

December 11, 2023

The regular meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Newton was held in person and via Zoom on the above date at 7:00pm. Present were Mr. Couce, Mr. Dickson, Mrs. Le Frois, 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. Mrs. Diglio 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."

**PRESENTATIONS**

- a. Harold E. Pellow, Municipal Engineer

Mayor Teets invited Mr. Pellow to come forward and presented him with a plaque and read the inscription:

**TOWN OF NEWTON**  
**HAROLD E. PELLOW**  
**MUNICIPAL ENGINEER**

FOR YOUR LOYALTY, DEVOTION, AND DEDICATION  
IN APPRECIATION OF YOUR  
OUTSTANDING COMMITMENT AND SERVICE  
TO THE TOWN OF NEWTON

~

**1968-2023**

Deputy Mayor Couce read the following proclamation and presented it to Mr. Pellow:

*Office of the Mayor*

**Newton, New Jersey**

**Proclamation**

# Harold E. Pellow

**WHEREAS**, Harold E. Pellow of Harold E. Pellow & Associates, Inc., was first appointed Municipal Engineer for the Town of Newton in 1968; and

**WHEREAS**, he has overseen many significant engineering projects within the Town of Newton throughout his 56 years, many of which were funded through grants Harold helped to secure; and

**WHEREAS**, many of these projects were done specifically to beautify the Town of Newton, including the Spring Street Beautification Project, Main Street Beautification Project, Lower Spring Street Beautification Project, and the Town Square Beautification Project; and

**WHEREAS**, his project list extends to all parts of Town, including the Memory Park Field Lighting and Other Improvements, the Town-owned Dam Improvements, various Water System Improvements, various Drainage Improvement Projects, as well as many Survey Mapping Projects; and

**WHEREAS**, he has overseen the design and implementation of numerous road construction projects throughout the Town of Newton, including the Route 206/94 Widening Project, Mill Street Sidewalk and Roadway Improvements, South Park Drive Improvements, Trinity Street Traffic Signal Project, and various Sidewalk and ADA Compatibility Projects; and

**WHEREAS**, one of his proudest achievements was the design and construction of North Park Drive in 1986, which permanently changed the landscape and traffic flow of the Town and the County, positioning the Town for continued successful development in the years to come; and

**WHEREAS**, Harold’s professionalism and attention to detail have earned him the admiration and respect of the Town staff and officials as well as his fellow colleagues;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, We, the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Newton, hereby proclaim our appreciation and gratitude to Harold E. Pellow for his 56 years of dedicated service to the Town of Newton and we offer our best wishes to him in his future endeavors.

*In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused this seal to be affixed.*

\_\_\_\_\_/s/ Michelle J. Teets

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_/s/ Teresa A. Oswin

Date: \_\_\_\_\_December 11, 2023

Mr. Russo read the following statement: *"I want to take this opportunity to thank Harold Pellow for his many decades of dedicated service to the Town of Newton and its residents, businesses, and visitors alike.*

*In a society where people are driven by short-term gain, or instant gratification, Harold is an example of how steady, thoughtful, compassionate service to others can turn into a lifetime of professional success, positive relationships, memories, and accomplishments.*

*Newton is a better organization, and community, because of the countless hours, and numerous projects, that Harold has been a part of, many of which are enumerated in the proclamation this evening.*

*Along with his engineering expertise, is Harold's consistent desire to inform Governing Body members, and staff, and professionals, and volunteers, about not just the "How" behind projects, but the "Why." Meaning, why these projects would be necessary and beneficial to the long-term viability of Newton as a place where people would want to live in, work in, or visit.*

*Harold has told me many times about how much Newton means to him personally, and it was never insincere or a sales job or a pitch for another three-years as the appointed municipal engineer. He actually meant it. And that sincerity has always made me feel better as the Town Manager for the past 16 years.*

*Harold, your efforts here will always be appreciated and recognized. May God continue to bless you and your family as you focus on the next chapter of your personal and professional endeavors, whatever they are intended to be.*

*Oh, and one other thing, I am grateful for your passion for all things Penn State, so pardon the reference here to those of you that are not affiliated with the Nittany Lions, but WE ARE...very grateful for your service to Newton. Thank you for everything."*

Mr. Russo presented Mr. Pellow with a "Key to the City."

Mr. Pellow said it is a real honor to be recognized. He is a lifelong Sussex County guy. It is great to be the engineer for the Sussex County Seat, Newton is a great Town. He went on to tell stories on how some of the roads in Newton were created. Through his work with prior Town Managers, State Legislatures, County Commissioners, and neighboring municipalities the most traveled roads in Newton were established. He has enjoyed all the projects he has done in Newton, including the lights at Memory Park. He has been lucky; his staff has all been with him for a long time. He went on to say the best part of his career is that through it all his wife of 65 years Lois, has been by his side. He met her in high school in Sussex, she moved away and attended Newton for her last two years. He always says he married the smartest and prettiest girl in Newton, and he has loved Newton ever since. He really appreciates everything tonight and told everyone not to worry his staff will continue to work with Newton and do a good job.

Mrs. Le Frois congratulated Mr. Pellow on his fifty-six (56) years of distinguished service to the Town of Newton. She knows he loves his work. Most people do not realize work in Town does not happen without our engineers. You have led your team with a great work ethic, and she knows they will continue. You have done so many projects in Town and it has never been about politics, it is about your love for your work. Your quiet, thoughtful, and dedicated work. She thanked him for all he had done for Newton and wished him a long and happy retirement, with many years of good health.

Mr. Dickson congratulated Mr. Pellow on his long-distinguished career with Newton. He has only worked with him for five (5) short years, but it has been a privilege to work with him and his team on the various projects. His positive impact on the community will be felt for years to come, which is pretty amazing. He also wished him a long and happy retirement.

Mayor Teets echoed what has been said and also said we have been extremely fortunate to have been able to work with Harold for so long. She knows he has taught his team well and they will continue to do a good job for Newton. She thanked Harold and wished him a long and happy retirement.

**BREAK** - Five (5) minutes.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Upon motion by Mr. Dickson, seconded by Mrs. Le Frois and all those present voting yes, the minutes for the November 13, 2023 Executive Session, were approved as presented. Deputy Mayor Couce abstained.

Upon motion by Mrs. Le Frois, seconded by Deputy Mayor Couce and all those present voting yes, the minutes for the November 27, 2023 Regular Meeting, were approved as presented. Mr. Dickson abstained.

Upon motion by Mrs. Le Frois seconded by Deputy Mayor Couce and all those present voting yes, the minutes for the November 27, 2023 Executive Session, 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 identify yourself and spell your last name."*

Mayor Teets opened the meeting to the public.

Lily Atkinson came forth and thanked the Town and everyone who set up the Tree Lighting event. She and her friends had so much fun singing for everyone. Her sister was glad Bluey was added this year. Thank you for all you do for us in Town, Happy Holidays.

Erin Coriston, (on Zoom) who works at Ginny's House asked for an update on the crosswalks that cross Park Place and High Street. The signage that was put up in the past only lasted for a few weeks. She also asked if anything could be done, maybe a blinking sign? She said it is an extremely dangerous situation for her, her fellow workers, and her clients trying to use the crosswalks. Also, the yield sign is now missing on Park Place.

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

### **COUNCIL & MANAGER REPORTS**

**Town Manager Russo** – started by stating he will send Erin's request to Harold Pellow's office. It might involve County or even State involvement. He has some good news to report, we submitted Ariel Franzone's name to Congressman Gottheimer for consideration as a "Hometown Hero". She was chosen, the ceremony will be held on December 15<sup>th</sup>. It is an honor for her to be recognized for her Gold award and her efforts on dyslexia awareness. He offered thanks to Kat and Terri on all their work with this project. Also on the 15<sup>th</sup>, Town Hall will be closing at Noon for the staff Holiday Party. Town Hall is closed Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> and Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day holidays. He wished everyone a Happy Hanukkah and Merry Christmas. January 1<sup>st</sup>, we are closed for New Year's. The annual Reorganization Meeting

will be held on Thursday, January 4<sup>th</sup> at Noon. Lastly, he would like to wish everyone a happy, healthy, and safe New Year.

**Councilman Dickson** – he attended the Tree Lighting; it was a great event. He offered thanks to Kimberly Williams and the Recreation Commission in turning this room into a winter wonderland. He also thanked everyone including Mr. Stockard and the Merriam Avenue School chorus, Panera and Starbucks for the refreshments, the Police Department, Fire Department, First Aid Squad, and the DPW that helped make the event possible. Most importantly he wanted to thank Santa for taking time during his busy season to stop by. He wishes everyone a Happy Hanukkah and Merry Christmas.

**Councilwoman Diglio** – Excused.

**Councilwoman Le Frois** – echoed Mr. Dickson's comment on thanking all those responsible for the Tree Lighting. The weather was not ideal, but everyone still came out and were smiling. This room was decorated beautifully with trains and trees, and we had popcorn and hot chocolate. Kimberly did an outstanding job. Everything was perfect. She thanked Tom, Terri, and all those that helped in recognizing Harold Pellow this evening. She wished everyone a Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year. Lastly, she wanted to take a moment to thank the staff. She is unable to attend the staff holiday party this year but wanted to thank all the employees for all their work throughout the year.

**Deputy Mayor Couce** – echoed everything said tonight. Since this is the last meeting of the year, he wanted to thank Michelle Teets for doing a fantastic job as Mayor. He has enjoyed working with her as her Deputy.

**Mayor Teets** – she did speak with Ariel's mother, and they are over the moon and plan to attend the ceremony. She thanked Lily for coming to our meetings and for the handwritten notes and getting involved. She hopes more people come to the meetings next year.

**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.

### **RESOLUTION #274-2023\***

#### **“Resolution Supporting the Implementation Plan of the Neighborhood Preservation Program for 2024”**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Newton applied for and obtained a grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (NJDCA) Neighborhood Preservation Program

(NPP) for \$125,000 with a \$25,000 match from the Town of Newton for a total budget of \$150,000; and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of this grant is to bolster economic development by making physical improvements in the Newton Town Center District including creating public art, placemaking, gateway improvements, signage improvements, and commercial façade improvements in the district, which is a neighborhood that qualifies for assistance; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Newton has created a Neighborhood Preservation Program Implementation Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the Neighborhood Preservation Program Implementation Plan has been submitted to and approved by the Department of Community Affairs;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Newton that the Town of Newton fully supports the Neighborhood Preservation Program Implementation Plan for 2024 as submitted to and approved by the Department of Community Affairs.

**RESOLUTION #275-2023\***

**“Insertion of Special Items of Revenue in the 2023 Town of Newton Budget Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (C. 159, PL 1948)”**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue and also approve the insertion of an item of appropriation of equal amount in the Budget of any Municipality, when such item shall have been made available by law, and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the Budget; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Newton has received a payment in the amount of \$1,736.00 from the Federal Assistance Grant for Bullet Proof Vest Partnership Grant;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Council of the Town of Newton hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services approve the insertion of the following items in the 2023 Budget of the Town of Newton which is now available as revenue from:

- Miscellaneous Revenues:
  - Section F: Special Items of Revenue
    - Public and Private Revenues Off-set with Appropriations:
      - Body Armor Grant ..... \$1,736.00
  - General Appropriations:
    - (A) Operations - Excluded from CAPS
      - Public and Private Programs Off-Set by Revenues:
        - Body Armor Grant ..... \$1,736.00

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that an electronic version of this Resolution be forwarded to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

**RESOLUTION #276-2023\***

**“Authorize a Credit Due a Water and Sewer Utility Account”**

**WHEREAS**, the Water and Sewer Collector has determined the following Water and Sewer Utility Account is due a credit for the reason stated;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Town Council of the Town of Newton that the Water and Sewer Collector is hereby authorized to credit the following account for the amount billed incorrectly due to the reason stated:

**CREDIT FOR AN ACCOUNT THAT SHOULD BE INACTIVE:**

<u>Account</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount</u>
3883	50 Orchard Street	\$98.75

**RESOLUTION #277-2023\***

**“Authorizing Contracts with Certain Approved State Contract Vendors, Northeast Communications, State Contract 83898, and Zetron, State Contract 83924”**

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Local Public Contracts Law N.J.S.A.40A:11-12, authorizes the Town of Newton by Resolution, and without advertising for bids or obtaining quotations, to purchase any goods or services under the New Jersey State Contract; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town has the need on a timely basis to purchase goods and services utilizing State contracts for the implementation of grant monies for joint dispatch; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town intends to enter into contracts with Northeast Communications under State Contract 83898, and Zetron under State Contract 83924, for police unified dispatch communications in the amount of \$672,983.98; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Financial Officer certifies funding is available in the amount of \$672,983.98 from:

Ordinance 2023-7	Dispatch Ctr Upgrades (911 Grant)	\$309,803.72
Grant Fund	Federal Grant-911 Equipment Upgrades	\$363,180.26

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Council of the Town of Newton, authorizes the Mayor and all appropriate Town officials to enter into a contract with Northeast Communications under State Contract 83898, and Zetron under State Contract 83924, for police unified dispatch communications in the amount of \$672,983.98.

**RESOLUTION #278-2023\***

**“Authorizing and Setting Special Meeting for January 8, 2024”**

**WHEREAS**, the Open Public Meetings Act of 1975 (“OPMA”) requires that a schedule of regular meetings of the Governing Body be annually posted and maintained in one (1) public place reserved for public documents, and requires that said annual notice be filed and maintained by the Clerk of the Town of Newton; and

**WHEREAS**, the OPMA further requires that notice of any meeting of the Town Council not provided for on the annual schedule must be (1) posted in at least one (1) public place reserved for public announcements; (2) mailed, telephoned, e-mailed, or hand-delivered to at least two (2) newspapers designated by the public body; and, (3) filed with the Clerk of the municipality at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of same; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Town Council wish to conduct a special Council meeting on Monday, January 8, 2024 at 6:00PM, at the Town of Newton Municipal Building, 39 Trinity Street, Newton, New Jersey;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Newton, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey that it hereby authorizes the special Council meeting to be held on Monday, January 8, 2024, in accordance with the OPMA; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Municipal Clerk is hereby directed to publish and post the proper written notice of the date, time, place, and agenda of the January 8, 2024, special Council meeting in accordance with the OPMA.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Teresa A. Oswin, RMC  
Municipal Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle J. Teets, Mayor  
Town of Newton

**RESOLUTION #279-2023\***

**“Approve 2023 Appropriation Transfers”**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Town Council of the Town of Newton that the following 2023 appropriation transfers be approved effective this date:

<u>From</u> <u>CURRENT</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Police S&W	28,000.00	Animal Control S&W	2,000.00
		Manager S&W	11,000.00
		Road S&W	15,000.00
<b>TOTAL CURRENT TRANSFERS</b>	<u>\$28,000.00</u>		<u>\$28,000.00</u>

**RESOLUTION #280-2023\***

**“Approve 2023 Appropriation Transfers in Water Sewer”**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Town Council of the Town of Newton that the following 2023 appropriation transfers be approved effective this date:

<u>From</u> <u>WATER/SEWER</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Amount</u>
WS OPERATING OE	10,000.00	W/S S&W	10,000.00
<b>TOTAL CURRENT TRANSFERS</b>	<u>\$10,000.00</u>		<u>\$10,000.00</u>

**RESOLUTION #281-2023\***

**“Authorize the Mayor to Conduct Ceremonial Proceedings from January 1, 2024 through the January 4, 2024 Reorganization Meeting”**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 37:1-13 authorizes the Mayor, or the Deputy Mayor, when authorized by the Mayor, to conduct ceremonial proceedings; and

**WHEREAS**, there may be a need to conduct ceremonial proceedings between January 1, 2024 and the Town's reorganization meeting to be held at Noon on January 4, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Town Council wish to authorize the current Mayor Michelle J. Teets to conduct said ceremonial proceedings during the aforementioned time period;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Newton, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey that it hereby authorizes the current Mayor Michelle J. Teets and the current Deputy Mayor John-Paul E. Couce (if authorized by the current Mayor) to continue to conduct ceremonial proceedings as authorized and

permitted for the period of January 1, 2024 through the Town of Newton's reorganization meeting at Noon on January 4, 2024.

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Teresa A. Oswin, RMC  
Town Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle J. Teets, Mayor  
Town of Newton

**RESOLUTION #282-2023\***

**“Authorize Refund Payment for Annual Standpipe/Sprinkler Fees Paid Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 26:2H-1 et seq. and N.J.S.A. 40:14B-21(d)”**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Newton (“Town”) requires annual payment for standpipe/sprinkler fees pursuant to Section 100-19(E) of the Town Code; and

**WHEREAS**, Complete Care at Barn Hill (“Entity”) is a Residential Health Care Facility, as defined by the Health Care Facilities Planning Act, P.L. 1971, c. 136 (N.J.S.A. 26:2H-1 et seq.) (“Act”) and, pursuant to said Act and N.J.S.A. 40:14B-21(d), the entity is exempt from payment of the annual standpipe/sprinkler fees as set forth above; and

**WHEREAS**, Complete Care at Barn Hill was erroneously charged the annual standpipe/sprinkler fees for calendar years 2022 and 2023 and has paid same for a total amount of One Thousand Six Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$1,600.00); and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Act and N.J.S.A. 40:14B-21(d), the Entity is entitled to a refund of One Thousand Six Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$1,600.00) for the total payments made in 2022 and 2023 towards the annual standpipe/sprinkler fee; and

**WHEREAS**, based upon the Act and N.J.S.A. 40:14B-21(d), the Town wishes to authorize the refund of those fees to Complete Care at Barn Hill;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Newton, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey that it hereby authorizes the total refund of One Thousand Six Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$1,600.00) to Complete Care at Barn Hill for the total payments made to the Town in 2022 and 2023 for the annual standpipe/sprinkler fee; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the appropriate Town officials are hereby directed to take the appropriate steps to refund the payment as set forth above and to adjust the account records accordingly.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Teresa A. Oswin, RMC  
Town Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle J. Teets, Mayor  
Town of Newton

**RESOLUTION #283-2023\***

**“Authorizing Change Order No. 1 for a Time Extension for the Drainage Improvements Contract at Memory Park”**

**WHEREAS**, a need existed for the bidding of a project known as “Drainage Improvements at Babe Ruth Field at Memory Park within the Town of Newton; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Newton advertised and received bids in a fair and open manner on June 21, 2023 and Paving Materials Contracting, LLC was determined to be the lowest responsible bidder with a bid of \$742,743.00; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 26, 2023, the project was awarded to Paving Materials Contracting, LLC by Resolution #190-2023; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Newton has received a request for Change Order No. 1, dated December 6, 2023, from Paving Materials and Contracting, LLC, requesting an extension to the Contract time by an additional one hundred forty-one (141) calendar days due to adverse weather conditions that will impact the remaining drainage work, rain garden planning, and porous pavement installation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Engineer on this Project, Suburban Consulting Engineers, Inc., recommends accepting the proposed Change Order No. 1, which will not result in any net change to the original contract price;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Newton, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey that the Town hereby authorizes the issuance of Change Order No. 1 to the contract with Paving Materials and Contracting, LLC for an extension to the Contract time for Paving's services by an additional one hundred forty-one (141) calendar days due to adverse weather conditions that will impact the remaining drainage work, rain garden planning, and porous pavement installation and will result in no net change to the original contract price; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a certified copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the Town of Newton Chief Financial Officer, the Town of Newton Engineer on this Project, and to Paving Materials and Contracting, LLC.

**RESOLUTION #284-2023\***

**“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#	Name	Check Total
9746	4460 -	ADS CONTRACTORS, LLC. ....	308.24
9747	2799 -	AFLAC .....	2,288.16
9748	3006 -	AG CHOICE, LLC.....	350.00
9749	4769 -	ALL TRAFFIC SOLUTIONS INC. ....	5,035.50
9750	3897 -	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES .....	550.59
9751	3897 -	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES .....	31.41
9752	3869 -	AMERICAN FIDELITY ASSURANCE .....	562.22
9753	3868 -	AMERICAN FIDELITY ASSURANCE .....	670.82
9754	3325 -	APCO INTERNATIONAL, INC.....	1,452.00
9755	4744 -	APPRAISAL SYSTEMS INC. ....	18,000.00
9756	4596 -	ATLANTIC COMFORT SYSTEMS .....	2,975.00
9757	4770 -	ATLANTIC COUNTY DEPT OF PUBLIC SAFETY .....	500.00
9758	32 -	B & R UNIFORM, INC .....	282.85
9759	3251 -	BADGER METER, INC. ....	192.92
9760	3406 -	BLUE RIDGE LUMBER, INC. ....	2,707.25
9761	1132 -	BOONTON TIRE SUPPLY INC. ....	11,254.34
9762	300 -	BRIGHTSPEED .....	125.85
9763	702 -	C W A LOCAL 1032 .....	301.38
9764	175 -	CAPITAL .....	303,970.00
9765	4706 -	CARLUCCI, .....	3,637.21
9766	4306 -	CGP&H LLC PO .....	201.50
9767	3770 -	CINTAS .....	180.00
9768	4138 -	CONSTELLATION NEWENERGY -GAS DIV .....	11,145.32
9769	4762 -	COVE PRODUCTS .....	5,441.56
9770	286 -	CURRENT ACCOUNT PO .....	28,500.00
9771	768 -	DEMPSEY UNIFORM & SUPPLY .....	3,318.02

9772	2589 -	DENVILLE LINE PAINTING, INC .....	10,955.44
9773	2386 -	DOMINICK'S PIZZA LLC .....	67.45
9774	2136 -	DRAEGER, INC. ....	156.00
9775	225 -	FEDERAL EXPRESS .....	5.73
9776	2640 -	FERGUSON ENTERPRISES LLC #3326 .....	991.00
9777	4747 -	FF1 APPARATUS LLC .....	3,994.84
9778	1707 -	FINKLE, DANIEL .....	175.50
9779	2525 -	FIREFIGHTER ONE, LLC .....	2,638.91
9780	4635 -	FRANKLIN SUSSEX AUTO MALL, INC. ....	5,687.95
9781	373 -	GALLS, LLC .....	812.48
9782	2626 -	GENERAL CODE, LLC .....	1,834.00
9783	4384 -	GIBBONS P.C .....	950.00
9784	4506 -	GLENN C KIENZ .....	800.00
9785	4525 -	GLOBAL HR RESEARCH .....	1,368.00
9786	4398 -	GLOBAL RECYCLING SOLUTIONS LLC .....	2,019.32
9787	70 -	HACH COMPANY .....	891.41
9788	3804 -	HAYDEE BALLESTER .....	140.00
9789	230 -	HAYEK'S MARKET INC .....	63.70
9790	4663 -	HERO OUTFITTERS .....	210.00
9791	4337 -	HFE SERVICES LLC .....	1,781.26
9792	1866 -	HOME DEPOT, INC. ....	1,500.33
9793	332 -	J & D SALES & SERVICE, LLC. ....	225.00
9794	113 -	JCP&L .....	232.90
9795	3644 -	JOHNNY ON THE SPOT, LLC. ....	981.25
9796	4359 -	KATIES HOUSE INC .....	25,000.00
9797	2569 -	KIEFFER ELECTRIC, INC .....	13,514.99
9798	4396 -	KIMBALL MIDWEST .....	714.99
9799	2278 -	LANGUAGE LINE SERVICES, INC. ....	13.60
9800	4227 -	LAW OFFICE OF DANIEL P. AGATINO, LLC. ....	1,333.34
9801	4758 -	LEACH STRATEGIC PARTNERS LLC .....	1,000.00
9802	4773 -	MARTIN, DAVID .....	1,545.45
9803	1141 -	MCGUIRE, INC. ....	115.00
9804	409 -	MINISINK PRESS INC .....	592.00
9805	4426 -	MONMOUTH TRUCK EQUIPMENT ACQUISITION .....	502.82
9806	3651 -	MORTON SALT, INC. ....	27,246.66
9807	3926 -	MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS, INC. ....	3,503.24
9808	3926 -	MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS, INC.....	7,966.00
9809	3926 -	MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS, INC.....	120.00
9810	2567 -	MUNICIPAL RECORD SERVICE .....	1,244.00
9811	170 -	NEWTON BOARD OF EDUCATION .....	1,132,716.67
9812	700 -	NEWTON PATROLMANS ASSOCIATION .....	720.00
9813	1745 -	NEWTON SUPERIOR OFFICERS .....	420.00
9814	336 -	NEWTON TROPHY .....	18.00
9815	336 -	NEWTON .....	45.00
9816	2835 -	NJMEBF .....	201,557.00
9817	1762 -	NJSACOP .....	849.00
9818	4771 -	NORTH JERSEY GARAGE DOORS LLC .....	1,190.00
9819	4681 -	NORTHEAST COMMUNICAITONS INC. ....	676,853.98
9820	4383 -	OPTIMUM .....	187.30
9821	1407 -	PASSAIC VALLEY SEWERAGE COMM. ....	9,004.50
9822	4204 -	PLANET NETWORKS INC. ....	159.95
9823	4204 -	PLANET NETWORKS INC. ....	2,556.15
9824	4204 -	PLANET NETWORKS INC.....	49.95
9825	4204 -	PLANET NETWORKS INC. ....	1,359.72
9826	4204 -	PLANET NETWORKS INC. ....	609.90
9827	4204 -	PLANET NETWORKS INC.....	199.95
9828	4204 -	PLANET NETWORKS INC. ....	696.23
9829	4204 -	PLANET NETWORKS INC. ....	1,164.97
9830	4204 -	PLANET NETWORKS INC. ....	6,437.85
9831	4204 -	PLANET NETWORKS INC. ....	8,170.00
9832	2212 -	PROCESS TECH SALES AND SERVICE .....	4,378.00
9833	39 -	QUILL CORPORATION .....	37.96
9834	2478 -	RACHLES/MICHELE'S OIL COMPANY, INC. ....	6,486.87

9835	4203 -	RAPID PUMP .....	3,163.85
9836	4735 -	RCN TECH .....	4,514.65
9837	126 -	SCMUA .....	1,035.63
9838	3134 -	SHOP RITE, INC .....	132.49
9839	4644 -	SIEGEL, STEVEN M.....	2,875.07
9840	1489 -	SMALLEY, JOHN H .....	1,437.50
9841	2312 -	SPECTRUM COMMUNICATIONS, INC. ....	3,494.00
9842	2257 -	STAPLES .....	1,262.28
9843	146 -	STATE OF NEW JERSEY - PWT .....	520.00
9844	273 -	STATE TREASURER .....	50.00
9845	2056 -	SUBURBAN PROPANE, LP. ....	7,868.55
9846	102 -	SUSSEX CAR WASH INC .....	176.00
9847	229 -	SUSSEX COUNTY ECONOMIC .....	295.00
9848	2310 -	SUSSEX COUNTY ENGINEERING DIVISION .....	1,148.30
9849	130 -	SUSSEX COUNTY P & H, INC .....	260.43
9850	371 -	T.A. MOUNTFORD COMPANY, INC.....	2,629.58
9851	2479 -	TAYLOR OIL CO., INC. ....	4,296.78
9852	4772 -	TEETS, MICHELLE .....	220.79
9853	4278 -	TEXAS LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY .....	35.45
9854	3851 -	THE CANNING GROUP, LLC .....	541.74
9855	676 -	THE .....	12,470.00
9856	2880 -	TRACTOR SUPPLY .....	130.42
9857	691 -	TRANS WORLD ASSURANCE CO. ....	400.00
9858	293 -	TREASURER, PETTY CASH FUND .....	162.93
9859	3089 -	UCPO POLICE ACADEMY TRAINING ACCT .....	90.00
9860	4152 -	UNITED SITE SERVICES, INC .....	17,788.39
9861	1257 -	UNUM LIFE/DISABILITY INSUR .....	746.12
9862	2716 -	UPSEU LOCAL .....	672.00
9863	1739 -	VERIZON CONNECT .....	113.70
9864	1158 -	VISION SERVICE .....	2,424.10
9865	2635 -	W.B. MASON, INC. ....	1,139.89
9866	1500 -	WALMART .....	940.65
9867	633 -	WEIS MARKETS, INC. ....	41.12
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>2,655,823.06</b>

**RESOLUTION #287-2023\***

**“Authorizing Change Order No. 1 for ADA Ramps and Signage for the West Nelson Street and Division Street Project”**

**WHEREAS**, the Newton Town Council adopted Resolution #212-2023, awarding the proposed ADA Ramps and Signage for West Nelson Street and Division Street project, to ADS Contractors, LLC, 52 Cooks Road, Pittstown, N.J. 08867, in the amount of \$50,991.53; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Engineer, Harold E. Pellow, of Harold E. Pellow & Associates, Inc., recommends in his memo dated December 4, 2023, approving Change Order No. 1 for the above referenced project for a decrease in the amount of \$8,509.37 for a new contract total of \$42,482.16;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Town Council of the Town of Newton, that it hereby concurs with the Town Engineer's recommendation and accepts Change Order No. 1 for the ADA Ramps and Signage for West Nelson Street and Division Street project; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of Change Order No. 1, and Mr. Pellow's memo be attached to and made part of this Resolution.

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

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

Deputy Mayor Couce (abstain Cks 9822-9831)	Yes	Mr. Dickson	Yes
Mrs. Diglio	Excused	Mrs. Le Frois	Yes
	Mayor Teets	Yes	

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLUTION #285-2023**

**“Refund of Redemption Monies to Outside Lien Holder for Block 22.09, Lot 7, also known as 27 Orchard Street”**

**WHEREAS**, at the Municipal Tax Sale held on October 18, 2023, a lien was sold on Block 22.09, Lot 7, also known as 27 Orchard Street, for 2022 delinquent taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, this lien, known as Tax Sale Certificate #2023-007, was sold to John-Paul Couce, for a 4% redemption fee; and

**WHEREAS**, the owner has effected redemption of Certificate #2023-007 in the amount of \$2,054.00; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Town Council of the Town of Newton that this Governing Body acknowledges John-Paul Couce is entitled to a refund in the amount of \$2,054.00; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Tax Collector be authorized to issue a check in the amount of \$2,054.00 payable to John-Paul Couce, P.O. Box 423, Newton, NJ 07860 for the redemption of Tax Sale Certificate #2023-007.

Mr. Dickson made a motion to approve **RESOLUTION 285-2023**, it was seconded by Mrs. Le Frois and roll call resulted as follows:

Deputy Mayor Couce	Abstained	Mr. Dickson	Yes
Mrs. Diglio	Excused	Mrs. Le Frois	Yes
	Mayor Teets	Yes	

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Mayor Teets opened the meeting to the public.

Ralph Porter, (on Zoom) wanted to reiterate what the previous woman said about the crosswalks and how they are dangerous, not just around the square, but throughout the whole Town. Also, there is a building on Spring Street that has been under construction for about five (5) years, and progress is at a half. The Tyvek is blowing off it and it does not look good for the Town. Can anything be done.

He stated there was a problem with rat infestation in the area of Pine Street this past year. Someone put rat poisoning out, and unfortunately his cat got into it and passed away. He asked if notifications could go on in the future alerting the residents of rat infestations. He does not know if people having chickens contributed to the rat problem but if we have to license our cats and dogs, they should have to license their chickens. Lastly, he asked if the Holiday Party was just for staff or are volunteers included as they have been in the past.

There being no one else wishing to speak either in-person or on Zoom, Mayor Teets closed the hearing.

**COUNCIL MANAGER COMMENTS**

Mr. Russo stated he will mention something to Code Enforcement about notification in the future for any rat issues. He will take a look at the buildings on Spring Street, he was unsure which one Mr. Porter was referring to specifically. The Holiday Party this year is restricted to staff, we did not extend to other groups this year.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Teets read the following statement "in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this Special Closed Session meeting was given to the two newspapers of record and posted on the official bulletin board on January 6, 2023."

Upon motion Mr. Dickson seconded by Mrs. LeFrois and unanimously carried, Council entered Executive Session at 7:45pm.

Mr. Bernstein stated the item to be discussed in the Executive Session is Personnel – Town Manager's Annual Review. Mr. Russo has been given provided a RICE notice, he has chosen not to participate, and he wishes the discussion to be held in Executive Session. Official action may or may not be taken once the meeting is concluded back in public session.

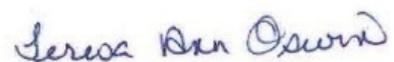
Upon motion of Mrs. Le Frois seconded by Mr. Dickson and unanimously carried, Council exited Executive Session at 11:00pm.

Mr. Bernstein stated all members of the Council present at the commencement of the Executive Session are present at the re-commencement of the open session at 11:00pm as well as the Municipal Clerk Teresa A. Oswin, and Town Attorney Eric Bernstein. No formal action needs to be taken at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to be conducted, upon a motion by Deputy Mayor Couce seconded by Mrs. Le Frois and unanimously carried, the Regular meeting was adjourned at 11:01pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Teresa A. Oswin, RMC  
Municipal Clerk