief Verkon then reviewed the Fire Department budget and explained the capital improvement items requested.

After a lengthy discussion, the Governing Body had questions that were addressed by Chief Verkon and Deputy Chief Razzano.

Mayor Le Frois thanked Chief Verkon and Deputy Chief Razzano.

TOWN MANAGER'S REVIEW OF BUDGET

Mr. Russo reviewed Aid to First Aid Organization; Inspection of Buildings; Code Enforcement; Emergency Management; Vehicle Maintenance; Board of Health; and Utility Expense/Bulk Purchase. Mr. Russo continued with Senior Citizen Program budget

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and contributions; Interlocal Agreements budget; Public & Private Programs; Deferred Charges and Statutory Expenditures.

Mr. Russo then reviewed Capital Improvements and Other Expenses.

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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mayor Le Frois opened the meeting to the public.

Neil Flaherty, 154 Sparta Avenue, Newton, asked various questions on different areas of the budget which were addressed by Mr. Russo.

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

COUNCIL & MANAGER COMMENTS

Mayor Le Frois commended the Town Manager, his team and all the department heads for their hard work on the budget. Next budget hearing is on Saturday, Feb. 9th at 9:00 am.

There being no further business to be conducted, upon motion of Deputy Mayor Flynn, seconded by Mr. Schlaffer and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lorraine A. Read, RMC
Municipal Clerk