

October 13, 2021

The regular meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Newton was held in person and via Zoom on the above date at 7:00 pm. Present were Mr. Couce, Mrs. Diglio, Mrs. Teets, Deputy Mayor Schlaffer, Mayor Dickson, Municipal Clerk Teresa A. Oswin, and Thomas S. Russo, Jr., Town Manager. Eric Bernstein, Esq., Town Attorney was also present.

Mayor Dickson then made the following declaration "in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this Regular meeting was given to the two newspapers of record and posted on the official bulletin board on January, 4, 2021".

Mayor Dickson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and the Clerk called the roll.

PRESENTATIONS

a. Justin Sibblies - Oath of Office

Mr. Russo read the following bio:

"Justin Sibblies is a lifelong resident of Sussex County, who comes from a family that have their roots in the Town of Newton which go back to the around the mid 1970's. Patrolman Sibblies was born in the Town of Newton, and later raised in the Town of Sandyston-Walpack, where he then went on to graduate from Kittatinny Regional High School in 2013. While in High School, he achieved Varsity status in wrestling his Freshman year and Men's Soccer in the following years. Chosen by his fellow teammates, Sibblies accomplished becoming the Varsity Soccer Captain during his Senior Year.

Following his achievements in High School, Patrolman Sibblies continued his education at Sussex County Community College where he graduated in 2017 and earned an Associate's Degree in Liberal Arts. Additionally, Patrolman Sibblies received Accreditation from the Leadership Conference held at Sussex County Community College and was also the sole recipient of the New Jersey Firefighters & Police Foundation Endowment Scholarship.

During his attendance at Sussex County Community College and even after graduation, Patrolman Sibblies was employed at Atlantic Health System, Newton Medical Center. He was employed for six months as an In-Patient Transporter, but then shortly after, he diligently applied himself into furthering his skill set and transferred into the Protection & Security Services Department. Patrolman Sibblies remained with Newton Medical Center in the Security Department for 4 ½ Years, while concurrently pursuing his career in becoming a Law Enforcement Officer. A passion of public service, tradition, and community driven values brought Patrolman Sibblies on his embarkment in wanting to become a Law Enforcement Officer within the Town of Newton.

Patrolman Sibblies has successfully completed the Basic Course of Police Officers at the Passaic County Police Academy. He recently graduated on September 29th, 2021 with Class 21-55. Among all that he has learned during his time in the Academy, he will nonetheless strive to apply and demonstrate the elite professionalism and knowledge that he encompasses.

Patrolman Sibblies, Badge 49 will be an addition to the legacy within the Newton Police Department set forth by his father retired Patrolman Arthur Sibblies, Badge 25. Arthur was sworn in 1999 as a full-time police officer alongside now Sgt. Kenneth Teets and Chief Steve VanNieuwland. In succession Patrolman Justin Sibblies is honored with humbly accepting the position and becoming a part of the long lineage which is Newton finest law enforcement officers."

October 13, 2021

Mayor Dickson swore in Justin Sibblies as a Police Officer in the Police Department, as his girlfriend, Erica held the bible, his father Arthur pinned on his badge.

Mr. Russo asked Chief VanNieuwland say of few words. Chief VanNieuwland stated he attended the academy with Justin's father and it is a great honor to have his son serving the Department. He comes from a fine family and he knows he will do well. He is looking forward to him prospering in the Department and becoming a future leader.

Ptl. Sibblies thanked the Council and the citizens of Newton. He truly believes he is not only a part of one of the best police departments, but he is now part of a big family. He looks forward to serving the community to the best of his abilities.

BREAK

A five (5) minute break was taken for pictures and congratulations.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion of Mrs. Diglio, seconded by Deputy Mayor Schlaffer and unanimously carried, the minutes for the September 27, Regular and Special meetings were approved. Mr. Couce noted a correction on the check number on his abstention.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

At this time, Mayor Dickson read the following statement:

"At this point in the meeting, the Town Council welcomes comments from any member of the public on any topic. To help facilitate an orderly meeting and to permit the opportunity for anyone who wishes to be heard, speakers are asked to take one turn at the microphone and please limit their comments to 3 minutes. The Municipal Clerk will keep time. If reading from a prepared statement, please provide a copy and email a copy to the Clerk's Office after making your comments so it may be properly reflected in the minutes. Council may choose to comment after the entire public portion has concluded."

Mayor Dickson stated those in attendance will be given first priority at the microphone. Those on Zoom can use the raise hand or chat option to notify us you wish to speak. Mayor Dickson also reminded those wishing to speak should state their name and address for the record.

There was no one in the audience wishing to be heard.

On Zoom, Dr. Ludmilla Mecaj, 9 Madison Street questioned the hiring process. She went on to state she feels she was treated poorly by the new Zoning Officer.

There being no one else from the public to be heard, Mayor Dickson closed the

meeting to the public.

COUNCIL & MANAGER REPORTS

Town Manager Russo – Mr. Russo advised Ms. Mecaj he can speak to her off-line about the hiring process. Mr. Russo offered thanks to everyone involved in the Rail Trail dedication and the Fall Festival this past weekend. Special thanks to Debbie Danielson, DPW, PD, and Emergency Services for the Rail Trail. To Kimberly Williams, the Chamber and all those that participated in the Fall Festival. The weather held out, everyone had a great time and it was a nice display of the Town.

Councilman Couce – he echoed Tom's sentiments on the Rail Trail with special thanks for the great work by the DPW. The trail is a great recreational asset for the Town. He attended the last BOE meeting with routine business discussed. Notably at the end of the meeting a few teachers made statements on the on-going teachers' contract negotiations. Because of the Columbus Day holiday, they did not have a meeting this week. They will have one next week, which he plans on attending.

Councilwoman Diglio – made the following statement "On October 4th I attended the 5th Anniversary of the CLEAR program. I have to say it is amazing, the growth and impact this program has had in Sussex County since first meeting five years ago in the police conference room. A special thanks to Becky Carlson and Chief Mike Richards for all they have done to make this program so valuable to this area and the entire County.

On October 6th I attend the Prime Time Senior meeting, events are being planned, and if you happen to be a senior and want a place to socialize then please join. The meetings are held the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month.

On October 10th I participated in the Fall Festival. I want to thank Kimberly Williams for all of her hard work. I also want to thank DPW and the Police who were also working the festival. Despite the rain there were 32 classic and antique cars that showed up and people just kept coming all day long.

Finally, today I attended the luncheon at the Newton Town Centre. It was very nice to be able to socialize with the seniors there. I want to thank Sherri Kaylani for all her efforts in putting it together. Thank you."

Councilwoman Teets – stated "I echo everyone's comments regarding the Rail Trail and Fall Festival. I ate way too much at the Fall Festival, I hope the Rescue Squad, Fire Department were successful the food was really awesome and I look forward to next year. As Sandy mentioned the rain didn't really keep anyone away, it felt like a fall day. Congratulations to everybody. As the Rail Trail, DPW as always did a great job. It was great to see special guest Smokey The Bear on a Sunday morning. It was a nice touch.

Ptl Sibblies: Welcome to Ptl Sibblies. I know you will be an asset to the Town and I wish you a long, healthy and successful career in the finest police department I know.

Thistle and Clover – Congratulations to our newest Spring Street Business, Thistle and Clover. They had a Grand Opening on October 1st and are located at 180 Spring St. They have handmade décor, natural bath bombs, crystals and much more. We wish them much success and ask everyone to support our local businesses

The Farmer's Daughter – Congratulations on your success this past week during your soft opening. Everyone I know is raving about the food and I may have eaten there on Sunday too. It was excellent. I wish them well.

Reminder for Upcoming Events:

Holiday Parade – November 27th

Tree Lighting – December 3rd at 5:00 PM

Flags of Honor – November 6th at 11:00 AM. I encourage people to adopt a flag in honor or memory of a Special Veteran."

Deputy Mayor Schlaffer – stated he just had one item relative to the opening of the trail and issue of parking in the area as it pertains to Kelsey Avenue. We have heard some complaints about some increased parking issues that have just been compounding. We were wondering if we could look into the origin of the curb-cuts on the Town property across from the houses on Kelsey Ave. So we can see if we can formulate a plan specifically for parking for the Trail there. If not, possibly put up some kind of signage as well.

Mayor Dickson – read the following statement:

"With the rise in COVID cases the County has gone back to daily reporting. As of October 13th the Sussex County Division of Health reported 76 additional cases of COVID-19 among County residents, for a total number of 17,302 confirmed cases. Of the 17,302 cases, 16,572 cases have been classified as recovered. For information on vaccine or COVID testing locations you can visit Sussex.nj.us and click on the COVID-19 link.

Congratulations to Newton's newest police officer Justin Sibblies. We wish you all the best in your career.

Today I attended the Town of Newton's Senior Fall Luncheon at the Newton Town Centre. I want to thank Sherri and the entire recreation committee for all their work putting it together. Speaking with the residents you can tell how much they appreciate these events.

I was reading today about how the Morristown Council is still trying to work on providing hybrid meetings as well as a cannabis ordinance. I think it is a testament to how proactive Mr. Russo, the Town staff and professionals, as well as this Council has been.

Sunday was a great day despite the weather not holding out the entire time. Thank you to everyone who came out for the ribbon cutting at the Rail Trail. We are thrilled to have that amenity for the residents and visitors of Newton. I want to thank the GNCC, Kimberly Williams, Newton PD, Newton FD, Newton EMS, the DPW and all the businesses and vendors who took part in the Fall Festival. It was a great showing for what the Town has to offer."

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None.

ORDINANCES

Mayor Dickson directed the Clerk to read aloud the following Ordinance relative to introduction of same.

ORDINANCE #2021-19

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND, REVISE, AND SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 30 THE TOWN CODE OF THE TOWN OF NEWTON, ENTITLED "POLICE DEPARTMENT", MOST NOTABLY SECTION 30-5 "QUALIFICATION AND APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF DEPARTMENT" OF THE TOWN CODE

The aforementioned **ORDINANCE** was offered by Mrs. Diglio, who moved its introduction, seconded by Deputy Mayor Schlaffer and roll call resulted as follows:

Mr. Couce	Abstain	Mrs. Diglio	Yes
Mrs. Teets	Abstain	Deputy Mayor Schlaffer	Yes

Mayor Dickson Yes

BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Newton that the above Ordinance be introduced for the first reading, with hearing on the same to be held on Monday, October 25, 2021.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Dickson read the following statement:

“All items listed with an asterisk () are considered to be routine and non-controversial by the Town Council and will be approved by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council member so requests, in which case the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the Agenda.”*

Mr. Russo reviewed the consent agenda items.

RESOLUTION #195-2021*

“Authorize Amendment to the Town of Newton Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual and Employee Handbook with Addition of Nepotism Policy”

WHEREAS, the Town of Newton has adopted a Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual and Employee Handbook (“Handbook”), which applies to all Town officials, appointees, employees, volunteers, and independent contractors, providing guidelines covering public service by Town employees. It is not a contract; and

WHEREAS, amendments and supplements to the Handbook can become effective via resolution of the Town Council, as per Ordinance 2013-34; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Newton has determined there is a need to supplement the Handbook to include a policy regarding nepotism;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Council of the Town of Newton, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, that the Handbook is hereby amended, revised, and supplemented to include a nepotism policy, a copy of which is attached hereto, to become effective immediately upon adoption.

Teresa A. Oswin, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Thomas S. Russo, Jr., MPA, CPM
Town Manager

RESOLUTION #196-2021*

“Appointment of Mary Ann Carlson to the Newton Housing Authority”

WHEREAS, there currently is a vacancy on the Newton Housing Authority for a Resident Commissioner; and

WHEREAS, Mary Ann Carlson, a resident at the Housing Authority located at 33 Liberty Street, Newton, NJ has expressed interest in serving as a Resident Commissioner; and

WHEREAS, Rick Bitondo, Vice-Chairperson of the Newton Housing Authority, recommends appointing Mary Ann Carlson;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Council of the Town of Newton that Mary Ann Carlson is hereby appointed to an unexpired five (5) year term on the Newton Housing Authority, as the Resident Commissioner effective immediately with said term continuing to April 30, 2024.

RESOLUTION #197-2021*

“Appointment of Lisa Qarmout to the Advisory Recreation Commission”

WHEREAS, there is currently a vacancy for a Regular Member on the Advisory Recreation Commission; and

WHEREAS, Lisa Qarmout has expressed interest in serving on the Commission;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Council of the Town of Newton that Lisa Qarmout is hereby appointed to an unexpired five (5) year term on the Advisory Recreation Commission, effective immediately with said term continuing to December 31, 2024.

RESOLUTION #198-2021*

“Appointment of Monica McGee to the Economic Development Advisory Commission”

WHEREAS, there currently is a vacancy on the Economic Development Advisory Commission; and

WHEREAS, Monica McGee has expressed interest in serving as a member of the Economic Development Advisory Commission;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Council of the Town of Newton that Monica McGee is hereby appointed to an unexpired three (3) year term on the Economic Development Advisory Commission, effective immediately with said term continuing to December 31, 2021.

RESOLUTION #199-2021*

“Amending Resolution #279-2020 Award of a Proprietary Contract to Pall Water Inc.”

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Newton awarded a contract to Pall Water Inc. through Resolution 279-2020 on December 14, 2020, in the amount of \$23,664.68; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined the software and technology systems in place for the existing system installed by Pall Water Inc., 839 NYS Rte. 13 Cortland, NY 13045 the Morris Lake Water Treatment Facility needs upgrades and repair; and

WHEREAS, the majority of the filtration software and components operate on a proprietary platform that was installed by Pall Water, 839 NYS Rte. 13 Cortland, NY 13045, any upgrades must be compatible with this system; and

WHEREAS, Pall Water Inc., 839 NYS Rte. 13 Cortland, NY 13045 had provided a proposal to the Morris Lake Water Treatment Facility to furnish, install, maintain, upgrade and support in the amount of \$23,664.68; and

WHEREAS, the original scope of work entailed personnel from the Town of Newton accomplishing a significant installation service, which is no longer tenable; and

WHEREAS, Pall Water Inc., has provided for an amended quote in the amount of \$11,696.51, to cover the portion to be conducted by the Town of Newton; and

WHEREAS, the amended not to exceed amount is \$35,361.19; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer hereby certifies sufficient funds in the 2021 budget, will be encumbered for the additional \$11,696.51 as follows:

October 13, 2021

Account name and number:

WS Capital Outlay	6089293	\$11,696.51
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NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council of the Town of Newton does hereby authorize an amended Resolution of 279-2020 and agreement with Pall Water, 839 NYS Rte. 13 Cortland, NY 13045 for the maintenance and software upgrade contract of existing system components at the Morris Lake Water Treatment Facility in the amount not to exceed \$35,361.19.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Business Entity Disclosure and Political Contribution Disclosure forms are on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Municipal Clerk.

RESOLUTION #200-2021*

“Appointment of Fund Commissioner for the Statewide Insurance Fund for Calendar Year 2022”

WHEREAS, the Town of Newton (hereinafter “Local Unit”) is a member of the Statewide Insurance Fund (hereinafter “Fund”), a joint insurance fund as defined in N.J.S.A. 40A:10-36 *et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, the Fund’s Bylaws require participating members to appoint a Fund Commissioner;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Town of Newton that Thomas S. Russo, Jr. is hereby appointed as the Fund Commissioner for the Local Unit for the year 2022; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Jennifer A. Dodd is hereby appointed as the Alternate Fund Commissioner for the Local Unit for the year 2022; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Local Unit’s Fund Commissioner is authorized and directed to execute all such documents as required by the Fund.

RESOLUTION #201-2021*

“Appointment of Keith Mitchell as Risk Management Consultant for the Town of Newton for Calendar Year 2022”

WHEREAS, the Town of Newton (hereinafter “Local Unit”) has joined the Statewide Insurance Fund (hereinafter “Fund”), a joint insurance fund as defined in N.J.S.A. 40A:10-36 *et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, the Bylaws require participating members to appoint a Risk Management Consultant, as those positions are defined in the Bylaws, if requested to do so by the “Fund”; and

WHEREAS, the Local Unit has complied with relevant law with regard to the appointment of a Risk Management Consultant; and

WHEREAS, the “Fund” has requested its members to appoint individuals or entities to that position;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Body of “Local Unit”, in the County of Sussex and State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Town of Newton hereby appoints Keith Mitchell as its local Risk Management Consultant.

- 2. The Town Manager, Municipal Clerk, and Risk Management Consultant are hereby authorized to execute the Risk Management Consultant's Agreement for the year 2022 in the form attached hereto.

Name of Entity: Town of Newton

Attest:

Teresa A. Oswin, Municipal Clerk

Matthew S. Dickson, Mayor

RESOLUTION #202-2021*

“Concur with the Town Manager’s Appointment of George Edwards as School Crossing Guard for the 2021-2022 School Year”

WHEREAS, New Jersey Statute 40A:9-154.1 states *“The governing body, or the chief executive, or the chief administrative officer, as appropriate to the form of government of any municipality, may appoint adult school crossing guards for terms not exceeding one year...”*;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Council of the Town of Newton that this Governing Body concurs with the Town Manager's appointment of George Edwards as a School Crossing Guard for the 2021-2022 school year.

RESOLUTION #203-2021*

“APPROVE BILLS AND VOUCHERS FOR PAYMENT”

BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Newton that payment is hereby approved for all vouchers that have been properly authenticated and presented for payment, representing expenditures for which appropriations were duly made in the 2020 and 2021 Budgets adopted by this local Governing Body, including any emergency appropriations, and where unexpended balances exist in said appropriation accounts for the payment of such vouchers.

List of Bills - CLEARING/CLAIMS

Check#	Vendor	Check Total
4584	ADVANCE AUTO PARTS	69.67
4585	ALL ACCESS STAGING & PRODUCTIONS, INC.	250.00
4586	ALL GAS & WELDING SUPPLY CO., INC.....	29.90
4587	AMERICAN AQUATIC TESTING, INC.	1,650.00
4588	ATLANTIC TACTICAL INC.	3,572.80
4589	AUTOZONE INC	43.51
4590	BADGER METER, INC.	162.90
4591	BLUE DIAMOND DISPOSAL INC.	107.35
4592	BOONTON TIRE SUPPLY INC.	1,863.80
4593	BR WELDING INC	43,229.37
4594	BRODHECKER FARM, LLC.	900.00
4595	CAMPBELL SUPPLY OF SUSSEX CTY LLC	11,135.29
4596	CAMPBELL'S SMALL ENGINE INC.	1,067.04
4597	CARINO, TATIANA	130.00
4598	CCI FOUNDATION, INC.	2,282.27
4599	CCP INDUSTRIES, INC.	291.50
4600	CENTURYLINK COMMUNICATIONS, INC.	125.85
4601	CHLORINATOR & INSTRUMENT., INC.	2,300.00
4602	CINTAS	246.83
4603	CIVIC PLUS LLC	3,675.00
4604	COYNE CHEMICAL CORP., INC.	1,661.25
4605	DIFRANCESCO BATEMAN,PC	20.00
4606	DOVER BRAKE & CLUTCH	277.21
4607	ESTREMER, MICHELLE	97.50

4608	EXTEL COMMUNICATIONS, INC.	185.00
4609	FARMSIDE LANDSCAPE & DESIGN INC	565.00
4610	FEDERAL EXPRESS	51.24
4611	GARDEN STATE LABORATORIES INC	2,318.00
4612	GRAINGER, INC.	227.25
4613	GRAVITY DESIGN WORKS, INC.	1,500.00
4614	HAMPTON RV SALES, INC.	395.00
4615	HAYEK'S MARKET INC.	95.20
4616	HENDERSON PROMOS, LLC	1,185.00
4617	HOLLAND COMPANY, INC.	6,629.70
4618	HOME DEPOT, INC.	30.41
4619	J. CALDWELL & ASSOCIATES, LLC.	4,550.00
4620	JACKI SHACKLETON	52.50
4621	JAFFE COMMUNICATIONS	500.00
4622	JANIEN N ROBERTS	97.50
4623	JCP&L	6,702.99
4624	KAYLANI, SHERRI	128.16
4625	KERRY BARRETT CONSULTING LLC	700.00
4626	LAFAYETTE AUTO PARTS	36.00
4627	LAWRENCE PITTENGER	1,030.41
4628	LUBRICATION ENGINEERS INC	587.39
4629	MAIN POOL & CHEMICAL COMPANY, INC.	3,480.00
4630	MEG ELLIS	275.00
4631	MID-AMERICAN ELEVATOR CO., INC.	480.00
4632	MONTAGUE TOOL & SUPPLY, INC.	126.80
4633	NEW JERSEY HERALD	429.24
4634	NEWTON TROPHY	180.00
4635	NJMEBF	167,611.00
4636	NORTH JERSEY COURT ADMIN. ASSOC.	55.00
4637	OPTIMUM	121.35
4638	PLANET NETWORKS INC.	6,119.67
4639	POWERDMS, INC.	3,025.04
4640	PROFESSIONAL CONSULTING INC.	6,861.25
4641	QUILL CORPORATION	408.94
4642	RAPID PUMP	22,556.58
4643	READY REFRESH BY NESTLE	15.95
4644	SCHLOSSER, THERESA	52.50
4645	SEBRING AUTO PARTS, INC.	209.32
4646	SF MOBILE-VISION, INC.	3,384.00
4647	SIRCHIE FINGER PRINT LABS, LLC.	602.51
4649	STAPLES	576.45
4650	STAPLES CREDIT PLAN, INC.	824.25
4651	SUNLIGHT GENERAL	1,404.78
4652	SUSSEX CAR WASH INC	192.00
4653	SUSSEX COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	335.00
4654	SUSSEX COUNTY CLERK'S ASSN	20.00
4655	SUSSEX COUNTY LOCK & SAFE,	132.00
4656	SUSSEX COUNTY P & H, INC.	423.09
4657	SYN-TECH SYSTEMS, INC.	1,175.00
4658	SYNCHRONY BANK	815.32
4659	THE NJ SHADE TREE FEDERATION	190.00
4660	THOMSON REUTERS -WEST	275.00
4661	TIMMERMAN COMPANY, INC.	59,031.53
4662	TIMMERMAN COMPANY, INC.	2,041.73
4663	TIRE KING, INC.	2,752.00
4664	TOMLINSON, RICHARD	450.00
4665	TOWNSHIP OF HARDYSTON	150.00
4666	TRANE, INC.	885.00
4667	UNIVERSAL SUPPLY GROUP INC	110.17
4668	USA BLUE BOOK	1,387.24
4669	VERIZON WIRELESS, INC.	237.25
4670	VOGEL, CHAIT, COLLINS, SCHNEIDER, PC,	612.00
4671	W.B. MASON, INC.	281.92
4672	WALMART	156.35

4673	WILLIAM AHRENDT	533.39
TOTAL	393,853.09

A motion was made by Mrs. Diglio to approve the **COMBINED ACTION RESOLUTIONS**, seconded by Mrs. Teets and roll call resulted as follows:

Mr. Couce	Yes	Mrs. Diglio	Yes
Mrs. Teets	Yes	Deputy Mayor Schlaffer	Yes
	Mayor Dickson	Yes	

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mayor Dickson opened the meeting to the public.

On Zoom, Dr. Ludmilla Mecaj, 9 Madison Street acknowledged she would like to speak with Mr. Russo off-line on the hiring process. She asked for clarification on whether or not the Town Council interviewed the new Zoning Officer.

There being no one from the public to be heard, Mayor Dickson closed the meeting to the public.

DISCUSSION – Proposed Fee Changes

Mr. Russo reviewed the proposed fee changes with the Town Council. First he reviewed the Planning and Zoning Fees. Council had no comments. Next, Mr. Russo reviewed the DPW fees, again Council had no comments. Next the Clerk fees were reviewed, the Clerk explained the Food Establishment fees are much lower than what use to be charged prior to 2018. Mr. Russo went on to explain the Tractor-Trailer permit fees are proposed to break it down into a monthly, quarterly, semi-annual, and annual fee. Council had no comments. Mr. Russo reviewed the proposed Water & Sewer fees. Mrs. Diglio questioned the large increase on the Final Water Reading fee from \$30 to \$100. Mr. Russo asked Public Works Supervisor, Ken Jaekel to address this. Mr. Jaekel stated he thought that was a typo, his notes recommend the increase going to \$50. The Council agreed with that amount.

Mr. Russo asked Recreation Supervisor, Sherri Kaylani to come forward to discuss the proposed fees for the pool. Ms. Kaylani gave a brief overview of the pool season, stating they were open 84 days in total. They had 90 swim team participants. Her and her staff of 28-30 had a very successful season. Mr. Couce questioned charging the swim team as we do other for the use of our facilities. Ms. Kaylani explained we do charge them, it is based on the number of participants and it varies from year to year.

October 13, 2021

This year we collected approximately \$2,800. Mrs. Diglo stated she thought the increase for Non-Resident Senior citizens from \$75 to \$250 was too much. After a brief discussion the Council suggested the increase be to \$200. Mr. Couce stated the Friends of Newton membership fees were the same as non-residents. He feels there should be some discount. After a brief discussion it was decided the prices will be Family \$300, Couple \$200, and Single \$125.

Mr. Russo stated he will work with Eric Bernstein's office on preparing an ordinance to reflect the fee changes.

COUNCIL & MANAGER COMMENTS

Mr. Russo stated for Ludmilla's edification, the hiring is done by the Town Manager as the Chief Executive Officer. He hires, promotes, disciplines, and fires. It is how it works in this form of government. Council only interviews for his position and professionals. He stands behind Kerry, she comes to this position with over 25 years of experience is larger municipalities. He vouches for her experience. If she would like to speak to him on how we hire and where we advertise, he would be happy to have that conversation off-line. As far as who hires in the Town of Newton, with the Council – Manager form of government, it all goes through the Manager's office.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – None.

There being no further business to be conducted, upon motion of Mrs. Teets seconded by Mr. Couce and unanimously carried, the regular meeting was adjourned at 7:51pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Teresa A. Oswin, RMC
Municipal Clerk