

OCTOBER 28, 2024

A special meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Newton was held on the above date at 4:00pm. Present were Mr. Dickson, Mrs. Diglio, Mrs. Teets (via phone until 5:05pm and then in person), Deputy Mayor Le Frois, Mayor Couce, and Deputy Municipal Clerk, Kathryn E. Alcock.

The Town Council had scheduled four (4) interviews with various Engineering firms for the 2025 Sewer Engineer position.

At 4:10pm the Mayor read the Open Public Meetings Statement and welcomed Fred Margron and Sarim Jalil from PCI, Inc.

Mr. Margron reviewed his firm and experience. He expressed that the Town of Newton is his favorite client, and he really enjoys working with us. He distributed a list of his completed and outstanding projects with the Town of Newton.

The Council asked about project status and iBank funding. Mr. Margron explained the delay of some projects was due to a change in direction from traditional funding to iBank funding. The Council asked how many employees are at PCI. Mr. Margron replied there are twelve (12) individuals on staff at his firm. Mr. Jalil introduced himself and expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to interview. After several additional questions and answers the Council concluded the interview, thanking Mr. Margron and Mr. Jalil for coming in.

At 5:03pm, The Neglia Group came in for their interview. Councilwoman Michelle Teets arrived in person at 5:05pm. Brian Intindola, Patrick Carberry, and Gary Veenstra were onsite for the interview. Neglia Group presented information about their firm and their proposal. They distributed booklets containing information about towns they found equivalent with the Town of Newton. They have approximately 100 employees on staff at their firm.

The Council asked about their experience with iBank funding. Neglia Group explained they have experience, but the process can take time. The Council also asked about taking over an existing project from another engineer. Neglia explained that if the project is almost at the bid stage, it is preferable for the original engineer to complete it and a new engineer can get involved at the pre-con stage. Neglia also spoke about GIS Mapping services. After several additional questions and answers the Council concluded the interview, thanking Mr. Intindola, Mr. Carberry, and Mr. Veenstra for coming in.

At 5:50pm, PS&S came in for their interview. James Wancho and Sean Sauder were onsite for the interview. Mr. Wancho gave an overview of their firm and reviewed their proposal. Mr. Wancho has been the head of Water Resources for 35 years. Sean Sauder has been with the company for eight (8) years and is the current Senior Project Manager for the Town of Newton.

The Council asked about their iBank funding experience. They have found it to be a great savings to the municipality financially. However, it can be a time-consuming process. The Council also asked about taking over existing projects from another engineer. Mr. Wancho recommends that the existing firm finish any started projects due

OCTOBER 28, 2024

to additional costs to recreate it. After several additional questions and answers the Council concluded the interview, thanking Mr. Wancho and Mr. Sauder for coming in.

At 6:25pm, Suburban Consulting Engineers came in for their interview. Eleni Giannikopoulos, Mike McAloon, and Erin Abline were onsite for the interview. Ms. Giannikopolous presented information about their firm and their proposal.

Ms. Giannikopolous reminded the Council about the successful Memory Park Dredging project her firm handled for the Town of Newton and the funding received through the iBank. She distributed information to the Council regarding iBank funding and a list of current Town of Newton projects currently in the queue with iBank. She explained that her firm can help to fast track some of these through the process and obtain the funds quickly. The Council asked how long the iBank process usually takes. Ms. Giannikopolous explained that to ensure the fastest turnaround for funding approval, they have preliminary meetings with NJDEP regarding the requirements before they design the project. They then design the project according to all requirements and submit through iBank. This ensures the quickest turnaround for funding approval. She also explained the Town of Newton is eligible for the Water Bank program only through the end of 2027 so it would be advisable to apply as many projects as possible to the program.

Mr. McAloon explained his role with the firm and that he is also a Wastewater Manager and Licensed Operator. This is very helpful when working with municipalities on their water and sewer projects. Ms. Abline explained her role with the firm. The Council several questions and all professionals answered them. After several additional questions and answers the Council concluded the interview, thanking Ms. Abline, Ms. Giannikopolous, and Mr. McAloon for coming in.

There being no further business to be discussed, the Council adjourned at 7:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathryn E. Alcock, RMC
Deputy Municipal Clerk