

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 Mrs. Diglio, Mrs. Le Frois, Deputy Mayor Couce, Mayor Teets, Teresa A. Oswin, Municipal Clerk, and Thomas S. Russo, Jr., Town Manager. Monica B. Miebach, CFO, and Eric Bernstein, Esq., Town Attorney were also present. Mr. Dickson was excused.

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

Mayor Teets 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 6, 2023."

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion by Mrs. Diglio seconded by Mr. Couce and carried, the minutes for the December 12, 2022, Regular meeting were approved as presented. Mrs. Le Frois abstained.

Upon a motion by Mrs. Diglio, seconded by Mr. Couce and carried, the minutes for the January 5, 2023 Reorganization Meeting were approved as presented.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

At this time, Mayor Teets 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. Please state your name and address for the record."

Mayor Teets opened the meeting to the public in attendance.

There being no one else from the public to be heard either in person or on Zoom, Mayor Teets closed the meeting to the public.

COUNCIL & MANAGER REPORTS

Town Manager Russo – reminded everyone Town Hall will be closed to the public on January 27th for mandatory staff training. The Budget meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 5:00pm. The public is invited to attend either in person or via Zoom.

Councilman Dickson – excused.

Councilwoman Diglio – stated on January 18th she attended the Prime-Time Senior meeting. She wants to thank Danielle and Barbara for coming to the meeting and speaking with the seniors to see what the Town could help them with or do with them.

On a sadder note, one of the members, Dottie Tracy passed away on Saturday. Details of her arrangements are unknown at this time.

Councilwoman Le Frois – stated there was no Historic Preservation Advisory Commission meeting this month due to a lack of a quorum. The Starbucks of Newton is holding a coat drive for the community. They are accepting new or gently used coats that will be distributed to those in need. Congratulations to the Town, Kimberly, the DPW, and all those involved in opening the dog park. She visited this past weekend and heard lots of great comments from the public. It's been well received and is bringing people in from other towns. This means they will shop and eat locally because there is an amenity for them to visit. Congratulations on that achievement. Finally, she wanted to remind everyone January is Human Trafficking Awareness month. I am trying to raise awareness to the issue of human trafficking which includes labor trafficking and sex trafficking. As the County Seat we have the majority of Human Services for the County based out of Newton. Many of There is a direct correlation between intimate domestic violence and human trafficking. A lot of people may think it is not an issue here in the States, but given our proximity to NYC, New Jersey has a very high rate of incidences.

Deputy Mayor Couce – stated last Tuesday, he along with his fellow Councilmembers attended Congressman Josh Gotthiemer's press conference in front of the Police Department. Congressman Gottheimer announced Newton along with Sparta Township, Andover Township, and Hardyston Township are the recipients of a combined 1.3-million-dollar federal grant for upgrades to our public safety answering system to make the State mandated improvements to our 9-1-1 system. This is a fantastic award which will lessen the tax burden on our local taxpayers, to make these unfunded State mandates, which is a significant cost. He attended this month's Planning Board meeting with mostly for reorganization. Most positions stayed the same. They heard an application from Thorlabs for a revision to their site plan at their Brooks Plaza property. Due to NJDEP issues with wetland boundaries, the building is being moved 58 feet.

Mayor Teets – stated she would like to echo all the comments on the Dog Park. People are actually stopping her in the store, which is great. Also, there have been a lot of positive comments on social media. Thanks to everyone who had a hand in making it happen. For upcoming events, a reminder the St. Patrick's Day parade will be held Saturday, March 18th on Spring Street, kickoff is at 1100am. We look forward to all the bands, clubs, girl scouts, and boy scouts. If you are interested in participating just reach out to any of us. Thanks to Sandy who has been running a lot of the parade business. We will have another meeting on it on Thursday so look for more information on social media and in the press. It will be released as it is available.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None.

ORDINANCES – None.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Teets 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 then reviewed the consent agenda items.

Mayor Teets asked if any member of the Council would like to pull a Resolution for discussion.

RESOLUTION #64-2023*

"Authorize Refund of Taxes; Block 3.01, Lot 22, for a 100% Disabled Veteran Exemption"

WHEREAS, William Mathes owns Block 3.01, Lot 22, also known as 29 Slate Hill Road, Newton, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Tax Assessor has granted a 100% Disabled Veteran Tax Exemption on December 28, 2022 for the property owned by William Mathes; and

WHEREAS, the property taxes for Block 3.01, Lot 22, are paid through the 4th quarter of 2022, therefore, a refund is necessary and a portion of the 4th quarter and the Added Assessment billed amount for the 4th quarter taxes needs to be cancelled; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector has determined the amount to be refunded for a portion of the 4th quarter and the Added Assessment billed amount for the 4th quarter of 2022 is \$3,710.76 and the amount of a portion of the 4th quarter and the Added Assessment billed amount for the 4th quarter taxes to be cancelled is \$3,401.76;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Council of the Town of Newton that the Governing Body acknowledges a refund is due to William Mathes in the total amount of \$3,710.76 which is retroactive to October 23, 2022 and that this refund is the result of a 100% Disabled Veteran Tax Exemption and that a portion of the 4th quarter and the Added Assessment billed amount for the 4th quarter taxes needs be cancelled; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Treasurer be authorized to issue a check in the total amount of \$3,710.76 to William Mathes, 29 Slate Hill Road, Newton, NJ 07860 and the Tax Collector be authorized to cancel a portion of the 4th quarter and the Added Assessment billed amount for the 4th quarter taxes.

RESOLUTION #65-2023*

"Approval of Extension of Contract JDP Automotive Repair DBA Boonton Tire & Auto Repair as Auto Repair Contractor per Bid 2R-2021"

WHEREAS, there is a need for an Auto Repair services contractor in the Town of Newton; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Newton received bids for Auto Repair services under Bid 2R-2021 duly advertised and received in a public manner on February 25, 2021, at 12:00pm; and

WHEREAS, JDP Automotive Repair DBA Boonton Tire & Auto Repair, 74 Sparta Avenue, Newton, N.J. 07860 has provided for the lowest bid deemed responsive and responsible to the specifications and legal requirements as provided for within the bid document and awarded a two (2) year contract; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-15), allows for a two (2) year extension of contract by resolution of the Governing Body; and

WHEREAS, the contract terms and conditions will be the same as awarded under authorizing resolution for Bid 2R-2021, ending March 14, 2025; and

WHEREAS, subject to the Governing Body appropriating sufficient funds in the 2023, 2024, and 2025 Current Fund Budget, the Chief Financial Officer will certify funds pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.5(b2) open-end contract: through the budgetary accounting encumbrance process set forth in N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.3(c) and 5:30-5.4(b).

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Council of the Town of Newton, in the County of Sussex as follows:

JDP Automotive Repair DBA Boonton Tire & Auto Repair is authorized to enter a two (2) year contract extension, commencing March 15, 2023, through March 14, 2025, for Auto Repair services in the following rates:

Cat A Passenger Vehicles	
Passenger Vehicles A1a. Standard Labor rate p/hour	\$75.00
Passenger Vehicles A1b. P.M. Labor rate p/hour	\$75.00
Passenger Vehicles Materials/Parts cost plus_____ %	10.00%
Cat B SUV/ Trucks	
SUV/ Trucks A2a. Standard Labor rate p/hour	\$75.00
SUV/ Trucks A2b. P.M. Labor rate p/hour	\$75.00
SUV/ Trucks Materials/Parts cost plus_____ %	10.00%
Cat 3 Super Duty Trucks/ Vans	
Super Duty Trucks/ Vans A3a. Standard Labor rate p/hour	\$75.00
SUV/ Trucks A3b. P.M. Labor rate p/hour	\$75.00
SUV/ Trucks Materials/Parts cost plus_____ %	10.00%

RESOLUTION #66-2023*

“Refund of Redemption Monies to Outside Lien Holder for Block 2.02, Lot 16, Also Known As 78 Mill Street”

WHEREAS, at the Municipal Tax Sale held on October 5, 2022 a lien was sold on Block 2.02, Lot 16, also known as 78 Mill Street, for 2021 delinquent Water and Sewer charges; and

WHEREAS, this lien, known as Tax Sale Certificate #2022-001 was sold to US BANK cust/PC8 FIRSTRUST BANK for a 0% redemption fee and a premium of \$2,400.00; and

WHEREAS, the owner, Harby RE, LLP has affected the redemption of Certificate #2022-001 in the amount of \$3,337.17;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Council of the Town of Newton that this Governing Body acknowledges US BANK cust/PC8 FIRSTRUST BANK is entitled to a redemption in the amount of \$3,337.17 as well as the return of the premium in the amount of \$2,400.00; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town Council of the Town of Newton confirms and acknowledges the Tax Collector shall issue a check, in the amount of \$3,337.17 for the

redemption and a check in the amount of \$2,400.00 for the return of the premium for Certificate #2022-001 to US BANK cust/PC8 FIRSTRUST BANK, 50 South 16th Street, Suite 2050, Philadelphia, PA 19102.

RESOLUTION #67-2023*

“Refund of Redemption Monies to Outside Lien Holder for Block 6.01, Lot 20, Also Known As 28 Douma Drive”

WHEREAS, at the Municipal Tax Sale held on October 5, 2022 a lien was sold on Block 6.01, Lot 20, also known as 28 Douma Drive, for 2021 delinquent Water and Sewer charges; and

WHEREAS, this lien, known as Tax Sale Certificate #2022-005 was sold to US BANK cust/PC8 FIRSTRUST BANK for a 0% redemption fee and a premium of \$4,500.00; and

WHEREAS, Corelogic, the mortgage company, has affected the redemption of Certificate #2022-005 in the amount of \$1,890.66;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Council of the Town of Newton that this Governing Body acknowledges US BANK cust/PC8 FIRSTRUST BANK is entitled to a redemption in the amount of \$1,890.66 as well as the return of the premium in the amount of \$4,500.00; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town Council of the Town of Newton confirms and acknowledges the Tax Collector shall issue a check, in the amount of \$1,890.66 for the redemption and a check in the amount of \$4,500.00 for the return of the premium for Certificate #2022-005 to US BANK cust/PC8 FIRSTRUST BANK, 50 South 16th Street, Suite 2050, Philadelphia, PA 19102.

RESOLUTION #68-2023*

“Refund of Redemption Monies to Outside Lien Holder for Block 7.12, Lot 43, Also Known As 5 Ashford Street”

WHEREAS, at the Municipal Tax Sale held on October 5, 2022 a lien was sold on Block 7.12, Lot 43, also known as 5 Ashford Street for 2021 delinquent Water and Sewer charges; and

WHEREAS, this lien, known as Tax Sale Certificate #2022-009 was sold to Fig 20, LLC FBO Sec Pty for a 0% redemption fee and a premium in the amount of \$2,900.00; and

WHEREAS, on behalf of the owner, EXP Realty has affected the redemption of Certificate #2022-009 in the amount of \$4,777.70;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Council of the Town of Newton that this Governing Body acknowledges Fig 20, LLC FBO Sec Pty is entitled to a redemption in the amount of \$4,777.70 as well as the return of the premium in the amount of \$2,900.00; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town Council of the Town of Newton confirms and acknowledges the Tax Collector shall issue a check, in the amount of \$4,777.70 for the redemption and a check in the amount of \$2,900.00 for the return of the premium for Certificate #2022-009 to Fig 20, LLC FBO Sec Pty, PO Box 12225, Newark, NJ 07101.

RESOLUTION #69-2023*

“2022 Tonnage Grant Application”

WHEREAS, the Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act, P.L. 1987, c.102, has established a recycling fund from which a tonnage grant may be made to

municipalities in order to encourage local source separation and recycling programs; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent and the spirit of the Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act to use the tonnage grants to develop new municipal recycling programs and to continue and to expand existing programs; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has promulgated recycling regulations to implement the Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act; and

WHEREAS, the recycling regulations impose on municipalities certain requirements as a condition for applying for tonnage grants, including but not limited to, making and keeping accurate, verifiable records of materials collected and claimed by the municipality; and

WHEREAS, a resolution authorizing this municipality to apply for the **2022 Recycling Tonnage Grant** will memorialize the commitment of this municipality to recycling and to indicate the assent of the Town of Newton's Mayor and Town Council to the efforts undertaken by the municipality and the requirements contained in the Recycling Act and recycling regulation; and

WHEREAS, such a resolution should designate the individual authorized to ensure the application is properly completed and timely filed;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Newton that the Town of Newton hereby endorses the submission of the recycling Tonnage Grant Application to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and designates the Sussex County Municipal Utility Authority for the services of Certified Recycling Professional, to ensure that the application is properly filed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the monies received from the recycling tonnage grant be deposited in a dedicated recycling trust fund to be used solely for the purposes of the recycling.

RESOLUTION #70-2023*

“Granting Authority for Approval of Certain Purchases in Excess of the Bid Threshold Through New Jersey State Contracts and/or Purchasing Cooperatives for 2023”

WHEREAS, a need exists for the acquisition of various goods and services contained within cooperative contracts and over the bid threshold as aggregation of commodities, for the daily operations of the Town of Newton; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Newton may, without advertising for bids, purchase such materials through the New Jersey State Purchase and Property State Contracts and other approved Regional Cooperative Purchasing Systems of which the Town of Newton is a member, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-12, and N.J.A.C. 5:34-7.29 et. seq.; and

WHEREAS, under the state cooperative contract, or designated regional cooperative contract award, the following vendors hold valid cooperative contracts in accordance with the New Jersey Local Publics Contract Law.

Vendor	Contract #	T-Number	Title	Term Expiration
Custom Bandag (Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.)	socCC-0016-21		Tires, Tubes and Services	6/22/2023
Dell	20-TELE-01510	M0003	Software License & Related Service	5/24/2026

Dell	19-TELE-00656	M0483	Computer Equipment and Peripherals	7/31/2023
Eagle Point Gun	17-FLEET-00721	T0106	Law Enforcement Firearms Equipment and Supplies	5/31/2023
Firefighter One LLC	17-FLEET-00807	T0790	Police Security Equipment and Supplies	6/14/2023
Firefighter One LLC	17-FLEET-00734	T-0106	Police Security Equipment and Supplies	5/14/2023
WB Mason	33-OCCPS-2023-003	Stafford	Office supplies	5/18/2024
WB Mason	ESCNJ 21/22-22	ESCNJ	Office Supplies	1/31/2023
Motorola Solutions	83909	T0109	Radio Communications Equipment and Accessories	4/30/2023
Elite Emergency Services	17-FLEET-00749		Emergency Lighting and Other Vehicle Accessories	5/14/2023
AXON Enterprises	17-FLEET-00738	T0106	Police Equipment/ Tasers	5/14/2023
SHI	NJCPA 22-24		Computer Equipment & Peripherals	6/1/2024
Rachel/ Michelle's Oil		T0083	Unleaded Automotive Gasoline	10/31/2024
Taylor Oil	17-FOOD-00393	T0077	Number 2 Heating Fuel Oil	6/30/2023

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Council of the Town of Newton, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Qualified Purchasing Agent (QPA) upon receipt of an identified need and direction from the Town is hereby authorized to approve purchases in the aggregate over the bid threshold from the list of approved cooperative contracts, through New Jersey State Contracts and/or Purchasing Cooperatives to which the Town of Newton is a member without further action from Council, provided that funds are available to cover the expenditure.

Purchase approvals made by the Qualified Purchasing Agent (QPA) by virtue of the adoption of this Resolution shall be subject to the provisions and requirements of the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq. and that no amount of any contract shall be in excess of the bid threshold in a single purchase or the aggregate without express individual resolutions authorizing such cooperative purchases by contract number.

RESOLUTION #71-2023*

“Resolution to Amend the Plan Document for Certain Town of Newton Employees”

WHEREAS, The Town of Newton seeks to amend its Plan Document effective February 1, 2023 to update dependent age limits for Non-PBA eligible plan participants for Town provided dental insurance benefits; and

WHEREAS, the amendment expands the dependent age limit to 26, end of calendar year for eligible plan participants in said Non-PBA Plan for dental insurance benefits;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Council of the Town of Newton the amendment to the Dental Plan Document effective February 1, 2023 which is on file with the Municipal Clerk, is hereby adopted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town Manager may take such necessary steps to effectuate this amendment.

RESOLUTION #72-2023*

“Appointment of Jonathan E. McMeen, Esq., as the Town of Newton’s Alternate Municipal Prosecutor for Calendar Year 2023”

WHEREAS, Steven M. Siegel, Esq., currently serving as the Town of Newton’s Municipal Prosecutor, has indicated an Alternate Municipal Prosecutor may be needed occasionally by the Town of Newton during calendar year 2023; and

WHEREAS, it is agreed any municipal prosecutor appointed by a municipality in the County can provide prosecutor services to the Town of Newton in the event an alternate is needed to prosecute in the absence of Steven M. Siegel, Esq., or in the case of an attorney conflict; and

WHEREAS, Jonathan E. McMeen, Esq., has expressed an interest in serving as Newton’s Alternate Municipal Prosecutor; and

WHEREAS, compensation of said services and supervision will be the sole responsibility of Steven M. Siegel, Esq. when an alternate prosecutor is utilized in his absence; and

WHEREAS, legal services are a professional service as defined by the Local Public Contracts Law and are, therefore, exempt from public bidding requirements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 40A:11-5(1)(a)(i);

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Council of the Town of Newton, that we hereby appoint Jonathan E. McMeen, Esq., as the Town of Newton’s Alternate Municipal Prosecutor for the calendar year 2023; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this Resolution be forwarded to Jonathan E. McMeen, Esq., Steven M. Siegel, Esq., Annmarie Taggart, Acting Sussex County Prosecutor, and the Town of Newton Municipal Judge, the Hon. James P. Sloan.

RESOLUTION #73-2023*

“Appointment of Orlando R. Rodriguez, Esq., as the Town of Newton’s Alternate Public Defender for Calendar Year 2023”

WHEREAS, Daniel P. Agatino, Esq., currently serving as the Town of Newton’s Public Defender, has indicated an Alternate Public Defender may be needed occasionally by the Town of Newton during calendar year 2023; and

WHEREAS, it is agreed any public defender appointed by a municipality in the County can provide public defender services to the Town of Newton in the event an alternate is needed to defend in the absence of Daniel P. Agatino, Esq., or in the case of an attorney conflict; and

WHEREAS, Orlando R. Rodriguez, Esq., has expressed an interest in serving as Newton’s Alternate Public Defender; and

WHEREAS, compensation of said services and supervision will be the sole responsibility of Daniel P. Agatino, Esq. when an alternate public defender is utilized in his absence; and

WHEREAS, legal services are a professional service as defined by the Local Public Contracts Law and are, therefore, exempt from public bidding requirements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 40A:11-5(1)(a)(i);

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Council of the Town of Newton, that we hereby appoint Orlando R. Rodriguez, Esq., as the Town of Newton's Alternate Public Defender for the calendar year 2023; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this Resolution be forwarded to Orlando R. Rodriguez, Esq., Daniel P. Agatino, Esq., Annmarie Taggart, Acting Sussex County Prosecutor, and the Town of Newton Municipal Judge, the Hon. James P. Sloan.

RESOLUTION #74-2023*

“Appointment of Kristen Shotwell Vaitkevicius to the Newton Parking Authority”

WHEREAS, there is currently a vacancy for an unexpired term on the Newton Parking Authority; and

WHEREAS, Kristen Shotwell Vaitkevicius has expressed interest in serving as a member of the Newton Parking Authority;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Council of the Town of Newton that the following appointment be made to the Newton Parking Authority for an unexpired term:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Expiration Date</u>
Kristen Shotwell Vaitkevicius	5 years	December 31, 2026

RESOLUTION #75-2023*

“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 2022 and 2023 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
7567	4460 - ADS CONTRACTORS, LLC.....	314.83
7568	1132 - BOONTON TIRE SUPPLY INC.	1,298.28
7569	300 - BRIGHTSPEED	28.98
7570	300 - BRIGHTSPEED	41.77
7571	300 - BRIGHTSPEED	58.15
7572	300 - BRIGHTSPEED	3,284.74
7573	2697 - CIVIC PLUS LLC	7,980.82
7574	4138 - CONSTELLATION NEWENERGY -GAS DIV	20,565.78
7575	1425 - COUNTY OF SUSSEX	3,898.11
7576	176 - COUNTY OF SUSSEX	973,246.64
7577	178 - COUNTY OF SUSSEX	70,626.84
7578	2639 - COUNTY OF SUSSEX	933.40
7579	4500 - CRYSTAL MOUNTAIN	107.99
7580	106 - ELIZABETHTOWN GAS	5,222.20
7581	4385 - ERIC M. BERNSTEIN & ASSOCIATES, LLC.	4,725.00
7582	4653 - FATHER JOHNS	50.00
7583	2525 - FIREFIGHTER ONE, LLC.	150.00
7584	4536 - GATEHOUSE MEDIA NEW YORK HOLDINGS, INC.	163.41
7585	4506 - GLENN C KIENZ	800.00
7586	2313 - GRAVITY DESIGN WORKS, INC.	455.00

7587	3804	- HAYDEE BALLESTER	140.00
7588	230	- HAYEK'S MARKET INC.	57.22
7589	1866	- HOME DEPOT, INC.	365.52
7590	3235	- J. CALDWELL & ASSOCIATES, LLC.	23,715.00
7591	113	- JCP&L	11,085.23
7592	3711	- KKPR MARKETING & PUBLIC RELATIONS,	800.00
7593	4227	- LAW OFFICE OF DANIEL P. AGATINO, LLC.	1,333.34
7594	409	- MINISINK PRESS INC	801.00
7595	2508	- MORRIS COUNTY COOP	1,100.00
7596	4091	- MORRIS/SUSSEX MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE	100.00
7597	2567	- MUNICIPAL RECORD SERVICE	28.00
7598	1290	- MUNIDEX, INC	540.00
7599	1638	- NEW JERSEY WATER ASSOCIATION	630.00
7600	170	- NEWTON BOARD OF EDUCATION	1,110,506.41
7601	2844	- NORTH JERSEY COURT ADMIN. ASSOC.	100.00
7602	2882	- ONE CALL CONCEPTS, INC.	50.05
7603	4383	- OPTIMUM	187.30
7604	3954	- PAR TROY SOUND OF NEWTON, INC.	275.00
7605	1407	- PASSAIC VALLEY SEWERAGE COMM.	7,654.50
7606	2788	- PENTELEDATA	319.90
7607	4204	- PLANET NETWORKS INC.	1,359.72
7608	4204	- PLANET NETWORKS INC.	9,875.92
7609	4204	- PLANET NETWORKS INC.	43,914.95
7610	4204	- PLANET NETWORKS INC.	159.95
7611	4204	- PLANET NETWORKS INC.	49.95
7612	4204	- PLANET NETWORKS INC.	5,280.00
7613	4204	- PLANET NETWORKS INC.	199.90
7614	4204	- PLANET NETWORKS INC.	5,112.30
7615	1217	- PUBLIC WORKS ASSN OF NJ	90.00
7616	39	- QUILL CORPORATION	54.96
7617	4034	- R & J CONTROL INC.	1,398.62
7618	2478	- RACHLES/MICHELE'S OIL COMPANY, INC.	4,783.85
7619	3679	- REISINGER OXYGEN SERVICE, INC.	62.70
7620	3696	- RESORT CONTRACT FURNISHINGS, CO.	726.00
7621	4646	- ROYAL SWIMMING POOLS INC	559.98
7622	126	- SCMUA	1,114.74
7623	611	- SEBRING AUTO PARTS, INC.....	341.03
7624	4644	- SIEGEL, STEVEN M.....	2,875.00
7625	1125	- SIRCHIE FINGER PRINT LABS, LLC	370.20
7626	3993	- SLOAN, JAMES P	3,636.99
7627	1489	- SMALLEY, JOHN H	1,437.50
7628	316	- SPARTA TOWNSHIP TAX COLLECTOR	17,277.07
7629	2257	- STAPLES	38.68
7630	2257	- STAPLES	80.25
7631	2257	- STAPLES	43.09
7632	43	- STAPLES CREDIT PLAN, INC.	35.89
7633	4144	- SUBURBAN CONSULTING ENGINEERS, INC.	232.50
7634	3442	- SUNLIGHT GENERAL	693.45
7635	102	- SUSSEX CAR WASH INC	328.00
7636	3392	- TAP INTO, LLC	2,100.00
7637	2479	- TAYLOR OIL CO., INC.	4,106.38
7638	1218	- TCTANJ	200.00
7639	1218	- TCTANJ	100.00
7640	3851	- THE CANNING GROUP, LLC.	541.66
7641	1601	- TILCON NEW YORK, INC.....	1,074.94
7642	1601	- TILCON NEW YORK, INC.	144.30
7643	2781	- TRIMBOLI & PRUSINOWSKI, LLC.	1,428.00
7644	4305	- UGI ENERGY SERVICES LLC	13,728.95
7645	4152	- UNITED SITE SERVICES, INC	9,565.29
7646	1280	- VERIZON WIRELESS, INC.	2,400.91
7647	2635	- W.B. MASON, INC.	462.86
7648	1500	- WALMART	0.08
7649	477	- WATER & SEWER CAPITAL ACCOUNT	169,698.15
7650	633	- WEIS MARKETS, INC.	57.44

7651	3726 - WITMER PUBLIC SAFETY GROUP, NC.	667.88
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TOTAL		2,562,150.44

The Clerk presented one (1) application for consideration:

A membership application from Jose Urena, 15 Hamilton Steet, Newton, NJ for regular membership into the Newton Fire Department.

It was noted the application was in order and signed by the Fire Chief.

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

Deputy Mayor Couce (Abstain on checks #7607 #7608, #7609, #7610, #7611, #7612, #7613, #7614))	Yes	Mr. Dickson	Excused
Mrs. Diglio	Yes	Mrs. Le Frois	Yes
	Mayor Teets	Yes	

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mayor Teets opened the meeting to the public.

There being no one from the public to be heard in person, the Mayor opened the meeting up to Zoom attendees.

There being no one else from the public to be heard either in person or on Zoom, Mayor Teets closed the meeting to the public.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Russo welcomed Mr. Scott Holzhauer, Newton's Tax Assessor, to the meeting to discuss the reassessment of property. Mr. Holzhauer started by reviewing his memo dated January 20, 2023 on reassessment. He went on to say it has been several years since the Town did a revaluation or reassessment. In October 2022 the Town received notification from the Division of Taxation to alert us our equalized value of the municipal property is more than 10% higher than the previous year. This is due to the over 10% drop in the ratio determined for tax year 2022 vs. 2023. This makes the Town vulnerable to tax appeal losses

Mr. Holzhauer explained the differences between a revaluation and reassessment. A Revaluation is where all properties are re-measured and fully inspected along with the tax maps have to be updated. An Annual Reassessment Program, which is his recommendation, is done over 5 years, 25% of the properties are re-inspected each year, after the base year. This option would diminish the impact of annual tax appeal losses and the cost of the program is spread over several budget years.

A discussion ensued. Mrs. Le Frois asked about community education on the 5-year assessment program. Mr. Holzhauer explained when the vendor starts the program, they send out a letter explaining the process. The letter will also include information about a webinar, about 20-30 minutes long, which explains the logistics of the process, and they open it up to the public for questions, and keep it open until all the questions are answered. Then the recording of the webinar is given to the Town so we can post it on

our website. Mrs. Le Frois stated she would like to see the information given out on all media platforms. Mr. Holzauer clarified that every single property is inspected, the inspectors use the current Property Record Card and look for any changes.

Mr. Holzauer stated he needs the Town Council's consent to move forward to appear before the Sussex County Board of Taxation to get their approval to move forward with the 5-year assessment program. Mr. Couce asked if we could table this until the next meeting so he could educate himself more on the whole process.

Mr. Russo asked all Council members to send him any questions in the next week and he will make sure Mr. Holzauer is available to answer them before our next meeting on February 6th. This will still give Mr. Holzauer time to attend the Board of Taxation's February meeting as scheduled.

COUNCIL MANAGER COMMENTS

Mr. Russo reported Skylands Herbal has received State approval for their cannabis license. Their plans are moving forward.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – None.

ADJOURMENT

There being no further business to be conducted, upon motion of Mrs. Diglio seconded by Mrs. Le Frois and unanimously carried, the regular meeting was adjourned at 7:44pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Teresa A. Oswin, RMC
Municipal Clerk