

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. Diglio, Mrs. Teets, Mayor Le Frois, Teresa A. Oswin, Municipal Clerk, and Thomas S. Russo, Jr., Town Manager. Thomas Ferry, CMFO and Dominick DiYanni, Esq., Town Attorney, were also present.

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

Mayor Le Frois 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 3, 2025."

### **PRESENTATIONS**

Mayor Le Frois called forth Chief D'Annibale.

Chief D'Annibale stated the following:

*"Tonight, we are honored to welcome the family of Gunnar J. Bigley as they present the Newton Police Department with a generous donation of \$8,500 to support our UAS program. Through the Gunnar J. Bigley Foundation, Gunnar's legacy continues to make a lasting impact, reflecting his passion for service and law enforcement. These funds will be used to purchase a Truckvault system, ensuring our drone equipment is mission-ready and rapidly deployable in emergencies. We are deeply grateful for the Foundation's commitment to public safety and for keeping Gunnar's spirit alive through their incredible generosity. Thank you."*

Donna Bigley stated the following:

*"Good evening, my name is Donna Bigley and along with my husband Jeff, daughter Rachel, and granddaughter Raylin we are here on behalf of the Gunnar J. Bigley Foundation.*

*In September of 2021 our lives were changed forever when we tragically lost our son and brother Gunnar. Gunnar was a graduate of Newton High School Class of 2020. He was a friend to everyone and truly had the biggest heart. He was a typical teenager, enjoying life to its fullest.*

*When you lose someone so young who had so much yet to give the world, someone with so much potential, the only thing we could think of at the time was how do we not let Gunnar be forgotten, and how do we give Gunnar a legacy?*

*It had always been Gunnar's dream to follow in the footsteps of his grandfather and become a law enforcement officer. Thus, the Gunnar J. Bigley Foundation was born.*

*Our mission is simple. Each year we provide a scholarship to a Newton High School Senior going into the ROTC, the armed forces, or law enforcement. But our main purpose for our foundation is to make Gunnar's dream come true. To somehow make Gunnar's name well-known in the law enforcement community as though he was a member of the force.*

*Each March, the month of Gunnar's birth, and every September the month we lost Gunnar, if requested, we will give a grant to a local police department who has taken the time to educate us on the need for funding within their department. It is not a one-time thing. The Newton Police Department can apply again, and again, and again. It is our hope that we can establish a long running relationship with local law enforcement agencies and partner with them in various ways, whether it be funding or assisting in creating a program for local communities. All in Gunnar's name.*

When we give a grant, we only have one request and that is to say his name: Gunnar. Someone so remarkable needs to be remembered. Someone so remarkable deserves to have his dream come true.

We are thrilled tonight to present the Newton Police Department with a grant in the amount of \$8,500 in order for them to expand their Drone Program. We would like the Newton Police Department to know that their presentation you gave to us was exceptional, and we would be more than happy to continue to work with you. We would love to know of any other initiatives you have in the works. We hope you will reach out to us again when you feel the need. We only ask that you say his name: Gunnar."

At this time Mayor Le Frois read the following statement: "The municipal police department is responsible for maintaining law and order within the Town of Newton. Their primary focus is to ensure public safety by enforcing local laws, preventing and investigating crimes, responding to emergencies, and providing community services. They also help maintain peace in addressing issues such as traffic violations, noise complaints, and disturbances. The leadership of Newton's Police Department plays in ensuring these responsibilities are carried out effectively and ethically. The leadership's purpose includes strategic direction and vision, operational oversight, accountability oversight, community engagement, training and development. In essence the municipal police department and their leadership work together to create a safe and fairer environment while maintaining respect for citizens' rights, fostering trust between law enforcement and the community. Tonight, we have the awesome opportunity to promote, recognize, and officially swear-in the Newton Police Department's next leaders. I am really excited for Chief D'Annibale, Lt. Finkle, and Det. Sgt. Torres. Individually and collectively, they have worked hard, they have demonstrated expertise, dedication and professionalism. They have achieved what is necessary to move on to these next stages of their careers. I have no doubt they will continue to lead the Newton Police Department with excellence. I know they take their responsibilities seriously and will continue to make us proud. To all the officers, dispatchers, and staff that they will lead, I thank you for your dedication and commitment to protect and serve the Town of Newton. Your service does not go unnoticed or unrecognized, nor unappreciated. To the family members of our law enforcement team and community, thank you for supporting your loved ones. We know their sacrifices are also yours. Congratulations again to all, we are so proud of you."

At this time Mayor Le Frois invited Joseph D'Annibale forward to officially be sworn-in as Police Chief.

Mr. Russo read the following bio:

"Joseph D'Annibale is a native of the Town of Newton, where he grew up and attended the Newton School District, graduating from Newton High School in 2001. In January 2004, he began his law enforcement career as a police officer and attended the Morris County Police Academy.

In 2006, he was hired by the Town of Newton Police Department, where he served as a patrolman for the next five years.

In April 2011, Joseph was reassigned to the Detective Bureau. During his tenure, he held several important roles, including Evidence Custodian, Police Liaison to the Newton School District, and Firearms Instructor. He views his experience in the Detective Bureau as a strong foundation for his continued career growth.

In February 2020, Joseph was promoted to Police Sergeant and took command of a patrol squad, supervising three patrol officers. He also served as the lead Firearms Instructor for the Newton Police Department. As a Sergeant, he received several accolades, including a Congressional Certificate of Recognition from Congressman Josh

February 10, 2025

Gottheimer as a "Hometown Hero" for his courageous actions in extinguishing a fire inside a closed business. Additionally, he was awarded a Visions Lifesaving Award from Newton Medical Center for his life-saving CPR intervention.

In June 2022, Joseph was promoted to Lieutenant and took over the Support Services Division.

In November 2024 Joseph was appointed to Acting Chief of Police of the Newton Police Department."

Mayor Le Frois administered the oath for Chief D'Annibale with his wife and daughter by his side.

Chief D'Annibale read the following statement:

*"Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, family and friends, esteemed members of the Newton Police Department, distinguished guests, local law enforcement, Town Manager Thomas Russo, Mayor Helen Le Frois, the Newton Town Council, and fellow residents of Newton, thank you all for being here today.*

*It is an incredible honor to stand before you as the newly appointed Chief of Police in this great town. Today marks the beginning of a new chapter for the Newton Police Department and our community, and I am humbled by the trust that has been placed in me.*

*First and foremost, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to the men and women of the Newton Police Department. As I stand before you today, I am filled with an immense sense of pride and gratitude. Each one of you represents the heart and soul of this department, embodying the values of courage, service, and integrity that define our mission. Together, we will face challenges that demand not just strength, but also compassion, wisdom, and unity.*

*Every call you answer, every moment you spend protecting and serving our community, you make a difference. You are the shield that stands between chaos and order, the light in the darkest of moments, and the hope that our community relies upon. Your sacrifices, often unseen and unacknowledged, do not go unnoticed by me or the countless lives you touch.*

*Remember, the badge you wear is not just a symbol of authority, it is a promise. A promise to uphold justice, treat every individual with dignity, and strive always to be better than we were yesterday. We are not perfect, and neither is the world we serve. But through integrity, accountability, empathy, and teamwork, we can continue to earn the trust and respect of those we are sworn to protect.*

*I ask you to carry this message in your hearts: You are not alone. This department stands together, as a family. When one of us is strong, we all are. When one of us needs support, we will lift them up. Lean on each other, learn from each other, and never hesitate to reach out.*

*As your chief, I promise to lead with transparency, fairness, and unwavering commitment to your safety and success. Together, we will face the challenges ahead with resilience and determination. Together, we will make a difference—not just in our community, but in the lives of each other.*

*I thank you for your service, your bravery, and your dedication. Let us move forward united, inspired, and ready to continue the work that defines who we are.*

*Stay safe, stay strong, and know that I believe in each of you.*

February 10, 2025

Today we also celebrate the well-deserved promotions of two outstanding individuals who have shown exceptional dedication, leadership, and service to our community.

I would like to have this moment to announce the promotion of Daniel Finkle to position of Lieutenant. He certainly has earned this promotion. Dan's dedication, honesty, and unwavering commitment to ensuring the safety and welfare of the community have left a significant mark on our department. He stands as a role model to his peers and a true leader, exemplifying the values we hold dear. Dan, this promotion reflects your hard work and your exceptional ability to lead and innovate with both determination and empathy. We look forward to seeing you continue to lead our team toward even greater accomplishments.

I would also like to announce the promotion of Judy Torres to the position of Detective Sergeant. Judy's unwavering dedication to justice, her exceptional investigative skills, and her commitment to the safety of our community have made a significant impact on our department. She has earned the respect of her colleagues through her professionalism, strong work ethic, and leadership. This promotion reflects not only her hard work but also her ability to lead with integrity, compassion, and insight. I am excited to see how she will continue to contribute to our team's success as she takes on this new role.

At this time, I would like to take a moment to express my sincere thanks to our Town Manager Thomas Russo, the Honorable Mayor Helen Le Frois, and all members of the Newton Town Council. Your leadership, vision, and unwavering commitment to the safety and well-being of our community are truly inspiring. I am grateful for the opportunity to work alongside you to continue moving this great Town forward.

To my family, my wife, Joanna and daughter Meadow, thank you for your unwavering support in this demanding profession. Being the family of a law enforcement officer isn't easy, and yet you always remain steadfast and resilient in the mission. I truly couldn't do this without you. Joanna, your strength, love, and patience mean the world to me, and I am beyond grateful for all that you do.

And Meadow, my amazing daughter, I am beyond proud of you. Your dedication, perseverance, and passion as an athlete inspire me every single day. The commitment and hard work you put into your sport shows your strength and determination, and watching you push yourself to be better is nothing short of incredible. Your discipline and drive motivate me in my own life, and I couldn't be prouder to be your father. No matter what challenges come your way, I know you'll face them with the same grit and heart that make you such an outstanding athlete and person.

To the residents of Newton, I want to assure you that your safety and well-being are my top priority. This department is here to serve you, protect you, and work alongside you to build an even stronger, more connected community.

We are entering a time of growth and change. Together, we will tackle the challenges of the present while preparing for the future. This means ensuring our department remains innovative, fair, and transparent in everything we do. We will focus on crime prevention, community policing, engaging with residents, and building partnerships that strengthen the bond between law enforcement and the people we serve.

I also want to emphasize that our commitment to justice will always be grounded in fairness and respect. Every person in this community deserves to be treated with dignity, and we will work to ensure that Newton is a place where everyone feels safe, heard, and valued.

February 10, 2025

*I know that the road ahead will come with challenges, but with the support of this department, the Town Manager, the Mayor and Council, and the residents of Newton, I have no doubt that we will continue to make our Town an even better place to live, work, and raise our families.*

*Thank you again for this incredible opportunity. I look forward to working with all of you to make Newton the safest, most welcoming community it can be.*

*Let's get to work!*

*Thank you."*

Chief D'Annibale announced the awards recently given at the Department's Holiday Party.

Dan Finkle - Life Saving Award (Fire)

Dan Finkle & Peter Vex – Queens Honor Medal Award

Carol McNally – Chief's Award

Newton Fire and First Aid Squad Award

Russel Post – Life Saving Award (Fire)

Michael Wolanski – Medal of Valor Award

David Dolan and Ashley Kieling – Honorable Service Award

Anthony Kieling and Garrett Armstrong – Medal of Valor Award

Josh Price – Honorable Service Award

Joseph D'Annibale – Honorable Service Award (Fire)

Joseph D'Annibale and Judy Torres – Medical Assistance Award (AED Save)

Justin Sibblies and Raul Couce – Life Saving Award

Kendall Dericks – Honorable Service Award

Anthony Kieling – Exceptional Motivation Award

Raul Couce - Exceptional Motivation

Jordan Harvey – Military Service Award

Next, Mayor Le Frois called forward Daniel Finkle to officially be sworn-in as Lieutenant.

Mr. Russo read the following bio:

*"Dan Finkle was inspired to serve following the heroic acts of first responders on 9/11. He began his public safety career as a volunteer firefighter with the Newton Fire Department in 2002, responding to major incidents such as the Able Oil explosion. Today he remains a member of the department and serves as Director of the Newton Fire Museum.*

*In 2003, Dan joined the Newton Police Department as a Public Safety Telecommunicator, where he answered 9-1-1 calls for 11 municipalities and contributed to helping modernize dispatch operations. Hired as a police officer in 2006 by Chief John Tomasula, he attended the Somerset County Police Academy and spent over 13 years in the Patrol Division, earning recognition for his expertise and sound judgment. In 2013,*

he was awarded the 200 Club of Sussex County Medal of Valor for rescuing an entrapped resident from a house fire.

Since 2008, Dan has served with Newton's Office of Emergency Management and is now the Emergency Management Coordinator, attaining the Advanced Emergency Management Professional and New Jersey Certified Emergency Manager credentials. He helped lead the Town's response to major disasters, including Hurricanes Irene and Sandy and the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2019, Dan was assigned to the Detective Bureau, leading many criminal investigations and specializing in digital forensics as part of the Sussex County Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. Promoted to Sergeant in 2021, he first led a patrol squad before assuming command of the Detective Bureau later that year and leading the successful reinstatement of the School Resource Officer program. He also led the creation of the department's drone unit and the Sussex County Law Enforcement Drone Association.

In November 2024, Dan was assigned as Acting Lieutenant, overseeing the Support Services Division which includes the Detective Bureau, School Resource Officer, 9-1-1 center, animal control, computer network security, and fleet operations. He is a graduate of the prestigious West Point Command & Leadership Academy and holds a bachelor's degree in Public Administration from Fairleigh Dickinson University, with a master's degree expected later this year."

Mayor Le Frois administered the oath to Lt. Finkle with his wife and daughters by his side.

Lt. Finkle thanked everyone, especially Mr. Russo, the Mayor, Town Council, and the Department. He thanked his wife and family for all their support. He is proud of this Department, they show up every day and do their best. It is a top-notch department.

Lastly, Mayor Le Frois called Judy Torres to be sworn-in as Det. Sergeant.

Mr. Russo read the following bio:

"Judy Torres, a native of Ocean County, grew up in the Toms River School District. From a young age, she had a strong desire to become a police officer. She pursued a degree in Criminal Justice at a university in Puerto Rico. Although she successfully navigated a rigorous hiring process in Puerto Rico, she was ineligible due to not having an associate's degree at that time.

In 2016, Judy returned to New Jersey and applied through the Civil Service. She passed the physical fitness test for the New Jersey State Police and was waitlisted. The following year, in 2017, the Department of Corrections contacted her, and she attended the academy at Sea Girt. Upon graduating, she was assigned to the female state corrections facility Edna Mahan Correction Facility.

On December 26, 2018, Judy was hired by Chief Michael Richards and attended the Morris County Police Academy. After graduation, she was assigned to patrol duty.

In 2022, Judy transitioned to the Detective Bureau, where she assumed the role of School and Community Liaison Detective. In this role, she coordinated and participated in numerous community activities and events such as Coffee with a Cop, Walk to School and lectures at Sussex County Community College for the Criminal Justice class and various other community events.

Throughout her career, Judy has taken on various additional duties and certifications, including becoming a certified Chile Passenger Safety Technician, LEAD Instructor, and Defensive Tactics Instructor.

*In November 2024, Judy was appointed as the acting Detective Sergeant, responsible for supervising two detectives, overseeing criminal investigations, and managing the School Resource Officer program."*

Mayor Le Frois administered the oath with her wife by her side.

Det. Sgt. Torres thanked the Manager, Town Council, Mayor, and everyone for their unconditional support including all the other agencies that showed up tonight. It is a great department.

**BREAK** - Ten (10) minutes for pictures.

Mayor Le Frois asked her fellow Councilmembers if they would like to say a few words and started with Mr. Couce.

Mr. Couce stated nineteen (19) years ago he started with the NFAS when Joe was a new officer and now, he is Chief. He has seen all three grow in their careers. He works with the Department every day, and they are very valuable to the Town. He also stated Dan Finkle is an unbelievable asset as he is also the OEM coordinator and does a tremendous amount of work as such. He offered congratulations to all.

Mrs. Diglio concurred with JP. She also added she has known Joe since he was little as he grew up with her sons. She has also known Dan for a long time. She thanked all the Police Officers and Dispatchers for all they do.

Mr. Dickson echoed the congratulations offered, it is well-deserved. As a paramedic he sees a lot of police departments, and he sees how great Newton's is.

Mrs. Teets offered her congratulations to "Joey", she has known him long enough to call him that. She went on to say Judy is such an asset to the community. As for Dan, she has known him the longest and he is the brother she never had. She offered love to them all and hopes they stay safe.

Mayor Le Frois stated she first met the Chief in 2005 when he was in the Patrol Division, even then he led with integrity. Lt. Dan, she is always learning from him from the many hats he wears. Det. Sgt. Torres she had the honor of swearing her in as the first full-time female officer in Newton and has watched her progress through community policing and her mentoring others. She is now the first female Det. Sgt., which is awesome. She offered congratulations to all!

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Upon motion by Mrs. Diglio, seconded by Mr. Dickson, the minutes of the January 15, 2025, Reorganization Meeting were unanimously approved as presented.

Upon motion by Mrs. Diglio, seconded by Mr. Dickson, the minutes of the January 27, 2025, Regular Meeting were approved as presented. Mrs. Teets abstained.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

At this time, Mayor LeFrois 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 Le Frois opened the meeting to the public.

Kathleen Stirrat, President of the Prime-Time Seniors, came forth and thanked the Town Council for support of the club which was started in 2002. She also thanked them for the Town's continued monetary support. They are trying to grow their membership and are looking to get the word out.

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

**COUNCIL & MANAGER REPORTS**

**Town Manager Russo** – stated February is Black History Month and asked the proclamation be noted for the record.

*Office of the Mayor*

**Newton, New Jersey**

# Proclamation

## **Black History Month** **February 2025**

**WHEREAS**, *Black History Month is celebrated annually in February to recognize the contributions that African Americans have made to American history; and*

**WHEREAS**, *Black History Month provides an opportunity to reflect on the significant roles African Americans have played in shaping our nation's history; and*

**WHEREAS**, *Black History Month is an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of African Americans and to recognize their central role in American history; and*

**WHEREAS**, *Black History Month provides an opportunity to educate the public about the important contributions of African Americans to our society; and*

**WHEREAS**, *the Newton Town Council recognizes the importance of Black History Month and encourages all residents to participate in activities that celebrate the achievements of African Americans and promote greater understanding of their contributions to our society;*

**NOW, THEREFORE**, *we, the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Newton, hereby proclaim **February 2025** as **Black History Month** in the Town of Newton and encourage all residents to participate in activities that celebrate the achievements of African Americans and promote greater understanding of their contributions to our society.*

February 10, 2025

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

/s/ Helen R. Le Frois

Attest: /s/ Teresa A. Oswin

Date: February 10, 2025

**Councilman Couce** – nothing to report at this time.

**Deputy Mayor Dickson** – nothing to report at this time.

**Councilmember Diglio** – nothing to report at this time.

**Councilmember Teets** – nothing to report at this time.

**Mayor Le Frois** – she along with Mrs. Teets and Mrs. Diglio attended the GNCC fundraiser last Friday night. It was well attended and about 85% of the attendees were non-residents. She hopes they get more non-residents into Town to see how great Newton is.

**ORDINANCES**

Mayor Le Frois read aloud the following Ordinance relative to adoption.

**ORDINANCE 2025-1**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A LAND DONATION KNOWN AS BLOCK 5.04, LOT 5 (7 CHERRY STREET)**

**WHEREAS**, Town Square Gardens, LLC, the owner of a certain property located in the Town of Newton ("Town") and designated as Block 5.04, Lot 5 on the official Tax Map of the Town, otherwise known as 7 Cherry Street ("Property"), has approached the Town to offer the Property to the Town by donation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town is authorized to acquire land by donation in accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Local Lands and Building Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:12-1 et seq. and, specifically, N.J.S.A. 40A:12-5(a)(1), pursuant to a duly adopted ordinance; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town has, after consultation with its Tax Assessor and engineering professionals, determined that the acceptance of the donation of this land is in the best interests of the Town of Newton; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town desires to accept the donation of the Property, subject to due diligence regarding environmental or any other issues that may affect the Town's acceptance and ownership of the Property;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED**, by the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Newton, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The Town of Newton is hereby authorized in accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Local Lands and Buildings Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:12-1 et seq., to accept the donation and transfer of the land known as:
  - a. Block 5.04, Lot 5 on the official Tax Map of the Town of Newton, also known as 7 Cherry Street.
2. The acceptance of the Property is subject to and contingent upon final review, which includes the Town and/or its professionals conducting due diligence regarding environmental and any other issues that may affect the Town's acceptance and/or ownership of the Property and receiving adequate

assurance that the Property is free of environmental and/or any other deleterious substances.

3. The Town Manager, the Town Clerk, and Town Attorney are hereby authorized to take all necessary action to implement the acceptance of the Property.
4. The Town Attorney is authorized to prepare any and all necessary documents and the Mayor and Town Clerk are authorized, as may be required, to execute any and all necessary documents for the acceptance by the Town of Newton for this Property.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that:

(1) All ordinances or parts of the ordinance which are inconsistent with the terms of this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of their inconsistencies.

(2) This Ordinance shall take effect upon due passage and publication in accordance with law.

Mayor Le Frois opened the meeting to the public.

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

Mayor Le Frois asked if the Council has any comments.

Mr. Couce questioned taking another parcel off the tax rolls and losing revenue.

A lengthy discussion ensued.

No action was taken. The Ordinance was therefor defeated.

Mayor Le Frois read aloud the following Ordinance relative to adoption.

**ORDINANCE 2025-2**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND, REVISE, AND SUPPLEMENT THE TOWN CODE OF THE TOWN OF NEWTON, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, CHAPTER 266 OF THE TOWN CODE, ENTITLED "STREETS AND SIDEWALKS," MOST NOTABLY SECTION 266-42, ENTITLED "NOTICES"**

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 266 of the Town Code addresses streets and sidewalks in Town, as well as within same the issue of notice related to said repairing, the Town would like to amend, revise, and supplement said notice to place same in accordance with the paving oversight;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Newton, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey to amend, revise and supplement Chapter 266 of the Town Code, entitled "Streets and Sidewalks," most notably Section 266-42, entitled "Notices," as follows:

**§ 266-42 Notices.**

"Whenever the Town Council enacts an ordinance or resolution providing for the paving and/or repaving of a street and/or sidewalk in the Town, the Supervisor or Assistant Supervisor for Public Works for the Town [municipal Clerk] shall promptly mail a written notice thereof to each person or business or corporation or company or their designee(s) owning sewers, mains, conduits, and/or other utilities in or under said street or sidewalk of owning any real property whether improved or unimproved, abutting said street or sidewalk. Such notice shall notify such persons, business, company, and/or corporation or their designee(s) that any application for an excavation permit for openings, cuts and/or excavations for work to be done in or under said street and/or sidewalk prior to such paving and/or

repaving shall be submitted promptly in order that the work covered by such excavation permit [may] should be completed not later than forty-five (45) calendar days from the date of enactment of such ordinance or resolution. The Supervisor or Assistant Supervisor of Public Works [municipal Clerk] shall also promptly mail copies of such notice to all known occupants of all houses, buildings, and/or other structures abutting said street or sidewalk and to any governmental agencies and/or departments and/or other persons who may desire to perform excavation work in said street and/or sidewalk."

All other provisions of Chapter 266 of the Newton Town Code shall remain in full force and effect as currently exist in the Town Code.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED THAT:**

1. Severability. If any provision of this Ordinance or the application of this Ordinance to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the remainder of this Ordinance shall not be affected and shall remain in full force and effect.
2. Repealer. All ordinances or parts of ordinances or resolutions that are inconsistent with this Ordinance or any provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed in their entirety.
3. Effective Date. This Ordinance will take effect after publication and passage according to law.

Mayor Le Frois opened the meeting to the public.

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

Mayor Le Frois asked if the Council has any comments.

Mrs. Diglio questioned why we are putting responsibility for notices into the hands of the DPW.

Mr. Russo explained the DPW would be more in tune with what we are doing as far as road work, rather than the Municipal Clerk.

The aforementioned **ORDINANCE** was offered by Mr. Dickson who moved for its adoption, it was seconded by Mrs. Teets, and the roll call resulted as follows:

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

Mayor Le Frois read aloud the following Ordinance relative to adoption.

**ORDINANCE 2025-3**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND, REVISE, AND SUPPLEMENT THE TOWN CODE OF THE TOWN OF NEWTON, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, CHAPTER 105, ENTITLED "FILMING", MOST NOTABLY SECTION 105-3, ENTITLED "ISSUANCE OF PERMITS" AND SECTION 105-4, ENTITLED "PERFORMANCE OF PERMIT HOLDER"**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Newton ("Town") has determined that there is a need to amend, revise, and supplement certain sections of Chapter 105, entitled "Filming", most notably, Section 105-3, entitled "Issuance of Permits", and Section 105-4, entitled "Performance of Permit Holder";

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED**, by the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Newton, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey that Chapter 105 of the Newton Town Code, entitled "Filming", most notably Section 105-3, entitled "Issuance of Permits", subsections (A) and (D), be amended, revised, and/or supplemented to now read as follows:

**§ 105-3. Issuance of permits.**

- A. No permits will be issued by the Town Clerk unless applied for prior to ~~five~~ four (4) days before the requested shooting date; provided, however, that the Town Manager may waive the ~~five~~ four-day period if, in his judgment, the applicant has obtained all related approvals and adjacent property owners or tenants do not need to be notified. Projects may, depending on the needs of the sequence that they are filming, have to apply for and receive approval from other municipal agencies and/or departments (i.e. police, fire, zoning, animal control, department of health, etc.) before a permit can be issued.
  
- D. The posting of a cash bond of not ~~less~~ more than ~~\$500~~ \$1,000.00 is required. The exact amount of the maintenance bond will be determined by the Town Manager to protect the Town and to ensure that the location utilized will be left after filming in a satisfactory condition, free of debris, rubbish, and equipment, and that due observance of all Town ordinances, laws, and regulations will be followed. Within seven (7) calendar days of the completion of filming, the Town will return the bond, if there has been no damage to public property or public expense caused by the filming.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, by the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Newton, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey that Chapter 105 of the Newton Town Code, entitled "Filming", most notably Section 105-4, entitled "Performance of Permit Holder", subsections (C) (E) and (F) are hereby amended, revised, and/or supplemented to now read as follows:

**§ 105-4. Performance of permit holder.**

- C. Filming in residential zones shall be permitted ~~Monday through Friday~~ seven (7) calendar days per week between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., (camera wrap) and 10:00 p.m. (crew wrap) provided that all requests for night scenes shall be approved in the permit. The setup, production, and breakdown required by all filming shall be included in the hours as set forth herein.
  
- E. The Town Manager may authorize ~~filming other than during the hours herein described~~ a waiver to any provision, limitation, or restriction of this Chapter . In determining whether to ~~allow an extension of hours~~ to issue a waiver under this section, the Town Manager, in consultation with applicable Town agencies, and/or departments, shall consider the following factors:
  - (1) Traffic congestion at the location caused by vehicles to be parked on the public street;
  - (2) Applicant's ability to remove film-related vehicles off the public streets;
  - (3) When the applicant is requesting restrictions on the use of public streets and/or public parking during the course of the filming;
  - (4) Nature of the film shoot itself; e.g. indoors or outdoors, day or night;
  - (5) Prior experience of the film company/applicant with the Town, if any;
  - (6) Consultation with representatives of the neighborhood wherein the filming is to take place.

F. Copies of the approved permit shall be sent to the Police, Fire, and Public Works departments, as well as a copy to be sent to the New Jersey Motion Picture & Television Commission, before filming takes place. The applicant shall allow the Fire Prevention Bureau or other Town inspectors to inspect the site and the equipment to be used. The applicant shall comply with all safety instructions issued by the Town Fire Prevention Bureau and/or other Town inspectors and/or any other governmental inspectors/officials.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, that:

(1) All ordinances or parts of ordinance which are inconsistent with the terms of this Ordinance be and the same are hereby repealed to the extent of their inconsistencies.

(2) This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon due passage and publication in accordance with law.

(3) A copy of this Ordinance shall be provided to the New Jersey Motion Picture & Television Commission within ten (10) calendar days of adoption.

Mayor Le Frois opened the meeting to the public.

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

Mayor Le Frois asked if the Council has any comments.

The aforementioned **ORDINANCE** was offered by Mrs. Teets, who moved for its adoption, it was seconded by Mr. Dickson, and the roll call resulted as follows:

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

Mayor Le Frois read aloud the following Ordinance relative to introduction and asked Mr. Russo to give a brief explanation of the ordinance.

**ORDINANCE 2025-4**

**CALENDAR YEAR 2025**

**AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK**

**(N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)**

The aforementioned **ORDINANCE** was offered by Mrs. Diglio who moved for its introduction, it was seconded by Mr. Dickson, and the roll call resulted as follows:

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

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Town Council of the Town of Newton that the above Ordinance be introduced for the first reading, with a hearing on the same to be held on Monday, February 24, 2025 at 7:00 pm or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Le Frois 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 #77-2025\***

**“Approval of Extension of Contract Chemical Supply Bid #16R-2022 - Amended”**

**WHEREAS**, there is a need for Chemical Supplies for use at the Town of Newton Water and Sewer Treatment Plants; and

**WHEREAS** the Town publicly advertised in a fair and open manner consistent with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5 and received and opened bids for Bid #16R-2022 Chemical Supply; and

**WHEREAS** the Town awarded the bid through Resolution #81-2023 on February 13, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Local Public Contracts Law at N.J.S.A. 40A:11-15 allows for two (2), one (1) year extensions to bid contracts, or one (1), two (2) year extension to bid contracts; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the desire of the Town to extend the bid contract awarded for an additional one (1) year under the tenets as found within Bid #16R-2022; and

**WHEREAS**, this resolution amends Resolution #58-2025 for JCI Chemicals per pound from \$1.5333 to \$1.62 per pound; and

**WHEREAS**, the Newton Chief Municipal Financial Officer has certified funds will be available as per the attached certification;

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

- 1. Main Pool & Chemical Co. Inc., 110 Commerce Road, Dupont, Pennsylvania 18641** is awarded a one (1) year contract for Bid Item 1 - Liquid sodium carbonate, as called for in the Specifications 90,000 gallons 15% yearly at the rate of \$1.37/gallon - \$123,300.00, 3-5 days;
- 2. Holland Company Inc., 153 Howland Avenue, Adams, Massachusetts 01220** is awarded a one (1) year contract for Bid Item 2 - Epic WWW 2400 24,000 – 26,000 gallons yearly at the rate of \$5.71/Gallon estimated yearly at \$137,040-\$148,450.00, deliverable in 1-3 days;
- 3. JCI Jones Chemicals Inc., 1765 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota, Florida 34236**, is awarded a one (1) year contract for Bid Item 3 - Liquid gas sulfur dioxide, as called for in the Specifications 10,950 pounds at the rate of \$1.62/ lb, estimated at \$17,739.00;
- 4. Main Pool & Chemical Co. Inc., 110 Commerce Road, Dupont, Pennsylvania 18641**, is awarded a one (1) year contract for Bid Item 5 - Liquid Sodium Hydroxide, as called for in Specifications 5,500 gallons

25%, at the rate of \$4.28/gallon - \$23,540.00;

5. **George S. Coyne Chemical Company Inc., 3015 State Road, Croydon, Pennsylvania 19021-6997** is awarded a one (1) year contract for Bid Item 6 - Liquid Hydrofluosilic Acid, as called for in Specifications 1,250 gallons \$7.5458/gallon - \$9,432.25;
6. **Main Pool & Chemical Co. Inc., 110 Commerce Road, Dupont, Pennsylvania 18641**, is awarded a one (1) year contract for Bid Item 7 - Liquid Sodium Hypochlorite, as called for in Specifications 7,500 gallons, at the rate of \$3.90/gallon - \$29,250.00, 3-5 days.

**RESOLUTION #78-2025\***

**"Resolution of the Town of Newton, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey, Determining the Form and Other Details of its "Note Relating to the Water Bank Construction Financing Program of the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank", to be Issued in the Principal Amount Not To Exceed \$2,155,000, and Providing for the Issuance and Sale of Such Note to the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank, and Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of Such Note by the Town of Newton in Favor of the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank, all Pursuant to the Water Bank Construction Financing Program of the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank"**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Newton (the "Local Unit"), in the County of Sussex, New Jersey, has determined there exists a need within the Local Unit to acquire, construct, renovate, or install various drinking water treatment plant improvements, including all work and materials necessary therefor and incidental thereto (Project No. 1915001-001) (the "Project"), and it is the desire of the Local Unit to obtain financing for such Project through participation in the environmental infrastructure financing program (the "Environmental Infrastructure Financing Program") of the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank (the "I-Bank"); and

**WHEREAS**, the Local Unit has determined to temporarily finance the acquisition, construction, renovation, or installation of the Project prior to the closing with respect to the Environmental Infrastructure Financing Program, and to undertake such temporary financing with the proceeds of a short-term loan to be made by the I-Bank (the "Construction Loan") to the Local Unit, pursuant to the Construction Financing Program of the I-Bank (the "Construction Financing Program"); and

**WHEREAS**, in order to (i) evidence and secure the repayment obligation of the Local Unit to the I-Bank with respect to the Construction Loan and (ii) satisfy the requirements of the Construction Financing Program, it is the desire of the Local Unit to issue and sell to the I-Bank the "Note Relating to the Water Bank Construction Financing Program of the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank" in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$2,155,000 (the "Note"); and

**WHEREAS**, it is the desire of the Local Unit to authorize, execute, attest, and deliver the Note to the I-Bank pursuant to the terms of the Local Bond Law of the State of New Jersey, constituting Chapter 2 of Title 40A of the Revised Statutes of the State of New Jersey (the "Local Bond Law"), and other applicable law; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 28 of the Local Bond Law allows for the sale of the Note to the I-Bank, without any public offering, and N.J.S.A. 58:11B-9 allows for the sale of the Note to the I-Bank without any public offering, all under the terms and conditions set forth herein;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Town Council of the Local Unit as follows:

**Section 1.** In accordance with Section 28 of the Local Bond Law and N.J.S.A. 58:11B-9, the Local Unit hereby authorizes the issuance, sale and award the Note, including any renewals thereof, in accordance with the provisions hereof. The obligation represented by the Note has been appropriated and authorized by bond ordinances #2023-08 and #2024-25 of the Local Unit, which bond ordinances are entitled "BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$1,110,000 FOR VARIOUS WATER/SEWER

IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE TOWN OF NEWTON, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, NEW JERSEY AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,110,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWN FOR FINANCING PART OF THE APPROPRIATION" and "BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$1,545,000 FOR VARIOUS WATER/SEWER IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE TOWN OF NEWTON, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, NEW JERSEY AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,545,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWN FOR FINANCING PART OF THE APPROPRIATION," respectively, and were finally adopted by the Local Unit at meetings duly called and held on April 24, 2023 and September 11, 2024, respectively, at which times a quorum was present and acted throughout, all pursuant to the terms of the Local Bond Law and other applicable law.

**Section 2.** The Chief Municipal Finance Officer of the Local Unit (the "Chief Municipal Finance Officer") is hereby authorized to determine, in accordance with the Local Bond Law and pursuant to the terms and conditions hereof, (i) the final principal amount of the Note (subject to the maximum limitation set forth in Section 4(a) hereof), and (ii) the dated date of the Note.

**Section 3.** Any determination made by the Chief Municipal Finance Officer pursuant to the terms hereof shall be conclusively evidenced by the execution and attestation of the Note by the parties authorized pursuant to Section 4(h) hereof.

**Section 4.** The Local Unit hereby determines that certain terms of the Note shall be as follows:

- (a) the principal amount of the Note to be issued shall be an amount not to exceed \$2,155,000;
- (b) the maturity of the Note shall be as set forth in the Note;
- (c) the interest rate of the Note shall be as set forth in the Note;
- (d) the purchase price for the Note shall be par;
- (e) the Note shall be subject to prepayment prior to its stated maturity in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Note;
- (f) the Note shall be issued in a single denomination and shall be numbered "NJWB-CFP-25-1";
- (g) the Note shall be issued in fully registered form and shall be payable to the registered owner thereof as to both principal and interest in lawful money of the United States of America; and
- (h) the Note shall be executed by the manual or facsimile signatures of the Mayor and the Chief Municipal Finance Officer under official seal or facsimile thereof affixed, printed, engraved or reproduced thereon and attested by the manual signature of the Local Unit Clerk.

**Section 5.** The Note shall be substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A.

**Section 6.** The law firm of Gibbons P.C. is hereby authorized to arrange for the printing of the Note, which law firm may authorize McCarter & English, LLP, bond counsel to the I-Bank for the Construction Financing Program, to arrange for same.

**Section 7.** The Authorized Officers (as defined in the Note) of the Local Unit are hereby further severally authorized to (i) execute and deliver, and the Local Unit Clerk is hereby further authorized to attest to such execution and to affix the corporate seal of the Local Unit to, any document, instrument or closing certificate deemed necessary, desirable or convenient by the Authorized Officers or the Secretary of the Local Unit, as applicable, in their respective sole discretion, after consultation with counsel and any advisors to the Local Unit and after further consultation with the I-Bank and its representatives, agents, counsel and advisors, to be executed in connection with the issuance and sale of the Note and the participation of the Local Unit in the Construction Financing Program, which determination shall be conclusively evidenced by the execution of each such certificate or other document by the party authorized hereunder to execute such certificate or other document, and (ii) perform such other actions as the Authorized Officers deem necessary, desirable or convenient in relation to the execution and delivery of the Note and the participation of the Local Unit in the Construction Financing Program.

**Section 8.** This resolution shall take effect immediately.

**Section 9.** Upon the adoption hereof, the Local Unit Clerk shall forward certified copies of this resolution to John D. Draikiwicz, Esq., Gibbons P.C., bond counsel to the Local Unit, David Zimmer, Executive Director of the I-Bank, and Richard T. Nolan, Esq., McCarter & English, LLP, bond counsel to the I-Bank.

**RESOLUTION #79-2025\***

**“Authorize Refund of Taxes; Block 18.04, Lot 8, for a 100% Disabled Veteran Exemption”**

**WHEREAS**, Ronald R. Miele III owns Block 18.04, Lot 8, also known as 31 Woodside Avenue, Newton, New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS**, the Municipal Tax Assessor has granted a 100% Disabled Veteran Tax Exemption on January 13, 2025 for the property owned by Ronald R. Miele III; and

**WHEREAS**, the property taxes for Block 18.04, Lot 8, are paid through the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2024, therefore, a refund is necessary and a portion of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2024 and the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2025 taxes need to be canceled; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tax Collector has determined the amount to be refunded and cancelled for a portion of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2024 is \$946.22 and the amount of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2025 taxes to be cancelled is \$3,753.72;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Town Council of the Town of Newton that the Governing Body acknowledges a refund is due to Ronald R. Miele III in the total amount of \$946.22 which is retroactive to November 15, 2024 and this refund is the result of a 100% Disabled Veteran Tax Exemption and a portion of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2024 and the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2025 taxes need to be canceled; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Treasurer be authorized to issue a check in the total amount of \$946.22 to Ronald R. Miele III, 31 Woodside Avenue, Newton, NJ 07860 and the Tax Collector be authorized to cancel a portion of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2024 taxes and the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2025 taxes.

**RESOLUTION #80-2025\***

**“Refund of Redemption Monies to Outside Lien Holder for Block 5.05, Lot 12, also known as 18 Clinton Street”**

**WHEREAS**, at the Municipal Tax Sale held on October 10, 2024 a lien was sold on Block 5.05, Lot 12, also known as 18 Clinton St., for 2023 delinquent taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, this lien, known as Tax Sale Certificate #2024-002 was sold to RTLF-NJ II LLC for a 0% redemption fee and a premium of \$12,600.00; and

**WHEREAS**, on behalf of the owner, GlobalServe Title Agency Corp, has affected the redemption of Certificate #2024-002 in the amount of \$12,002.93;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Town Council of the Town of Newton that this Governing Body acknowledges RTLF-NJ II LLC is entitled to a redemption in the amount of \$12,002.93 as well as the return of the premium in the amount of \$12,600.00; 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 \$12,002.93 for the redemption and a check in the amount of \$12,600.00 for the return of the premium for Certificate #2024-002 to RTLF-NJ II LLC, PO Box 71054, Chicago, IL 60694.

**RESOLUTION #81-2025\***

**“Authorize the Award of a Required Disclosure Contract with Interior Motives for Fire House Furniture”**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Newton Fire Department has a need for furniture solutions for its daily operations supplied by Interior Motives, 445 US 202 South, Flemington, NJ 08822, as a required disclosure contract pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5; and

**WHEREAS**, Interior Motives has supplied a quote in the amount of \$31,000.00, acceptable to the Town; and

**WHEREAS**, Interior Motives has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification and a Personal Contribution Disclosure form which certifies the vendor has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Town of Newton in the previous one year, and the contract will prohibit the vendor from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

**WHEREAS**, the Newton Chief Municipal Finance Officer has certified funds will be available as per the attached certification;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and Council of the Town of Newton authorizes the Newton Town Manager to enter into a contract with Interior Motives, 445 US 202 South, Flemington, NJ 08822 not to exceed \$31,000.00 for Fire Department furniture; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Business Disclosure Entity Certification and Personal Contribution Disclosure Form, Determination of Value be placed on file in the Municipal Clerk's office.

**RESOLUTION #82-2025\***

**“Approval of a Renewal Application for Taxicab Driver's License for Glenn T. Spicer”**

**WHEREAS**, the Code of the Town of Newton requires under **§283.2, License Required**. “No person shall operate a taxicab within the town unless both the owner and the driver of the taxicab are licensed under this chapter.” “All licenses issued under this chapter are deemed valid for one (1) year and requests for renewal must be submitted at least thirty (30) days prior to expiration to the Chief of Police”; and

**WHEREAS**, the Newton Police Department has completed the necessary investigation and submitted a letter advising the renewal Taxicab Driver's license application is complete and accurate; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Town Council of the Town of Newton that it hereby approves the application for the renewal Taxicab Driver's License submitted by Glenn T. Spicer, 81 Skytop Road, Newton, NJ 07860 and represents D.A.D.S. Taxi & Limo, which will expire on November 26, 2025.

**RESOLUTION #83-2025\***

**“Approval of a Renewal Application for Taxicab Driver's License for Doragail Spicer”**

**WHEREAS**, the Code of the Town of Newton requires under **283-2, License Required**. “No person shall operate a taxicab within the town unless both the owner and the driver of the taxicab are licensed under this chapter.” “All licenses issued under this chapter are deemed valid for one (1) year and requests for renewal must be submitted at least thirty (30) days prior to expiration to the Chief of Police”; and

**WHEREAS**, the Newton Police Department has completed the necessary investigation and submitted a letter advising the renewal Taxicab Driver's license application is complete and accurate; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Town Council of the Town of Newton that it hereby approves the application for the renewal Taxicab Driver's License submitted by Doragail Spicer, 81 Skytop Road, Newton, NJ 07860 and represents D.A.D.S. Taxi & Limo, which will expire on November 26, 2025.

**RESOLUTION #84-2025\***

**“Approval of a Renewal Application for Taxicab Owner’s License for Doragail Spicer t/a DADS Taxi & Limo”**

**WHEREAS**, the Code of the Town of Newton requires under **§283.2, License Required**, “No person shall operate a taxicab within the town unless both the owner and the driver of the taxicab are licensed under this chapter.” “All licenses issued under this chapter are deemed valid for one (1) year and requests for renewal must be submitted at least thirty (30) days prior to the expiration to the Chief of Police”; and

**WHEREAS**, the Police Department has completed the necessary investigation and submitted a letter advising the renewal Taxicab Owner's License application is complete and accurate; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with **§283.6, Inspection of Vehicles**, “Before a vehicle is used as a taxicab within the Town it shall be inspected...to ascertain that it is in a safe, clean and sanitary condition and contains all safety devices required by law”;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Town Council of the Town of Newton that it hereby approves the renewal Taxicab Owner's License application submitted by Doragail Spicer, 81 Skytop Road, Newton, NJ 07860, t/a D.A.D.S. Taxi & Limo, which shall expire November 26, 2025; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the applicant must remain in compliance with all aspects of **Chapter 283**, of the Code of the Town of Newton, as well as, the provisions of N.J.R.S. 46:16.

**RESOLUTION #85-2025\***

**“Concur with the Town Manager’s Appointment of School Crossing Guards for 2024-2025 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 the following individuals as School Crossing Guards for the 2024-2025 school year.

Bert Bodensieck  
Michelle Pizzo

**RESOLUTION #86-2025\***

**“Approve 2024 Appropriation Reserve Transfers - Amended”**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Town Council of the Town of Newton that the following 2024 Appropriation Reserve transfers be approved effective this date:

**CURRENT FUND 2024 BUDGET RESERVE:**

<b>ACCOUNT</b>	<b>TO AMOUNT</b>	<b>ACCOUNT</b>	<b>FROM AMOUNT</b>
<b>Assessment of Taxes – Other Expenses</b>	<b>5,000.00</b>	<b>CENCOM – Salaries and Wages</b>	<b>11,600.00</b>

<b>Streets and Roads – Other Expenses</b>	<b>2,000.00</b>	<b>Vehicle Maintenance – Other Expenses</b>	<b>4,000.00</b>
<b>Police Department – Other Expenses</b>	<b>3,000.00</b>	<b>Police Department – Salaries and Wages</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>
<b>Buildings and Grounds – Other Expenses</b>	<b>3,000.00</b>		
<b>Planning Board – Other Expenses</b>	<b>3,600.00</b>		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$16,600.00</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$16,600.00</b>

**RESOLUTION #87-2025\***

<b>Check No.</b>	<b>Vendor #</b>	<b>Vendor Name</b>	<b>Amount</b>
12434	84	- ABCODE SECURITY INC.	\$80.00
12435	2799	- AFLAC	\$2,743.58
12436	4106	- AKK GAS & WELDING SUPPLY CO., INC.	\$2,195.00
12437	1651	- AMANJ	\$100.00
12438	3897	- AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	\$328.15
12439	3869	- AMERICAN FIDELITY ASSURANCE	\$669.80
12440	3868	- AMERICAN FIDELITY ASSURANCE COMPANY	\$250.00
12441	3891	- ARMSTRONG, ADAM	\$400.00
12442	4478	- ATLANTIC COMMUNICATIONS ELECTRONICS INC.	\$3,711.00
12443	4559	- AWERTSCHENKO, MICHAEL	\$400.00
12444	4733	- BLOODGOOD LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING GROUP	\$390.00
12445	300	- BRIGHTSPEED	\$125.85
12446	702	- C W A LOCAL 1032	\$395.00
12447	3015	- CAPITOL SUPPLY CONST PRODUCTS, INC.	\$557.26
12448	506	- CARR, JOSEPH	\$400.00
12449	4235	- CHAMPIGNON, CRAIG	\$400.00
12450	2697	- CIVIC PLUS LLC	\$17,888.02
12451	4864	- COASTAL ENGINEERING, LLC.	\$5,880.00
12452	4147	- CONVERGINT TECHNOLOGIES, LLC.	\$4,986.28
12453	4740	- CRAWN DOUG	\$400.00
12454	4500	- CRYSTAL MOUNTAIN SPRINGS	\$154.80
12455	4525	- DISA GLOBAL SOLUTIONS	\$108.00
12456	4775	- ENGIE POWER & GAS LLC #411330	\$7,489.58
12457	4385	- ERIC M. BERNSTEIN & ASSOCIATES, LLC.	\$7,374.00
12458	3045	- EXCEL ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES, INC.	\$2,392.50
12459	4774	- FABERS GARAGE LLC	\$981.42
12460	4741	- FITZGERALD DILLON	\$400.00
12461	4346	- FOVEONICS DOCUMENT SOLUTIONS	\$3,600.00
12462	4635	- FRANKLIN SUSSEX AUTO MALL, INC.	\$666.40
12463	373	- GALLS, LLC	\$2,394.48
12464	1608	- GOLD TYPE BUSINESS MACHINES	\$3,101.52
12465	4884	- GOVERNMENT EDUCATION SOLUTIONS	\$25.00
12466	4600	- GUEST, JOSHUA	\$400.00
12467	70	- HACH COMPANY	\$929.10
12468	4337	- HFE SERVICES LLC	\$690.00
12469	1866	- HOME DEPOT, INC.	\$100.00
12470	332	- J & D SALES & SERVICE, LLC.	\$2,361.55
12471	3235	- J. CALDWELL & ASSOCIATES, LLC.	\$2,595.00
12472	1714	- JAEKEL, KENNETH	\$400.00
12473	113	- JCP&L	\$3,283.39
12474	3700	- JENNIFER DODD	\$36.77
12475	4836	- JESKY PHIL	\$400.00

February 10, 2025

12476	365	- KITHCART, BROCK	\$400.00
12477	2848	- LEYMAN ROY	\$400.00
12478	3985	- LEYMAN, JUSTIN	\$400.00
12479	4040	- LOEFFELS WASTE OIL SERVICE LLC	\$682.75
12480	2300	- LOWE'S , INC.	\$41.17
12481	3792	- MACKENZIE AUTOMATIC DOORS	\$1,530.00
12482	1347	- MCAA OF NEW JERSEY	\$40.00
12483	2854	- MCGARRY DUSTIN	\$400.00
12484	1141	- MCGUIRE, INC.	\$1,888.88
12485	3651	- MORTON SALT, INC.	\$30,075.63
12486	1638	- NEW JERSEY WATER ASSOCIATION	\$660.00
12487	700	- NEWTON PATROLMANS ASSOCIATION	\$900.00
12488	1745	- NEWTON SUPERIOR OFFICERS	\$420.00
12489	2456	- NIELSEN FORD	\$42.00
12490	2835	- NJMEBF	\$266,321.00
12491	2844	- NORTH JERSEY COURT ADMIN. ASSOC.	\$100.00
12492	3982	- NRAAO	\$40.00
12493	4383	- OPTIMUM	\$79.85
12494	4914	- ORCHARD DSTREET STUDIO	\$300.00
12495	2718	- OSWIN III WILLIAM	\$400.00
12496	1407	- PASSAIC VALLEY SEWERAGE COMM.	\$8,788.50
12497	4656	- PAULUS, SOKOLOWSKI & SARTOR LLC	\$990.00
12498	64	- PELLOW, HAROLD & ASSO, INC.	\$7,025.01
12499	64	- PELLOW, HAROLD & ASSO, INC.	\$4,557.25
12500	64	- PELLOW, HAROLD & ASSO, INC.	\$2,719.25
12501	4204	- PLANET NETWORKS INC.	\$5,532.10
12502	2212	- PROCESS TECH SALES AND SERVICE	\$2,084.33
12503	1217	- PUBLIC WORKS ASSN OF NJ	\$90.00
12504	2478	- RACHLES/MICHELE'S OIL COMPANY, INC.	\$6,059.31
12505	4425	- Reliance Standard Life Insurance Co	\$453.28
12506	4236	- ROWETT, ERIK	\$400.00
12507	1163	- RUTGERS CENTER FOR GOV'T SERV., INC	\$95.00
12508	4400	- RUTGERS,OFFICE OF CONTINUING ED	\$590.00
12509	1261	- S/NJ EMPLOYER ACCOUNTS	\$4,054.60
12510	126	- SCMUA	\$2,930.73
12511	4830	- SEARCH GEEK SOLUTIONS LLC	\$1,416.67
12512	4835	- SHACKLETON JAKE	\$400.00
12513	643	- SHERWIN-WILLIAMS, INC.	\$24.40
12514	4761	- SMARSH INC.	\$80.93
12515	2257	- STAPLES	\$1,273.01
12516	4412	- STRATEGIC GOVERNMENT RESOURCES, INC.	\$99.00
12517	280	- STRAWAY, THOMAS	\$400.00
12518	2056	- SUBURBAN PROPANE, LP.	\$5,337.81
12519	3442	- SUNLIGHT GENERAL	\$773.60
12520	102	- SUSSEX CAR WASH INC	\$304.00
12521	2561	- SUSSEX COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	\$1,225.00
12522	130	- SUSSEX COUNTY P & H, INC.	\$842.20
12523	371	- T.A. MOUNTFORD COMPANY, INC.	\$700.00
12524	2479	- TAYLOR OIL CO., INC.	\$2,435.31
12525	1218	- TCTANJ	\$200.00
12526	4278	- TEXAS LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY	\$88.45
12527	676	- THE EQUITABLE	\$97,595.00
12528	3115	- THE NJ SHADE TREE FEDERATION	\$250.00
12529	4814	- TNS CONSTRUCTION, LLC.	\$86,244.90
12530	2880	- TRACTOR SUPPLY	\$75.49
12531	691	- TRANS WORLD ASSURANCE CO.	\$400.00
12532	1151	- TREASURER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY	\$690.00

12533	521	- TRUST ACCOUNT, TOWN OF NEWTON	\$19,228.24
12534	1469	- UNIVERSAL SUPPLY GROUP INC.	\$370.32
12535	1257	- UNUM LIFE/DISABILITY INSUR	\$855.17
12536	2716	- UPSEU LOCAL 424J	\$798.00
12537	3682	- VANDERGROEF JASON	\$400.00
12538	1158	- VISION SERVICE PLAN	\$2,526.16
12539	4865	- VNL, INC.	\$217,315.00
12540	2540	- VOUGH ADAM	\$400.00
12541	2635	- W.B. MASON, INC.	\$187.57
12542	1500	- WALMART	\$451.07
12543	1144	- WEINER LESNIAK	\$1,872.00
12544	633	- WEIS MARKETS, INC.	\$1,114.67
12545	2576	- WHITE JOE	\$400.00
12546	4822	- WILDFLOWERS OF SUSSEX COUNTY	\$90.00
12547	3892	- WISTUBA, TRAVIS	\$400.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$880,938.06</b>

Mrs. Teets made a motion to approve the **COMBINED RESOLUTIONS of the Consent Agenda**, and Mrs. Diglio seconded the motion, and the roll call resulted as follows:

Mr. Couce (Abstain on Check #12501)	Yes	Deputy Mayor Dickson	Yes
Mrs. Diglio	Yes	Mrs. Teets	Yes
	Mayor Le Frois	Yes	

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Mayor Le Frois opened the meeting to the public.

Wayne McCabe of the Sussex County Historical Society came forth and requested the Town Council waive the permit fee of \$7,500 for the work to be done on the Society's building on Main Street. The Sussex County Historical Society is a 501(c)3, and the plans are to turn the building into a children's museum. He is asking for the permit fees to be waived or lowered so the monies can be put toward the renovation costs. The building is on the National and State Historic Registries. He offers, on behalf of our Society, to pay the hourly rate for an inspector. The hourly rate of the inspector as it is billed currently is between \$600 and \$700 per hour and there's very little inspection needed for this project. He is asking the Council to help him to help the community.

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

**DISCUSSION**

Mr. Russo stated he received a request from Mr. McCabe late last year to waive the cost of the permit fees. He and Kat did research of other municipalities, he received twelve (12) responses. Eleven (11) said they do not waive these types of fees, and the only affirmative response was Sparta. So, he is looking for some direction from the Council tonight. From a staff perspective, he didn't feel comfortable making this recommendation because a third of the properties in Town are tax-exempt and they are already not paying taxes. He cautions against giving an additional financial benefit that

the rest of the businesses and residents don't receive. He then reviewed an email from Joe Butto, outlining the amount of fees that have been waived in 2024. He went on to state we have had similar requests over the years that have been denied. He clarified the cost of the permit is not based on the number of inspections but on the cost of the improvements.

Mr. Ferry explained the \$7,500 actually goes to Hardyston, and based on a formula they pay us. Last year we budgeted \$70,000 and we only received \$40,000 partly due to waived fees for government buildings. So that hurt our current budget.

Mayor Le Frois asked the Council for their thoughts.

Mr. Couce stated one potential avenue to look at would be strictly within the guise of historic preservation, as we do have a historic element to our Town. Possibly grant some sort of waiver or reduction in cost to those properties on the National and State Historic Registry and that are a 501(c)3.

A long discussion ensued on the matter with the consensus being that more research needs to be done on how many properties are on both the National and State Historic Registries, and what the impact would be on our contract with Hardyston. Mr. DiYanni stated to grant a waiver it should be done by ordinance not by resolution.

Mr. Russo stated he would start gathering the research right away.

**COUNCIL MANAGER COMMENTS**

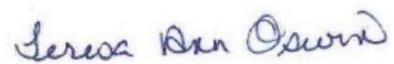
The Mayor reminded her fellow Council members the Handbook signoff should be given to Mrs. Dodd.

Mrs. Teets acknowledged the DPW and W/S staff for their hard work on the watermain breaks and snowstorms recently. Their work does not go unnoticed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to be conducted, upon a motion by Mrs. Diglio seconded by Mr. Dickson and unanimously carried, the Regular meeting was adjourned at 8:36pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Teresa A. Oswin, RMC  
Municipal Clerk