

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, Deputy Mayor Dickson, Mrs. Diglio, Mrs. Teets, Mayor Le Frois, Teresa A. Oswin, Municipal Clerk, and Thomas S. Russo, Jr., Town Manager. Thomas Ferry, CMFO and Eric Bernstein, 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."

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Upon motion by Mrs. Diglio, seconded by Mrs. Teets, the minutes of the March 10, 2025, Regular Meeting and March 13, 2025 Joint Meeting with the Board of Education were approved as presented.

### **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

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.

Ludmilla Mecaj came forth and read the following statement:

#### ***"Good evening, members of the Town Council,***

*I would like to take a moment to clarify a point from our last meeting, where a defensive response was given by one of the council members. Due to the time constraints of the 3-minute limit, I was unable to fully express my thoughts. Therefore, I would like to restate my point.*

*At no point did I accuse any member of the council of neglecting their responsibilities. Rather, I was offering a different perspective by highlighting the size of Newton compared to other townships in our county.*

*I understand that not everyone has had the privilege of growing up in an environment that fosters wisdom or offers opportunities for personal development. This is precisely why education is so important. In light of this, I propose that in addition to earning an associate degree, council members pursue further education or leadership training. This will better equip you to serve the people of Newton effectively, ensuring that you can fulfill your roles as public servants without imposing additional tax burdens on our community.*

#### **Second Concern: Property Taxes for 2024**

*I would also like to address my concerns regarding my property taxes for 2024. I have encountered some unanticipated discrepancies that are inconsistent with the discussions I had last year with the Town Manager and Assessor.*

*Because I am deeply invested in the well-being of Newton, I feel it is necessary to bring these irregularities to the attention of the governing body for further action. While I*

*currently have a lawyer representing me in a 2014 tax appeal, my independent research has uncovered inconsistencies that may be related to the town-wide tax assessment. I believe my case warrants further investigation into the actions of the responsible parties, including but not limited to the town management, the assessor, the town lawyer, and the assessment system.*

*It would be greatly appreciated if the council could take on this investigation, as it would save me the time and effort of having to approach the state for assistance in Trenton.*

*Thank you for your attention to this matter."*

Next, Hazel Coward came forth and stated she was unable to secure a loan to do renovations to 20 Union Place. She was hoping the Town would grant her a bit more time to see if she could secure funding from another bank or a co-owner investor. In the meantime, she would be willing to put up plywood to secure the side of the building. Her architect believes the building is salvageable and the interior isn't an issue.

Mayor Le Frois explained the securing of the building would be a decision for the Construction Official. Mr. Couce stated they did grant them an extension of time to see if they could secure funding, and the bank denied them. Mrs. Teets stated her concern for the public's safety if any more time is granted. A brief discussion ensued.

Mr. Coward stated they had an appointment with PNC bank on Thursday, and they will be seeking a lesser amount. All the professionals they have had at the house say the house has not deteriorated any further since November when this started, and the interior is fine. He can start doing work right away to place the plywood.

Mayor Le Frois stated this has been going for longer than just November, she believes it has been an issue for four (4) years. Another discussion took place amongst the Council on the matter.

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** – nothing at this time.

**Councilmember Couce** – nothing at this time.

**Councilmember Diglio** – Memorial Day parade plans have begun. The parade will be on Memorial Day.

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

**Deputy Mayor Dickson** – thanked Dr. Piccirillo and the members of the Board of Education for the joint meeting. It was great to share ideas to better the Town and school.

**Mayor Le Frois** – echoed Mr. Dickson's thoughts on the joint meeting. She announced the Newton Walking Club will be starting on April 15<sup>th</sup> at Memory Park starting at 4:30pm. The Spring Newsletter is now available on the Town's website in English and Spanish. Work is continuing on the Roller Hockey rink. The Sussex County Chamber of Commerce

awards luncheon is coming up and Newton businesses have 17 nominations. Tom had a meeting with Habitat for Humanity about bring their "RESTORE" shop to Newton.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**a. Resolution #91-2025**

**"Authorizing the Award of Demolition Services Bid"**

**WHEREAS**, a need exists for the bid for the project known as Demolition Services Bid; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town advertised and received bids in a fair and open manner consistent with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5 and N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et. Seq.; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town received nine (9) bids on January 23, 2025, to wit:

ADS Contractors	\$27,500.00
Frank Galbraith & Son Excavation and Demolition	\$56,000.00
TTL Services LLC	\$65,000.00
Caravella Demolition	\$66,350.00
Maruti Construction LLC	\$67,000.00
Pantagon Services	\$69,895.00
Cynna Enterprises	\$93,300.00
Mike Fitzpatrick & Sons Inc	\$115,000.00
Two Brothers Contracting, Inc.	\$128,800.00

**WHEREAS**, ADS Contractors, 52 Cooks Cross Road, Pittstown, New Jersey, 08867 with a bid in the amount of \$27,500.00, was determined to be the lowest responsible bidder in accordance with N.J.S.A.40A:11-4a; and

**WHEREAS**, the Newton Chief Municipal Finance 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, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Town Council of the Town of Newton hereby awards the Demolition Services Bid to ADS Contractors, 52 Cooks Cross Road, Pittstown, New Jersey, 08867, with a bid in the amount of \$27,500.00.

The aforementioned **RESOLUTON #91-2025** was offered by Mrs. Teets who moved for its adoption, it was seconded by Deputy Mayor Dickson, and the roll call resulted as follows:

Mr. Couce	Yes	Deputy Mayor Dickson	Yes
Mrs. Diglio	No	Mrs. Teets	Yes
	Mayor Le Frois	Yes	

**b. Police Staffing**

At this time Chief D'Annibale and Lt. Finkle came forward. Mr. Couce recused himself due to conflict with his father being a member of the Police Department.

Mr. Russo reviewed the highlights of the discussion from the last meeting, stating the information requested from the Council was provided to them in a memo this past Friday. He went on to say Mr. Couce did ask for additional information late last night and his staff worked all day to gather what was requested. It did take about twenty-five (25) man-hours, but his staff was able to complete the request, and it was provided to the Council via email this afternoon.

Mr. Dickson and Mrs. Diglio stated they did not have a chance to review the additional information they received this afternoon and didn't feel comfortable making a decision.

Mayor Le Frois stated they should have had time to review the memo which contained the information requested from the last meeting. Mr. Russo wanted to clarify that the Council sets the overall structure of the Police Department through an ordinance, the responsibilities and tasks assigned to the staff fall under the purview of the Town Manager and Chief.

Mayor Le Frois then asked Chief D'Annibale to give an overview of the documents sent to the Council today in hopes of moving the discussion forward.

Chief D'Annibale reviewed the 2024 and 2023 statistics related to total overtime hours and costs, call breakdown by day of the week, types of calls, shift/hours worked by category and position, overtime breakdown by category, call volume by time of day, incident count by Sergeant, and mutual aid request.

A lengthy discussion ensued on the workload, some of which is caused by unfunded State mandates, the burden on the Superior officers, the young department and the difficulty for the Superior Officers to be able to mentor/training/guide the younger officers. Lt. Finkle state he and Lt. Wolanski often come in on their own time to do work just so it gets done.

The Chief said the work is not going away, it is just increasing each year. The discussion continued with the Chief and Lieutenant answering all the Council's questions.

Mr. Russo suggested they table the discussion until the next meeting, in the meantime the Chief, Lieutenant, and he will put their heads together to come up with some possible alternatives but remain static in terms of service that may be agreeable to the Council.

The Mayor stated long continued overtime is not something that is sustainable and she would not be in favor of that. The Council agreed and asked for the information to be provided as soon as possible so they have ample time to review it.

Mr. Couce returned to the meeting at 8:16pm.

**ORDINANCES**

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

**ORDINANCE 2025-5**

**BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$7,210,000 FOR VARIOUS SEWER IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE TOWN OF NEWTON, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, NEW JERSEY AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$7,210,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWN FOR FINANCING PART OF THE APPROPRIATION**

BE IT ORDAINED, BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF NEWTON, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, NEW JERSEY (not less than two-thirds of all members thereof affirmatively concurring) AS FOLLOWS:

**SECTION 1:**

The improvement described in Section 3 of this Bond Ordinance (the "Improvement") is hereby authorized to be undertaken by the Town of Newton, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey (the "Town") as a general improvement. For the said Improvement there is hereby appropriated the amount of \$7,210,000. No down payment is required pursuant to the provision of N.J.S.A. 40A:2-11(c) of the Local Bond Law of the State of New Jersey, constituting Chapter 2 of Title 40A of the New Jersey Statutes, as amended and supplemented (the "Local Bond Law") as this bond ordinance authorizes obligations for environmental infrastructure projects which are funded by loans from the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank and the State of New Jersey, acting by or through the Department of Environmental Protection.

**SECTION 2:**

In order to finance the additional cost of the Improvement, negotiable bonds of the Town are hereby authorized to be issued in the principal amount of \$7,210,000 pursuant to the provisions of the Local Bond Law (the "Bonds"). In anticipation of the issuance of the Bonds and to temporarily finance said Improvement or purposes, negotiable bond anticipation notes of the Town are hereby authorized to be issued in the principal amount not exceeding \$7,210,000 pursuant to the provisions of the Local Bond Law (the "Bond Anticipation Notes" or "Notes").

**SECTION 3:**

(a) The Improvements authorized and the purposes for which obligations are to be issued are as follows:

Improvements	Appropriation and Estimated Cost	Estimated Maximum Amount of Bonds or Notes	Period of Useful Life
(1) Sewer line improvements, including all work and materials necessary therefor and incidental thereto, all as shown on and in accordance with the plans and specifications therefor on file in the Office of Engineering (Supplements Bond Ordinance 2023-11).	\$2,422,000	\$2,422,000	40 Years
(2) Combination of two pump stations, Sussex Street and Merriam Avenue, relocated to and constructed at Merriam Avenue, including all work and materials necessary therefor and incidental thereto, all as shown on and in accordance with the plans and specifications therefor on file in the Office of Engineering (Supplements Bond Ordinance 2023-11).	486,000	486,000	40 Years

(3) Chemical room upgrades at the sewer treatment plant, including all work and materials necessary therefor and incidental thereto, all as shown on and in accordance with the plans and specifications therefor on file in the Office of Engineering (Supplements Bond Ordinance 2023-11).	475,000	475,000	40 Years
(4) Tertiary (sand) automatic backwash filter renovation, including all work and materials necessary therefor and incidental thereto, all as shown on and in accordance with the plans and specifications therefor on file in the Office of Engineering (Supplements Bond Ordinance 2023-11).	1,865,000	1,865,000	40 Years
(5) Replacement of the main electrical switch and transfer switch at the Sewer Treatment Plant, including all work and materials necessary therefor and incidental thereto, all as shown on and in accordance with the plans and specifications therefor on file in the Office of Engineering (Supplements Bond Ordinance 2023-11).	1,962,000	1,962,000	40 Years
<b>TOTAL ALL PURPOSES</b>	<b>\$7,210,000</b>	<b>\$7,210,000</b>	

(b) The estimated maximum amount of Bonds or Notes to be issued for the purpose of financing a portion of the cost of the Improvement is \$7,210,000.

(c) The estimated cost of the Improvement is \$7,210,000 which amount represents the initial appropriation made by the Town.

**SECTION 4:**

All Bond Anticipation Notes issued hereunder shall mature at such times as may be determined by the municipal finance officer of the Town (the "Chief Municipal Financial Officer"); provided that no Note shall mature later than one year from its date. The Notes shall bear interest at such rate or rates and be in such form as may be determined by the Chief Municipal Finance Officer. The Chief Municipal Finance Officer shall determine all matters in connection with Notes issued pursuant to this ordinance, and the signature of the Chief Municipal Finance Officer upon the Notes shall be conclusive evidence as to all such determinations. All Notes issued hereunder may be renewed from time to time subject to the provisions of Section 8(a) of the Local Bond Law. The Chief Municipal Finance Officer is hereby authorized to sell part or all of the Notes from time to time at public or private sale and to deliver them to the purchasers thereof upon receipt of payment of the purchase price plus accrued interest from their dates to the date of delivery thereof. The Chief Municipal Finance Officer is directed to report in writing to the Town Council of the Town at the meeting next succeeding the date when any sale or delivery of the Notes pursuant to this ordinance is made. Such report must include the amount, the description, the interest rate and the maturity schedule of the Notes sold, the price obtained and the name of the purchaser.

**SECTION 5:**

The Capital Budget of the Town is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this Ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency herewith. The resolution in the form promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing full detail of the amended Capital Budget and capital program as approved by the Director, Division of Local Government

Services, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey is on file with the Municipal Clerk and is available for public inspection.

**SECTION 6:**

The following additional matters are hereby determined, declared, recited and stated:

(a) The Improvement described in Section 3 of this Bond Ordinance is not a current expense, and is a capital improvement or property that the Town may lawfully make or acquire as general improvements, and no part of the cost thereof has been or shall be specially assessed on property specially benefited thereby.

(b) The period of usefulness of the Improvement, within the limitations of the Local Bond Law, taking into consideration the respective amounts of all obligations authorized for such purpose, according to the reasonable life thereof computed from the date of the Bonds authorized by this Bond Ordinance, is 40 years.

(c) The Supplemental Debt Statement required by the Local Bond Law has been duly prepared and filed in the office of the Municipal Clerk and a complete executed duplicate thereof has been filed in the office of the Director, Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey. Such statement shows the gross debt of the Town, as defined in the Local Bond Law, is increased by the authorization of the Bonds and Notes provided in this Bond Ordinance by \$7,210,000 and the obligations authorized herein will be within all debt limitations prescribed by the Local Bond Law.

(d) An aggregate amount not exceeding \$1,375,000 for items of expense listed in and permitted under Section 20 of the Local Bond Law is included in the estimated cost of the Improvements, as indicated herein.

**SECTION 7:**

Any funds or grant monies received for the purpose described in Section 3 of this Ordinance shall be used for financing said Improvement by application thereof either to direct payment of the cost of said Improvement or to the payment or reduction of the authorization of the obligations of the Town authorized therefor by this Bond Ordinance. Any such funds received may, and all such funds so received which are not required for direct payment of the cost of said Improvement shall, be held and applied by the Town as funds applicable only to the payment of obligations of the Town authorized by this Bond Ordinance.

**SECTION 8:**

The full faith and credit of the Town are hereby pledged to the punctual payment of the principal of and interest on the obligations authorized by this Bond Ordinance. The obligations shall be direct, unlimited obligations of the Town, and the Town shall be obligated to levy ad valorem taxes upon all the taxable property within the Town for the payment of the obligations and the interest thereon without limitation of rate or amount.

**SECTION 9:**

The Chief Municipal Finance Officer of the Town is hereby authorized to prepare and to update from time to time as necessary a financial disclosure document to be distributed in connection with the sale of obligations of the Town and to execute such disclosure document on behalf of the Town. The Chief Municipal Finance Officer is further authorized to enter into the appropriate undertaking to provide secondary market disclosure on behalf of the Town pursuant to Rule 15c2-12 of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Rule") for the benefit of holders and beneficial owners of obligations of the Town and to amend such undertaking from time to time in connection with any change in law, or interpretation thereof, provided such undertaking is and continues to be, in the opinion of a nationally recognized bond counsel, consistent with the requirements of the Rule. In the event that the Town fails to comply with its undertaking, the Town shall not be liable for any monetary damages, and the remedy shall be limited to specific performance of the undertaking.

**SECTION 10:**

This Bond Ordinance constitutes a declaration of official intent under Treasury Regulation Section 1.150-2. The Town reasonably expects to pay expenditures with respect to the Improvement prior to the date that Town incurs debt obligations under this Bond Ordinance. The Town reasonably expects to reimburse such expenditures with the proceeds of debt to be incurred by the Town under this Bond Ordinance. The maximum principal amount of debt expected to be issued for payment of the cost of the Improvement is \$7,210,000.

**SECTION 11:**

This Bond Ordinance shall take effect 20 days after the first publication thereof after final adoption, as provided by the Local Bond 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.

The aforementioned **ORDINANCE** was offered by Mrs. Teets who moved for its adoption, it was seconded by Deputy Mayor 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 adoption.

**ORDINANCE 2025-6**

**AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FUNDING FOR THE MEMORY PARK CONNECTOR BOARDWALK PROJECT FOR THE TOWN OF NEWTON AND APPROPRIATING \$303,678.24 FOR SUCH PURPOSE**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF NEWTON, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Town of Newton, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey, authorizes the Memory Park Connector Boardwalk Project, including all work and materials necessary therefor and incidental thereto, for the Town of Newton to be funded from the sources specified in Section 2 of the Ordinance.

Section 2. The amount of \$303,678.24 is hereby appropriated for the purposes stated in Section 1 of the Ordinance and which amount was funded from a grant from the New Jersey Department of Transportation in the amount of \$303,678.24.

Section 3. In connection with the purpose and the amount authorized in Sections 1 and 2 hereof, the Town determines the purpose described in Section 1 hereof is not a Current Expense and is an improvement which the Town of Newton may lawfully make as a general improvement.

Section 4. All ordinances or parts of ordinances which are inconsistent with the terms of this Ordinance be and the same are hereby repealed to the extent of their inconsistency.

Section 5. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon due passage and publication 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.

The aforementioned **ORDINANCE** was offered by Deputy Mayor 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 asked Mr. Russo to review the ordinance for introduction.

Mayor Le Frois then read aloud the following Ordinance relative to introduction.

**ORDINANCE 2025-7**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND, REVISE, AND SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 100, OF THE TOWN CODE OF THE OF THE TOWN OF NEWTON, ENTITLED "FEES AND COSTS"; MOST NOTABLY SECTION 100-13 "ANIMALS"; AND SECTION 100-24 "MISCELLANEOUS FEES AND CHARGES"**

The aforementioned **ORDINANCE** was offered by Mrs. Diglio who moved for its introduction, it was seconded by Mr. Couce, 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, April 14, 2025, at 7:00 pm or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard.

Mayor Le Frois asked Mr. Russo to review the ordinance for introduction.

Mayor Le Frois then read aloud the following Ordinance relative to introduction.

**ORDINANCE 2025-8**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND, REVISE, AND SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 258, STORMWATER CONTROL IN THE CODE OF THE OF THE TOWN OF NEWTON**

The aforementioned **ORDINANCE** was offered by Deputy Mayor Dickson who moved for its introduction, it was seconded by Mrs. Diglio, and the roll call was 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, April 14, 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 #106-2025\***

**"Resolution Awarding Professional Engineering Services Related to the Preparation of a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Authorization to Award (ATAward) Package for the Morris Lake Water Treatment Plant Clearwell and High Street Water Storage Tank Cleaning Project"**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Newton is in need of engineering services for the Preparation of a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Authorization to Award (ATAward) Package for the Morris Lake Water Treatment Plant Clearwell and High Street Water Storage Tank Cleaning project as a professional service in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(a)(1); and

**WHEREAS**, Suburban Consulting Engineers, 96 U.S. Highway 206, Suite 101, Flanders, New Jersey 07836, has provided a professional services proposal in the amount of \$4,470.00; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town desires to award these professional services and enter into a contract pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(a)(1) as a professional services agreement; and

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

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Town of Newton, County of Sussex, that the Mayor be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute, and the Municipal Clerk to attest, an agreement between the Town of Newton, and Suburban Consulting Engineers, 96 U.S. Highway 206, Suite 101, Flanders, New Jersey 07836 for professional engineering services Related to the preparation of a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Authorization to Award (ATAward) Package for the Morris Lake Water Treatment Plant Clearwell and High Street Water Storage Tank Cleaning Project in the amount of \$4,470.00.

**RESOLUTION #107-2025\***

**"To Cancel Grant Receivable and Grant Appropriated Reserve Balance in the Federal and State Grant Fund – NJDCA ARP Firefighter in the amount of \$59.06"**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Newton received a grant in the amount of \$70,000 from the State of New Jersey DCA ARP Firefighter in 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, this amount was appropriated as an item of revenue in the 2024 Current Municipal Budget and transferred into the Federal and State Grant Fund in the same year; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town had expended \$69,940.94 from the Federal and State Grant Fund and has completed the grant; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town received a wire from the State of New Jersey on December 17, 2024, in the amount of \$69,940.94; and

**WHEREAS**, there remains a Grant Receivable and an unexpended balance in the grant fund in the amount of \$59.06; and

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary to formally cancel the grant receivable and appropriated reserve balance;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by a majority of the full membership of the Town Council of the Town of Newton, that we hereby cancel the following:

**Federal & State Grant Fund**

Grant Receivable – NJDCA ARP Firefighter #02-117-10-526	\$59.06
Appropriated Reserves – NJDCA ARP Firefighter #02-213-41-526	\$59.06

**RESOLUTION#108-2025\***

**“To Cancel Grant Appropriated Reserve Balance in the Federal and State Grant Fund – Tobacco Free New Jersey in the amount of \$169.17”**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Newton received a grant in the amount of \$6,000.00 from the N.J. Department of Health – Tobacco Free New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS**, this amount was appropriated as an item of revenue in the 2019 Current Municipal Budget and transferred into the Federal and State Grant Fund in the same year; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town had expended \$5,830.83 from the Federal and State Grant Fund and has completed the grant; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town received from the State of New Jersey Department of Health the amount of \$6,000.00; and

**WHEREAS**, there remains an unexpended balance in the grant fund in the amount of \$169.17; and

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary to formally cancel the grant appropriated reserve balance;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by a majority of the full membership of the Town Council of the Town of Newton, that we hereby cancel the following:

**Federal & State Grant Fund**

Appropriated Reserves – Tobacco Free New Jersey #02-213-41-634	\$169.17
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**RESOLUTION #109-2025\***

**“To Cancel Grant Receivable and Grant Appropriated Reserve Balance in the Federal and State Grant Fund – First Response Communication Equipment in the amount of \$1,708.45”**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Newton received a grant in the amount of \$1,333,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice – First Response Communication Equipment; and

**WHEREAS**, this amount was appropriated as an item of revenue in the 2023 Current Municipal Budget and transferred into the Federal and State Grant Fund in the same year; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town has expended \$1,331,291.55 from the Federal and State Grant Fund and has completed the grant; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town received from the U.S. Department of Justice the amount of \$1,331,291.55; and

**WHEREAS**, there remains a Grant Receivable and an unexpended balance in the grant fund in the amount of \$1,708.45; and

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary to formally cancel the grant receivable and appropriated reserve balance;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by a majority of the full membership of the Town Council of the Town of Newton, that we hereby cancel the following:

**Federal & State Grant Fund**

Grant Receivable – Upgrade 911 #02-117-10-691	\$1,708.45
Appropriated Reserves – Upgrade 911 #02-213-41-691	\$1,708.45

**RESOLUTION #110-2025\***

**“Approval of a Renewal Application for Taxicab Driver’s License for Gavin G. 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;

**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 Gavin G. Spicer, 81 Skytop Road, Newton, NJ 07860 and represents D.A.D.S. Taxi & Limo, which will expire on February 24, 2026.

**RESOLUTION #111-2025\***

**“Resolution to Read Budget by Title”**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-8 as amended provides that the Budget shall be read in full at the public hearing, or that it may be read by its title only if:

1. At least one week prior to the date of the hearing and at the hearing, a complete copy of the approved budget;
  - a. Shall be made available for public inspection; and
  - b. Shall be made available to each person upon request

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Governing Body of the Town of Newton that it is hereby declared that the conditions of N.J.S.A. 40A:4-8, as amended set forth in subsections 1(a) and 1(b), have been met and therefore the Budget shall be read by title only.

**RESOLUTION #112-2025\***

**“Self-Examination of Budget Resolution”**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-78b has authorized the Local Finance Board to adopt rules that permit municipalities in sound fiscal condition to assume the responsibility, normally granted to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, of conducting the annual budget examination; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.A.C. 5:30-7 was adopted by the Local Finance Board on February 11, 1997; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.2 through 7.5, the *Town of Newton* has been declared eligible to participate in the program by the Division of Local Government Services, and the Chief Financial Officer has determined the local government meets the necessary conditions to participate in the program for the 2024 budget year;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Governing Body of the Town of Newton that in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.6a & 7.6b and based upon the Chief Municipal Finance Officer's certification, the Governing Body has found the budget has met the following requirements:

1. That with reference to the following items, the amounts have been calculated pursuant to law and appropriated as such in the budget:
  - a. Payment of interest and debt redemption charges
  - b. Deferred charges and statutory expenditures
  - c. Cash deficit of preceding year
  - d. Reserve for uncollected taxes
  - e. Other reserves and non-disbursement items
  - f. Any inclusions of amounts required for school purposes
2. That the provisions relating to limitation on increases of appropriations pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.2 and appropriations for exceptions to limits on appropriations found at N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.3 et seq., are fully met (complies with CAP law).
3. That the budget is in such form, arrangement, and content as required by the Local Budget Law and N.J.A.C. 5:30-4 and 5:30-5.
4. That pursuant to the Local Budget Law:
  - a. All estimates of revenue are reasonable, accurate, and correctly stated
  - b. Items of appropriation are properly set forth
  - c. In itemization, form, arrangement, and content, the budget will permit the exercise of the comptroller function within the municipality
5. The budget and associated amendments have been introduced and publicly advertised in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Local Budget Law, except that failure to meet the deadlines of N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5 shall not prevent such certification.
6. That all other applicable statutory requirements have been fulfilled.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this Resolution will be forwarded to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services upon adoption.

**RESOLUTION #113-2025\***

**“Authorizing Change Order No. 1 for Morris Lake Water Treatment Plant  
Chemical Room Rehabilitation Rebid”**

**WHEREAS**, a need existed for the bidding of a project known as “Morris Lake Water Treatment Plant Chemical Room Rehabilitation Rebid” within the Town of Newton; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Newton advertised and received bids in a fair and open manner on May 9, 2024, and awarded Bid for Morris Lake Water Treatment Rehabilitation Bid to VNL Inc., of Whitehouse Station, New Jersey, in the amount of \$998,000.00 by Resolution #217-2024; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Newton has received a request for Change Order #1, dated March 11, 2025, identifying unforeseen conditions at time of bid award, necessitating a change order in the amount of \$16,331.28; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Engineer on this Project, recommends accepting the proposed Change Order No. 1, which will result in a change order increase of 0.016% for a total contract amount of \$1,014,331.28; and

**WHEREAS**, the aggregate amount of change orders is less than 20% in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:30-11.8;

**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 VNL Inc., of Whitehouse Station for an increase of 0.016% (\$16,331.28) for a total contract amount of \$1,014,331.28.

**RESOLUTION #115-2025\***

**“Approval of a Renewal Application for a Junk Dealers License for George's Salvage Company”**

**WHEREAS**, the Newton Code under Chapter 156 “Junkyards and Junk Dealers” requires no person shall engage in the business of a retail or wholesale junk dealer except pursuant to and within the terms of a license granted by the Council; and

**WHEREAS**, said renewal application for the Junk Dealer's License lists the business as George's Salvage Company Inc., at 10 South Park Drive, Newton, New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 156.8 requires the Health Officer, Construction Official, Fire Official, Public Works Supervisor, and Zoning Officer are authorized and directed to make periodic inspections of all licensed junkyards in the Town for the purpose of ascertaining the business is being conducted on the licensed premises in accordance with the provision of Chapter 156; and

**WHEREAS**, George's Salvage Company Inc., has been inspected and approved as required in Section 156-8; and

**WHEREAS**, George's Salvage Company has provided a two hundred dollar (\$200.00) bond conditioned for the due observance of all ordinances of the Town relating to the business of retail junk dealer;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Town Council of the Town of Newton that it hereby approves the application for a renewal Junk Dealer License submitted by George M. Miller, III, George's Salvage Company, 10 South Park Drive, Newton, New Jersey which shall expire on December 31, 2025.

**RESOLUTION #116-2025\***

**“Approval of a Renewal Application for a Junk Dealers License for Newton Auto Exchange”**

**WHEREAS**, the Newton Code under Chapter 156 “Junkyards and Junk Dealers” requires no person shall engage in the business of a retail or wholesale junk dealer except pursuant to and within the terms of a license granted by the Council; and

**WHEREAS**, said renewal application for the Junk Dealer's License lists the business as Newton Auto Exchange at 79 Mt. View Street, Newton, New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 156-8 requires the Health Officer, Construction Official, Fire Official, Public Works Supervisor, and Zoning Officer are authorized and directed to make periodic inspections of all licensed junkyards in the Town for the purpose of ascertaining the business is being conducted on the licensed premises in accordance with the provision of Chapter 156; and

**WHEREAS**, Newton Auto Exchange has obtained the necessary approvals as required in Section 156-8; and

**WHEREAS**, Newton Auto Exchange has provided a two hundred dollar (\$200.00) bond conditioned for the due observance of all ordinances of the Town relating to the business of retail junk dealer;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Council of the Town of Newton, hereby approves the application for a renewal Junk Dealer License submitted by Michael F. Sesera, Jr., t/a Newton Auto Exchange, 79 Mt. View Street, Newton, New Jersey, which shall expire on December 31, 2025.

**RESOLUTION #117-2025\***

**“Authorize Credits Due Water and Sewer Utility Accounts”**

**WHEREAS**, the Water and Sewer Collector has determined the following Water and Sewer Utility Accounts are due credits for the reasons stated;

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

**UTILITY BOARD RECOMMENDS WAIVER OF EXCESS SEWER CHARGES DUE TO A LEAK:**

<u>Account</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount</u>
8803	46 Fairview Avenue	\$270.80
17406	96 Sparta Avenue	\$444.69

**RESOLUTION #118-2025\***

**“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 2024 and 2025 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**  
 Meeting Date: 03/24/2025 For bills from 03/11/2025 to 03/21/2025

Check#	Vendor	Description	Payment	Check Total
12747	4834 - ACE SERVICE GROUP	PO 67445 B: Generator Service/ Qtrly PM Service 2	1,000.00	
		PO 67445 B: Generator Service/ Qtrly PM Service 2	1,000.00	
		PO 67451 Generator/Rpr cust #8383	1,349.31	3,349.31
12748	1846 - ADVANCE AUTO PARTS	PO 67400 PD VEHICLE REPAIR	189.05	
		PO 67456 REPAIR TO PD & ACO VEHICLES	786.41	975.46
12749	3897 - AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	PO 67286 Bubbler For Morris Lake Clearwells	4,345.88	4,345.88
12750	4745 - ATHENIA MASON SUPPLY, LLC	PO 67433 Storm Basin Rpr / Block cust #644	472.40	472.40
12751	2757 - ATLANTIC TACTICAL INC.	PO 66604 AMMO Quote #80808106	185.64	185.64
12752	4925 - AUTO METAL RECYCLING	PO 67448 Tire Removal	202.00	202.00
12753	2259 - BROADHECKER FARM, LLC.	PO 67273 Roller Hockey/ Shed Replacement	7,950.00	7,950.00
12754	3893 - CAMPBELL SUPPLY OF SUSSEX CTY LLC	PO 67402 FLEET PURCHASE/ Air Filter/ Fuel Fiter	525.85	525.85
12755	4706 - CARLUCCI, MICHAEL	PO 67016 B: MUNICIPAL JUDGE (N \$40,205.00 + G \$3,	3,800.41	3,800.41
12756	3770 - CINTAS	PO 67343 B: FIRST AID SUPPLIES DPW/WS/TH Jan - De	195.85	
		PO 67343 B: FIRST AID SUPPLIES DPW/WS/TH Jan - De	107.16	303.01
12757	155 - COYNE CHEMICAL CORP., INC.	PO 67165 B: Citric Acid 50% @ \$1.9690/lb - Jan 19	1,123.92	1,123.92
12758	4827 - CTS LANGUAGE LINK	PO 67399 PD LANGUAGE SERVICES	3.82	3.82
12759	286 - CURRENT ACCOUNT	PO 67419 DEVELOPERS ESCROW TOWN INT MOVED TO CURR	23.14	23.14
12760	4918 - DF SUPPLY INC	PO 67404 Roller Hockey Materials/ Hinges	108.86	108.86
12761	106 - ELIZABETHTOWN GAS	PO 67001 B: NATURAL GAS	5,097.69	
		PO 67001 B: NATURAL GAS	4,051.87	9,149.56
12762	1303 - ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE ASSO.	PO 67028 LAB CHEMS/ CHLORINE ACCT T605501 2025	421.03	421.03
12763	225 - FEDERAL EXPRESS	PO 66930 B: EXPRESS MAILINGS acct #1344-0525-2	54.34	54.34
12764	4650 - FINKLE DANIELLE	PO 66949 B: QTRLY MILEAGE REIME -Recreation super	140.00	140.00
12765	71 - FISHER SCIENTIFIC	PO 67145 Electrode PH/ATC Double Junc ACCT #1075	987.87	987.87
12766	3318 - FREDON ANIMAL HOSPITAL	PO 67398 ACO VETERINARY SERVICES	755.25	
		PO 67421 VETERINARY SERVICES	16.00	771.25
12767	4724 - GANNETT NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY LOCALIQ	PO 66987 B: ADVERTISING ACCT #704136	64.85	64.85
12768	200 - GARDEN STATE LABORATORIES INC	PO 67449 WASTE & DRINKING WATER ANALYSIS Feb 2025	2,003.00	2,003.00
12769	4506 - GLENN C KIENZ	PO 67011 B: 2025 PLANNING BOARD ATTORNEY (800/MNT	800.00	800.00
12770	4398 - GLOBAL RECYCLING SOLUTIONS LLC	PO 67207 B: Recycling Collection: Jan to Dec 2025	1,112.62	1,112.62
12771	2978 - GRAINGER, INC.	PO 67412 B: Hydrant Paint/Markout/ Spls ACCT #428	49.08	49.08
12772	232 - HAMBURG PLUMBING SUPPLY CO INC	PO 67431 Rprs Lake/ cust #14037	5.12	5.12
12773	4912 - HARBOR FREIGHT	PO 67432 Roller Hockey/	145.93	
		PO 67432 Roller Hockey/	285.93	431.86
12774	4064 - HARD ROCK HOTEL & CASINO ATLANTIC C	PO 67384 TAX COLLECTOR LODGING-SPRING CONFERENCE	327.00	327.00
12775	3804 - HAYDIE BALLESTER	PO 67010 B: COURT TRANSLATION	150.00	150.00
12776	4901 - HAYDEN'S SERVICE CENTER	PO 67446 Tires/ Shuttle/ DPW	2,888.12	2,888.12
12777	1712 - HOLZHAUER & HOLENSTEIN, LLC	PO 67413 Armory Appraisal	3,000.00	3,000.00
12778	272 - HOLZHAUER, SCOTT	PO 66948 B: QTRLY MILEAGE REIME -Tax Assessor	140.00	140.00
12779	3235 - J. CALDWELL & ASSOCIATES, LLC.	PO 67427 PLANNER -FEB	6,230.00	
		PO 67427 PLANNER -FEB	1,407.50	8,545.00
		PO 67427 PLANNER -FEB	907.50	
12780	113 - JERSEY CENTRAL POWER & LIGHT, INC.	PO 66993 B: ELECTRIC BLDG'S & STREET LIGHTING	15,506.36	
		PO 66994 R: W/S ELECTRIC	5,771.35	21,277.71
12781	3772 - JK HVAC SERVICE, LLC.	PO 67443 Heating Issues/ Dispatch/ WWTP/ Firehous	237.00	
		PO 67443 Heating Issues/ Dispatch/ WWTP/ Firehous	1,037.29	1,274.29
12782	3644 - JOHNNY ON THE SPOT, LLC.	PO 67387 B: PORT-A-JOHNS/ PARKS	1,641.04	1,641.04
12783	3644 - JOHNNY ON THE SPOT, LLC.	PO 67441 Porta Johns/ Parks 2024 Corrected Invoic	2,199.04	2,199.04
12784	4396 - KIMBALL MIDWEST	PO 67393 Roller Hockey Spls	440.00	440.00
12785	3711 - KKPR MARKETING & PUBLIC RELATIONS,	PO 66984 B: PUBLIC RELATIONS & SPECIAL EVENTS MAR	3,075.00	3,075.00
12786	4658 - LAW OFFICE OF ORLANDO R RODRIGUEZ, LLC.	PO 67014 B: 2025 PUBLIC DEPENDER ((N \$13,500. G \$	1,308.30	1,308.30
12787	4668 - LAW OFFICES OF CHIRAG D. MEHTA, LLC.	PO 67015 B: PROSECUTOR (N \$31,000 G \$2,250 F \$1,5	2,920.81	2,920.81
12788	391 - LOU'S GLASS & TRUCK ACCESSORIES LLC	PO 67415 Running Boards/ Mount Kit	450.00	450.00
12789	2300 - LOWE'S , INC.	PO 67430 Supplies for Building Main/ Filters/	56.98	
		PO 67430 Supplies for Building Main/ Filters/	76.91	133.89
12790	1141 - MCGUIRE, INC.	PO 67394 TRUCK #JW / SERVICE/FUELSERV CUST #2252	195.99	195.99
12791	4877 - MI RANCHO MEXICAN STEAK HOUSE	PO 67416 144 SPRING SIGNAGE	665.00	665.00
12792	409 - MINISINK PRESS INC	PO 67438 PD BUS CARDS	140.00	140.00
12793	1741 - MORRIS COUNTY POLICE ACADEMY	PO 67457 METHODS OF INSTRUCTION CLASS	100.00	100.00
12794	3651 - MORTON SALT, INC.	PO 67187 B: SALT @ \$72.20 TON cust #3681777	21,437.62	21,437.62
12795	3926 - MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS, INC.	PO 66659 PD RADIOS	3,054.75	3,054.75

List of Bills - CLEARING/CLAIMS

Meeting Date: 03/24/2025 For bills from 03/11/2025 to 03/21/2025

Check#	Vendor	Description	Payment	Check Total
12796	4284 - NEWTON AUTO BODY & RESTORATION,LLC	PO 67411 PD CAR 3 REPAIR	1,841.30	1,841.30
12797	170 - NEWTON BOARD OF EDUCATION	PO 67012 SCHOOL TAX (JAN-JUNE) 2025-	1,155,370.92	1,155,370.92
12798	170 - NEWTON BOARD OF EDUCATION	PO 67424 Tickets for Senior musical 70 total tick	1,050.00	1,050.00
12799	240 - NEWTON FIRST AID SQUAD	PO 67009 B. 2025 CONTRIBUTION (\$30,000)	8,750.00	8,750.00
12800	213 - NEWTON VETERINARY HOSPITAL	PO 67420 EMERGENCY VETERINARY PEB	414.87	414.87
12801	2456 - NIELSEN FORD	PO 67408 PD VEHICLE REPAIR	187.95	187.95
12802	4681 - NORTHEAST COMMUNICAITONS INC.	PO 67455 LIGHTBAR REINSTALL	182.00	182.00
12803	1204 - OFFICE OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES	PO 67452 TUNING FORK CERTIFICATION	160.00	160.00
12804	2882 - ONE CALL CONCEPTS, INC.	PO 66986 B: ONE CALL MESSAGES	121.18	121.18
12805	1751 - OSWIN TERESA ANN	PO 67407 Parade Supplies	30.09	30.09
12806	4401 - PASSAIC COUNTY POLICE ACADEMY	PO 67397 PD TRAINING	250.00	250.00
12807	4656 - PAULUS, SOKOLOWSKI & SARTOR LLC	PO 65137 B - Pump Station Consolidation	11,646.20	
		PO 65642 GREEN ACRES ROSI SUBMISSION	1,840.71	
		PO 65709 MORRIS LK BLOWOFF DAM	215.00	
		PO 66247 SCADA/PLC REPLACEMENT PROJECT	1,160.29	
		PO 66876 SAND FILTER REHAB	6,896.25	
		PO 66979 B: ALTERNATE SEWER ENGINEER	3,375.00	
		PO 67417 WWTP GENERATOR & ATS RPLACEMENT -PEB	867.50	26,000.95
12808	2788 - PENTELEDATA	PO 66997 B: INTERNET -DPW & STP (2 modems)	319.90	
		PO 66997 B: INTERNET -DPW & STP (2 modems)	319.90	639.80
12809	4792 - PERIGO ANTHONY	PO 66950 B: QTRLY MILEAGE RBIME -/DEPUTY FIRE CH	245.00	245.00
12810	1416 - PETRO-MECHANICS, INC.	PO 67403 GAS PUMP RPR/ Diesel Sys/ Nozzle and Hos	295.05	295.05
12811	4204 - PLANET NETWORKS INC.	PO 67255 B: Internet Access: Jan - Dec 2025- Wate	1,859.70	1,859.70
12812	4126 - PROFESSIONAL CONSULTING INC.	PO 66357 CHEMICAL ROOM REHAB	12,792.00	
		PO 66978 B: SEWER ENGINEER ALTERNATE	6,135.00	
		PO 67410 SEWER ENGINEER -PEB	21,418.50	40,345.50
12813	251 - R.S. PHILLIPS STEEL LLC	PO 67450 Repair Container	52.12	52.12
12814	2478 - RACHLES/MICHELE'S OIL COMPANY, INC.	PO 67008 B: GAS ACCT #40382	2,052.88	2,052.88
12815	4203 - RAPID PUMP	PO 65164 Flight 2nd Stage Pump - Replacement (WWT	42,000.00	
		PO 65690 B: Water Utility Qtrly Service Inspectio	3,500.00	
		PO 65692 WTP/Contractual Maintenance 2024 CUST #	632.40	
		PO 66381 To Replace Broken Clearwell Level Indica	4,960.00	
		PO 67429 Rpr caustic tank heater	791.43	
		PO 67444 WWTP/ Service Calls/ Pump Issues/ RBC	10,786.12	62,669.95
12816	401 - REGISTRAR'S ASSO OF NEW JERSEY	PO 67434 NJRA Conference - May 1, 2025	150.00	150.00
12817	3679 - REISINGER OXYGEN SERVICE, INC.	PO 67453 OXYGEN	62.70	62.70
12818	2475 - RESORTS ATLANTIC CITY	PO 67435 Public Works Convention May 13 - May 15	876.40	876.40
12819	4199 - RUTGERS LIFELONG LEARNING CENTER	PO 67447 Public Works Conference May 14-15, 2024	1,952.00	1,952.00
12820	61 - S K OFFICE SUPPLY INC.	PO 66985 B: SHREDDING	190.00	190.00
12821	4879 - SANDHILL PLASTICS INC.	PO 67405 Roller Hockey Lumber & Supply List	1,673.19	1,673.19
12822	3660 - SCHENCK, PRICE, SMITH, & KING, LLP	PO 66976 B: TAX APPEAL ATTORNEY & SPECIAL CONFLIC	3,511.73	3,511.73
12823	3973 - Schlosser, Theresa	PO 66927 BANKING STIPEND 2025	200.00	200.00
12824	55 - SCHMIDT'S WHOLESALE, INC	PO 67205 Water Main Repair CLAMPS CUST #0000600	6,527.21	6,527.21
12825	3756 - SHACKLETON, JACKI	PO 66926 BANKING STIPEND 2025	200.00	200.00
12826	3134 - SHOP RITE, INC.	PO 67426 Water for BOB/TC Meeting	9.40	
		PO 67426 Water for BOB/TC Meeting	17.46	26.86
12827	2257 - STAPLES	PO 67406 PD OFFICE SUPPLIES	108.25	108.25
12828	4144 - SUBURBAN CONSULTING ENGINEERS, INC.	PO 65639 ORD #2024-10 W/S VEHICLES	650.00	
		PO 66970 B: SEWER ENGINEER	11,944.20	12,594.20
12829	371 - T.A. MOUNTFORD COMPANY, INC.	PO 67257 Machinery Rplment/ Printer	3,589.80	3,589.80
12830	2479 - TAYLOR OIL CO., INC.	PO 67007 B: DIESEL ACCT #01-0062714	4,905.55	4,905.55
12831	4148 - TCTANJ SPRING CONFERENCE	PO 67423 TAX COLLECTOR SPRING CONFERENCE	505.00	505.00
12832	3851 - THE CANNING GROUP, LLC.	PO 67013 B: 2025 QPA ANN \$9,000	37.50	
		PO 67013 B: 2025 QPA ANN \$9,000	712.50	750.00
12833	2675 - TIRE KING, INC.	PO 67442 Loader TIRE/ Flat/ Roadcall	6,083.00	6,083.00
12834	2880 - TRACTOR SUPPLY	PO 67422 Grease/ Airline Plugs	149.78	149.78
12835	4013 - TRANSUNION ALTERNATIVE RISK & DATA,	PO 67454 ONLINE INVESTIGATION SERVICE acct #7971	150.00	150.00
12836	521 - TRUST ACCOUNT, TOWN OF NEWTON	PO 67425 THORLABS ESCROW COMBINED MOVE TO #31-286	1,263.63	1,263.63
12837	1280 - VERIZON WIRELESS, INC.	PO 66991 B: CELL PHONE ACCT #882571077-0001	1,666.62	
		PO 66991 B: CELL PHONE ACCT #882571077-0001	185.60	1,852.22
12838	4904 - VIKING TERMITE & PEST CONTROL, LLC.	PO 67075 Rodent Control/ Monthly Service	125.00	125.00
12839	2635 - W.B. MASON, INC.	PO 67409 Office supplies	107.09	107.09

**List of Bills - CLEARING/CLAIMS**  
Meeting Date: 03/24/2025 For bills from 03/11/2025 to 03/21/2025

Check#	Vendor	Description	Payment	Check Total
12840	217 - W.B. TIMMERMAN COMPANY, INC.	PO 67341 SWEEPERS PARTS/ Fuel Tank	258.67	
		PO 67341 SWEEPERS PARTS/ Fuel Tank	2,233.73	<b>2,492.40</b>
12841	1500 - WALMART	PO 67395 Parade supplies	47.44	
		PO 67437 Decorations & Supplies for Senior Lunch	259.18	<b>306.62</b>
12842	633 - WEIS MARKETS, INC.	PO 67204 B: Refreshments	128.48	
		PO 67396 ACO SUPPLIES	43.98	<b>172.46</b>
TOTAL				<b>1,467,768.19</b>

Summary By Account

ACCOUNT	DESCRIPTION	CURRENT YR	APPROP. YEAR	NON-BUDGETARY	CREDIT
01-201-20-100-200	TOWN MANAGER'S OFFICE - OTHER EXPENSES	3,017.46			
01-201-20-110-200	TOWN COUNCIL - OTHER EXPENSES	30.09			
01-201-20-120-200	TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE - OTHER EXPENSES	119.19			
01-201-20-145-200	COLLECTION OF TAXES - OTHER EXPENSES	1,032.00			
01-201-20-150-200	ASSESSMENT OF TAXES - OTHER EXPENSES	140.00			
01-201-20-155-200	LEGAL SERVICES - OTHER EXPENSES	7,220.01			
01-201-21-180-200	PLANNING BOARD - OTHER EXPENSES	800.00			
01-201-21-181-200	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - OTHER EXPENSES	6,322.50			
01-201-25-240-200	POLICE DEPARTMENT - OTHER EXPENSES	576.52			
01-201-25-250-200	COMMUNICATIONS CENTER - OTHER EXPENSES	248.25			
01-201-25-255-200	FIRE DEPARTMENT - OTHER EXPENSES	245.00			
01-201-25-260-200	AID TO FIRST AID ORGANIZATION - OTHER EX	8,750.00			
01-201-26-290-200	ROAD REPAIR & MAINT - OTHER EXPENSES	10,295.18			
01-201-26-291-200	SNOW REMOVAL - OTHER EXPENSES	21,437.62			
01-201-26-305-200	RECYCLING/SANITATION - OTHER EXPENSES	1,243.88			
01-201-26-310-200	BUILDINGS & GROUNDS - OTHER EXPENSES	3,974.36			
01-201-26-315-200	VEHICLE MAINTENANCE - OTHER EXPENSES	7,091.67			
01-201-27-330-200	BOARD OF HEALTH - OTHER EXPENSES	150.00			
01-201-27-340-200	ANIMAL CONTROL - OE	1,230.10			
01-201-28-370-200	RECREATION - OTHER EXPENSES	1,603.71			
01-201-28-375-200	PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS - OTHER EXPENSES	1,509.78			
01-201-31-460-200	UTILITY EXP/BULK PURCH - OTHER EXPENSES	31,703.75			
01-201-42-107-100	INTERLOCAL - FREDON TWP COURT	450.00			
01-201-42-108-100	INTERLOCAL - GREEN TWP COURT	3,871.24			
01-201-43-490-200	MUNICIPAL COURT - OTHER EXPENSES	150.00			
01-203-25-240-200	(2024) POLICE DEPARTMENT - OTHER EXPENSES		335.64		
01-203-26-305-200	(2024) RECYCLING/SANITATION - OTHER EXPENSES		2,199.04		
01-203-44-900-000	(2024) CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS - OTHER EXPENSES		7,264.55		
01-207-55-000-000	DUE NEWTON BOE - SCHOOL TAX PAYABLE			1,155,370.92	
01-260-05-100	DUE TO CLEARING			0.00	1,278,382.46
<b>TOTALS FOR</b>	<b>CURRENT FUND</b>	<b>113,212.31</b>	<b>9,799.23</b>	<b>1,155,370.92</b>	<b>1,278,382.46</b>
02-213-41-000	RESERVE FEDERAL/STATE GRANTS			4,358.35	
02-260-05-100	Due to Clearing			0.00	4,358.35
<b>TOTALS FOR</b>	<b>STATE AND FEDERAL GRANTS</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>4,358.35</b>	<b>4,358.35</b>
04-215-55-918-000	ORD 2023-7 VAR CAP IMP.			10,457.98	
04-260-05-100	Due to Clearing			0.00	10,457.98
<b>TOTALS FOR</b>	<b>GENERAL CAPITAL</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>10,457.98</b>	<b>10,457.98</b>

Summary By Account

ACCOUNT	DESCRIPTION	CURRENT YR	APPROP. YEAR	NON-BUDGETARY	CREDIT
08-215-55-910-000	ORD 2023-3 SPARTA AVE PS - NJIB			2,549.50	
08-215-55-912-000	ORD 2023-8 WATER IMP NJIB			10,611.29	
08-215-55-913-000	ORD 2023-11 SEWER IMP. NJIB			24,881.95	
08-215-55-916-000	ORD 2023-17 MORRIS LK GATE H. FF			215.00	
08-215-55-917-000	ORD 2023-27 WS IMP'S FF			42,000.00	
08-215-55-920-000	ORD 2024-10 VARIOUS WS VEHICLE ACQUISITIONS			650.00	
08-215-55-921-000	ORD 2024-25 WATER IMP amend Ord 2023-08 NJIB			16,738.00	
08-260-05-100	DUE TO CLEARING			0.00	97,645.74
<b>TOTALS FOR</b>	<b>WATER/SEWER UTILITY CAPITAL</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>97,645.74</b>	<b>97,645.74</b>
09-201-56-501-200	W&S OPERATING - TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES	53,749.52			
09-203-56-501-200	(2024) W&S OPERATING - TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES		20,979.87		
09-260-05-100	DUE TO CLEARING			0.00	74,729.39
<b>TOTALS FOR</b>	<b>WATER/SEWER UTILITY</b>	<b>53,749.52</b>	<b>20,979.87</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>74,729.39</b>
33-260-05-100	DUE TO CLEARING			0.00	1,286.77
33-286-56-102-002	AHS - INTEREST DUE TOWN			4.86	
33-286-56-103-000	RES FOR NAT'L SELECTION -new constr(1/19			393.51	
33-286-56-103-001	NAT'L SELECTION - INTEREST DUE DEVEL			0.21	
33-286-56-103-002	NAT'L SELECTION - INTEREST DUE TOWN			1.18	
33-286-56-104-002	PATERSON /BUILD PRO - INTEREST DUE TOWN			2.16	
33-286-56-105-002	BROWN & CALDWELL/JCPL -INTEREST DUE TOWN			3.08	
33-286-56-106-002	WATER ST HOLDING -INTEREST DUE TOWN			0.75	
33-286-56-107-000	QUANTUM REALM,PUNC EQ (12/20)			432.05	
33-286-56-107-001	QUANTUM REALM, PUNC EQ - INT DEV			1.74	
33-286-56-107-002	QUANTUM REALM, PUNC EQ. - INT TOWN			2.55	
33-286-56-108-002	WATER ST HOLDINGS,LLC REDEV INT TOWN			2.79	
33-286-56-109-002	NEWTON 213 LLC-SHOP RITE INT TOWN			4.34	
33-286-56-113-000	THORLABS - FL BD ESCROW (5/10)			436.03	
33-286-56-113-001	THORLABS - INTEREST DUE DEVELOPER			0.09	
33-286-56-113-002	THORLABS - INTEREST DUE TOWN			1.43	
<b>TOTALS FOR</b>	<b>DEVELOPERS ESCROW</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,286.77</b>	<b>1,286.77</b>
35-260-05-100	DUE TO CLEARING			0.00	907.50
35-296-56-001-000	RESERVES FOR COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT			907.50	
<b>TOTALS FOR</b>	<b>HOUSING TRUST</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>907.50</b>	<b>907.50</b>

Total to be paid from Fund 01 CURRENT FUND	1,278,382.46
Total to be paid from Fund 02 STATE AND FEDERAL GRANTS	4,358.35
Total to be paid from Fund 04 GENERAL CAPITAL	10,457.98
Total to be paid from Fund 08 WATER/SEWER UTILITY CAPITAL	97,645.74
Total to be paid from Fund 09 WATER/SEWER UTILITY	74,729.39
Total to be paid from Fund 33 DEVELOPERS ESCROW	1,286.77
Total to be paid from Fund 35 HOUSING TRUST	907.50
	-----
	1,467,768.19

Checks Previously Disbursed

12745	ENGIE POWER & GAS LLC #411330	PO# 67002	B: NATURAL GAS	1,081.77	3/10/2025
12746	ADVANCE AUTO PARTS	Multiple:		410.80	3/10/2025
18017	TREASURER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY	PO# 67414	ENVIRONMENTAL LAB CERTIFICATION PR	835.00	3/14/2025
250120	PAYROLL ACCOUNT	3/13	CURRENT PAYROLL	219,855.71	3/13/2025
250121	FEDERAL & STATE GRANT	S/NJ	BOADY CAMERA GRANT MOVED TO C	8,559.60	3/18/2025
250122	PAYROLL ACCOUNT	3/21	CURRENT PAY NON-UNION RETRO	6,892.55	3/21/2025
250211	PAYROLL ACCOUNT	3/13	GRANT PAYROLL	516.72	3/13/2025
250212	PAYROLL ACCOUNT	3/21	GRANT PAY NON UNION	56.84	3/21/2025
250911	PAYROLL ACCOUNT	3/13	W/S PAYROLL	47,548.29	3/13/2025

Summary By Account

ACCOUNT	DESCRIPTION	CURRENT YR	APPROP. YEAR	NON-BUDGETARY	CREDIT
250912	PAYROLL ACCOUNT			862.34	3/21/2025
253109	PAYROLL ACCOUNT			21,100.00	3/13/2025
				-----	
				307,719.62	
Totals by fund		Previous Checks/Voids	Current Payments	Total	
Fund 01	CURRENT FUND	236,800.43	1,278,382.46	<b>1,515,182.89</b>	
Fund 02	STATE AND FEDERAL GRANTS	573.56	4,358.35	<b>4,931.91</b>	
Fund 04	GENERAL CAPITAL		10,457.98	<b>10,457.98</b>	
Fund 08	WATER/SEWER UTILITY CAPITAL		97,645.74	<b>97,645.74</b>	
Fund 09	WATER/SEWER UTILITY	49,245.63	74,729.39	<b>123,975.02</b>	
Fund 31	TRUST	21,100.00		<b>21,100.00</b>	
Fund 33	DEVELOPERS ESCROW		1,286.77	<b>1,286.77</b>	
Fund 35	HOUSING TRUST		907.50	<b>907.50</b>	
BILLS LIST TOTALS		307,719.62	1,467,768.19	<b>1,775,487.81</b>	
				=====	

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

Mr. Couce (Abstain on Checks #12799 and #12811)	Yes	Deputy Mayor Dickson	Yes
Mrs. Diglio	Yes	Mrs. Teets	Yes
	Mayor Le Frois	Yes	

**RESOLUTION**

Mayor Le Frois asked Mr. Russo to review the resolution. Mr. Russo explained the rescue squad is looking to expand their services in Town to be able to bill customers and they are looking for a letter of support.

**RESOLUTION #119-2025**

**“Authorizing the Town Manager to Execute Correspondence Regarding the Authorization of Skylands Emergency Medical Services, LLC (d/b/a Newton Emergency Medical Services) to Provide Emergency Response At the Basic Life Support Level within the Town of Newton”**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Newton ("Town") wishes to authorize Skylands Emergency Medical Services, LLC, d/b/a Newton Emergency Medical Services, to provide emergency response at the Basic Life Support level within the Town of Newton;

**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 Skylands Emergency Medical Services, LLC, d/b/a Newton Emergency Medical Services, to provide emergency response at the Basic Life Support level within the Town of Newton; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Newton Town Manager, Thomas S. Russo, Jr., is hereby authorized to provide any written correspondence and/or other documents stating such authorization to any State, County, and/or local agency requesting same.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Helen R. Le Frois, Mayor  
Town of Newton

Mayor Le Frois stated before taking a vote she would like a presentation from the Newton First Aid Squad on what their plan is going forward and what they are looking for from the Town. Mr. Dickson questioned if there is a deadline on this matter, he doesn't want to hold up anything for the Squad in their submissions to the State. Mr. Bernstein stated it is okay to approve the resolution tonight and ask for a presentation at a later time.

The aforementioned **RESOLUTION #91-2025** was offered by Deputy Mayor Dickson who moved for its adoption, it was seconded by Mrs. Teets, and the roll call resulted as follows:

Mr. Couce	Abstain	Deputy Mayor Dickson	Yes
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Mrs. Diglio

Abstain

Mrs. Teets

Yes

Mayor Le Frois

Yes

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Mayor Le Frois opened the meeting to the public.

**Ludmilla Mecaj read the following statement:**

*“Good evening, members of the Town Council, I would like to begin by thanking Councilwoman Diglio for voting no on the proposal to demolish the home of this unfortunate couple. As for the other four council members, I truly cannot imagine how you can rest easy tonight knowing that you voted yes to demolish their property.*

*I had the opportunity to speak with this couple and ask them questions. After reviewing the proposal from an engineer and architect, I believe there is sufficient evidence to give them the opportunity to save their property, which they just acquired four months ago. As new owners the clock should reset. The past 4 years don't matter.*

*While I have great respect for the Hardyston Building Department and its inspection expertise, the two professionals hired by the couple are highly educated and, in my opinion, should have been taken into greater consideration.*

*With common-sense security precautions in place, this home can and should be saved. As a governing body, it is your responsibility to support your citizens and not wait until they are in distress before purchasing their properties.*

*I cannot fathom what it would be like as a homeowner myself if this were happening to my family.*

*While the vote has passed, I urge you all to reconsider your position and allow this couple the time and opportunity they deserve to save their home.*

*Thank you for your time and consideration.”*

Next, Rufus Coward came forth and questioned if it was possible to save the house. It is a gift from God. Just the half-side needs to be firmed up. He went on to say there are other houses in this Town that have deteriorate and have not been torn down.

Hazel Coward appeared before the Council and said God gave them the house. Don't mess with God's people. God doesn't like what you are doing. Don't tear it down, don't touch it. She warned they better “hear her good”.

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

**HEARING ON THE 2025 BUDGET**

Mr. Russo started by thanking Tom Ferry, the department heads, staff, and our professionals for their help this year, then gave the following presentation on the 2025 Municipal and Water & Sewer Budget.



# TOWN OF NEWTON 2025 Budget

**Thomas S. Russo, Jr., MPA, CPM, PLC**  
**Town Manager**  
**3.24.2025**



## FISCAL FACTS



### YOUR TAX DOLLARS

The property tax is divided among the County of Sussex, County Library, County Open Space, Newton Board of Education, and the Town of Newton. The chart below illustrates the percentage each of the jurisdictions received in 2024 from the average taxpayer in the Town.



Newton Board of Education	50.17%	\$1.368
Town of Newton	33.74%	\$0.920
County of Sussex	14.85%	\$0.405
County Library	1.17%	\$0.032
County Open Space	0.07%	\$0.002
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$2.727 per \$100 of assessed value</b>



# APPROPRIATIONS 2024 vs. 2025



COMPARISON OF APPROPRIATION BUDGETED AMOUNTS FOR 2024 AND 2025				
	2024		2025	
Salaries	\$5,991,742	38.4%	\$5,903,653	36.70%
Health/Dental/Vision/Work Comp.	\$2,503,446	16.0%	\$2,882,825	17.92%
Pensions	\$1,253,335	8.0%	\$1,255,277	7.80%
FICA/SUI	\$288,000	1.8%	\$302,000	1.88%
Retirement/LOSAP/Accum. Absence	\$143,326	.92%	\$116,000	.72%
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$10,179,849</b>	<b>65.2%</b>	<b>\$10,459,755</b>	<b>65.02%</b>
General Operating Expenses	\$2,382,549	15.3%	\$2,688,516	16.71%
Debt/Capital/Deferred Charges	\$2,265,267	14.5%	\$2,233,391	13.88%
Reserve for Tax Appeals	\$18,000	.1%	\$30,000	.19%
Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	\$473,396	3.0%	\$501,982	3.12%
Grants	\$293,877	1.9%	\$173,933	1.08%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$15,612,938</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$16,087,577</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



# TOP 10 BUDGET APPROPRIATION INCREASES BY DOLLAR AMOUNT



APPROPRIATION	2024 BUDGET	2025 BUDGET	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
Group Insurance	\$2,065,130	\$2,444,100	\$378,970	18.35%
Road Repair and Maintenance S&W	734,800	813,600	78,800	10.72
Utility Expense/Bulk Purchases	593,000	657,500	64,500	10.88
Planning Board – Other Expenses (1)	38,000	69,000	31,000	81.58
Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	473,396	501,982	28,586	6.04
Town Manager’s Office – Other Expenses (2)	98,630	121,500	22,870	23.19
Building and Grounds – Other Expenses	154,000	176,000	22,000	14.29
Legal Services	204,100	224,500	20,400	10.00
Fire Department – Other Expenses (3)	36,800	55,750	18,950	51.49
Recreation – Salaries and Wages	39,990	58,100	18,110	45.29
(1) \$25,000 – Affordable Housing Plan				
(2) \$20,000 – Redevelopment				
(3) \$10,000 – Fire Museum National Registry				



# REVENUE HISTORY



The chart below tracks revenues over the course of the last five (5) years. Here is a comparison of revenues from 2021 – 2025:

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
State Aid	1,025,916	1,030,527	1,081,640	1,141,042	1,040,023
Local Fees, Fines, Interest	593,904	542,408	642,383	1,017,202	974,240
Fund Balance (Surplus)	1,425,200	1,869,200	2,045,169	2,457,345	2,140,560
Delinquent Taxes	450,000	450,000	235,000	185,000	356,800
Municipal Taxes	8,916,873	9,178,596	9,535,046	9,668,268	10,330,800
Shared Service Agreements	129,500	126,425	139,813	306,433	276,262
Grants	17,050	206,310	1,761,272	189,727	146,533
Spec. Items of Revenue	850,354	899,632	931,978	953,583	822,359
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13,408,797</b>	<b>\$14,303,098</b>	<b>\$16,372,301</b>	<b>\$15,918,600</b>	<b>\$16,087,577</b>



# TAX RATE FOR 2024



With the uncertainty of State Aid payments and the fluctuating prospects of grant funding, coupled with the reality of a tax base that has 1/3 tax exempt properties, it is an ever-increasing challenge to maintain appropriate service levels and sound fiscal policies while mitigating any significant municipal tax increases.

The Net Value Taxable (NVT) in 2024 was \$1,041,882,244. In 2025 it has gone up to \$1,109,165,654.

Additionally, the average residential property assessment has gone up from the 2024 level of \$318,976 to the new 2025 level of \$338,127. Therefore, factoring in the budget and tax levy as proposed, the municipal taxes on an average residential property of \$338,127 are estimated to go from \$3,113 in 2024 to \$3,149 in 2025 – an increase of \$3 a month.



# TAX RATE HISTORY - 2016 thru 2025



	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Subtotal General Revenues	3,801,500	3,802,000	3,950,687	4,289,312	4,308,997	4,491,924	5,127,202	6,837,555	6,019,757	5,756,777
Amt to be Raised by Taxes - Local	8,612,938	8,733,000	8,815,313	8,840,688	8,893,400	8,916,873	9,175,866	9,535,046	9,593,181	10,330,800
Budget as Introduced	12,414,438	12,535,000	12,766,000	13,130,000	13,202,397	13,408,797	14,303,068	16,372,601	15,612,938	16,087,577
Local TAX Increase over prior yr	178,922	120,062	82,313	25,375	52,712	23,473	261,723	359,180	58,135	474,639
Local TAX Rate Increase/Decrease over P/Yr	3.219	2.610	1.832	0.617	1.704	0.590	2.949	0.030	-0.641	0.011
Local tax rate	1.4270	1.4531	1.4714	1.4776	1.4946	1.501	1.530	1.562	0.921 (1)	0.931
Net valuation taxable / 10,000	60,357	60,099	59,910	59,832	59,502	59,425	59,990	61,051	104,188	110,917
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Net Valuation Taxable	603,569,459	600,989,949	599,101,342	598,318,825	595,022,453	594,248,488	599,007,500	610,512,520	1,041,882,244	1,109,165,654
Tax Point	60,357	60,099	59,910	59,832	59,502	59,425	59,901	61,051	104,188	110,917
Municipal Tax Rate	1.4270	1.4531	1.4714	1.4776	1.4946	1.501	1.5318	1.5618	0.921 (1)	0.931
Amount to be Raised by Taxes	8,612,938	8,733,000	8,815,313	8,840,688	8,893,400	8,916,873	9,175,866	9,535,046	9,593,181	10,330,800
Class 2 Residential Total Taxable	370,400,000	366,298,200	366,024,200	368,018,900	369,930,100	369,516,200	371,513,100	373,875,300	644,888,000	682,339,500
Number of Residential Parcels	1,974	1,970	1,972	1,991	1,998	1,995	2,005	2,014	2,023	2,018
Average Assessed Home	187,639	185,938	185,611	184,841	185,150	185,221	185,293	185,638	338,127 (2)	338,127
Munic Taxes on Avg Assess Home	2,678	2,702	2,731	2,731	2,767	2,779	2,839	2,899	3,113	3,149
Increase in taxes over p/yr	53	24	29	0	36	12	60	61	36	36
Weekly increase	1.01	0.47	0.56	0.00	0.69	0.230	1.156	1.171	0.689	0.692
Daily increase	0.144	0.066	0.080	0.000	0.099	0.033	0.165	0.167	0.098	0.099
(1) Revaluation Year										
(2) 2025 Annual House used because of revaluation effect.										



# ESTIMATED MUNICIPAL TAX INCREASE ON AVERAGE ASSESSED RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY



- 2003 - \$67.
- 2004 - \$250.
- 2005 - \$247.
- 2006 - \$187.
- 2007 - \$125.
- 2008 - \$298.
- 2009 - \$188.
- 2010 - \$182.
- 2011 - \$80.
- 2012 - \$19.
- 2013 - \$20.
- 2014 - \$12.
- 2015 - \$65.
- 2016 - \$53.
- 2017 - \$24.
- 2018 - \$29.
- 2019 - \$0.
- 2020 - \$36.
- 2021 - \$12.
- 2022 - \$60.
- 2023 - \$60.
- 2024 - \$36.
- 2025 - \$36.



# FUND BALANCE HISTORY



The maintenance of a surplus balance, or fund balance, provides a safeguard for emergencies and is used to help offset the costs to our citizens for support of the Municipal Budget. The following table shows the amounts of surplus available and used in past years.

Year	Total Surplus Available	Amt. Used to Support Budget	Balance
<b>January 1</b>	<b>414,784</b>	<b>275,000</b>	<b>139,784</b>
1983	414,784	275,000	139,784
1984	257,385	175,000	82,385
1985	300,547	230,000	125,547
1986	337,382	230,000	107,382
1987	487,335	364,000	123,335
1988	1,028,052	828,775	199,277
1989	610,531	516,407	94,124
1990	315,860	150,000	135,860
1991	408,772	280,000	128,772
1992	366,583	323,000	43,583
1993	616,181	430,000	186,181
1994	500,000	400,000	100,000
1995	910,886	650,000	260,886
1996	666,558	500,000	166,558
1997	458,525	350,000	108,525
1998	583,487	495,000	88,487
1999	584,140	450,000	134,140
2000	595,320	475,000	120,320
2001	758,919	670,000	195,124
2002	750,000	670,000	78,182
2003	774,407	670,000	104,407
2004	755,416	628,000	129,416
2005	726,654	580,000	146,654
2006	909,066	700,000	209,066
2007	1,071,959	721,000	350,959
2008	1,256,151	863,571	392,580
2009	920,307	607,000	313,307
2010	1,112,645	803,000	309,645
2011	869,757	550,000	309,757
2012	979,774	841,000	338,774
2013	1,542,318	778,000	768,318
2014	1,563,752	841,461	722,291
2015	1,498,339	776,048	722,291
2016	1,504,223	810,876	693,347
2017	2,260,302	897,000	1,363,302
2018	2,482,557	1,096,000	1,386,557
2019	2,848,266	1,320,000	1,528,266
2020	2,832,783	1,364,500	1,468,283
2021	2,922,773	1,425,200	1,496,933
2022	3,476,303	1,869,200	1,607,103
2023	3,778,446	2,050,791	1,727,655
2024	4,477,149	2,291,671	2,185,478
2025	4,271,398	2,140,560	2,130,838



# REVENUE COMPARISON – TOWN



CURRENT FUND BUDGET REVENUE COMPARISON													
(2013 - 2025)													
	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
<b>Fund Balance Anticipated</b>	2,140,560	2,291,671	2,045,169	1,869,200	1,425,200	1,364,000	1,320,000	1,096,000	897,000	810,876	776,048	841,461	776,000
<b>Energy Receipts Tax</b>	1,029,508	1,029,508	1,017,377	1,017,377	1,017,377	1,017,377	1,017,377	1,017,377	1,017,377	1,013,467	1,013,467	998,389	993,278
<b>Municipal Relief Fund</b>		106,118	55,724										
<b>CMPTRA</b>										3,910	3,910	18,988	24,099
<b>Garden State Trust</b>	10,515	10,515	8,539	8,539	8,539	13,172	8,539	8,539	8,539	8,539	8,539	8,539	8,539
<b>Subtotal State Aid</b>	1,040,023	1,146,141	1,081,640	1,025,916	1,025,916	1,030,549	1,025,916	1,025,916	1,025,916	1,025,916	1,025,916	1,025,916	1,025,916
<b>Public &amp; Private</b>	146,533	259,727	1,761,272	206,310	17,050	37,700	72,881	40,179	38,885	68,916	51,961	47,083	38,317
<b>All Other Misc</b>	2,072,861	2,137,218	1,714,174	1,568,465	1,573,758	1,567,748	1,518,013	1,438,592	1,481,199	1,383,416	1,238,059	1,612,109	1,518,280
<b>Del Taxes</b>	356,800	185,000	235,000	457,311	450,000	420,000	350,000	350,000	359,000	512,376	519,000	360,000	330,000
<b>Subtotal General Revenues</b>	5,756,777	6,019,757	6,837,255	5,127,202	4,491,924	4,419,997	4,286,810	3,950,687	3,802,000	3,801,500	3,610,984	3,886,569	3,616,581
<b>Local Taxes</b>	10,330,800	9,593,181	9,535,046	9,175,866	8,916,873	8,928,098	8,843,190	8,815,313	8,733,000	8,612,938	8,434,016	8,189,331	7,911,487
<b>Total Budget Revenues</b>	16,087,577	15,612,938	16,372,301	14,303,068	13,408,797	13,348,095	13,130,000	12,766,000	12,535,000	12,414,438	12,045,000	12,075,900	11,600,000
<b>State Aid</b>	1,040,023	1,146,141	1,081,640	1,025,916	1,025,916	1,030,549	1,025,916	1,025,916	1,025,916	1,025,916	1,025,916	1,025,916	1,025,916
<b>Total budget</b>	16,087,577	15,612,938	16,372,301	14,303,068	13,408,797	13,348,095	13,130,000	12,766,000	12,535,000	12,414,438	12,045,000	12,075,900	11,600,000
<b>% State Aid to Total Budget</b>	6.46%	7.34%	6.61%	7.17%	7.65%	7.72%	7.81%	8.04%	8.18%	8.26%	8.52%	8.50%	8.84%
<b>Fund Balance Anticipated</b>	2,140,560	2,291,671	2,045,169	1,869,200	1,425,200	1,304,500	1,320,000	1,096,000	897,000	810,876	776,048	841,461	776,000
<b>% F/Bal to Total budget</b>	13.31%	14.68%	12.49%	13.07%	10.63%	9.77%	10.05%	8.59%	7.16%	6.53%	6.44%	6.97%	6.69%
<b>Fund Balance 1/1</b>	4,271,398	4,477,149	3,778,446	3,476,303	2,922,773	2,832,783	2,848,266	2,482,557	2,260,302	1,504,223	1,498,339	1,563,752	1,542,318
<b>Fund balance Anticipated</b>	2,140,560	2,291,671	2,045,169	1,869,200	1,425,200	1,364,500	1,320,000	1,096,000	897,000	810,876	776,048	841,461	776,000
<b>F/Balance after Budget Intro</b>	2,130,838	2,185,478	1,733,277	1,607,103	1,497,573	1,468,283	1,528,266	1,386,557	1,363,302	693,347	722,291	722,291	766,318
<b>Statutory excess to F/Bal</b>		2,085,920	2,718,355	2,171,343	1,978,730	1,454,490	1,304,517	1,462,631	1,119,255	1,566,955	781,932	776,048	797,434
<b>Fund Balance 12/31</b>		4,271,398	4,451,632	3,778,446	3,476,303	2,922,773	2,832,783	2,849,188	2,482,557	2,260,302	1,504,223	1,498,339	1,563,752



# CAPITAL PROJECTS FOR 2025



2025 General Capital Improvement Program											
Dept.	Project	Cost	Reserved		Town	W/S	Town	W/S	Other	Debt	Future
			To Date	CIF	CIF	Surplus	Surplus	Funds	Authorized		
CIF	Capital Improvement Fund	\$335,000.00	\$23,291.00	\$187,170.00							\$124,539.00
DPW/Eng.	Road Improvements/Resurfacing/Curbing/Sidewalks*	\$797,712.00						\$197,712.00	\$600,000.00		
DPW/Eng.	Memory Park Connector Boardwalk	\$999,000.00						\$749,000.00	\$250,000.00		
DPW	Snow Remover	\$75,000.00							\$75,000.00		
Fire	Firehouse No. 1 Renovations - Phase III Exterior	\$950,000.00							\$950,000.00		
Police	Radio Tower Upgrades	\$200,000.00							\$200,000.00		
Police	Replacement of 2021 Ford Explorer	\$80,000.00							\$80,000.00		
Police	MDT's/Automated License Plate Reader	\$55,000.00							\$55,000.00		
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$3,491,712.00</b>	<b>\$23,291.00</b>	<b>\$187,170.00</b>				<b>\$946,712.00</b>	<b>\$2,210,000.00</b>		<b>\$124,539.00</b>

- \* Mount View Street, Palmer Street, & Trinity Street
- \* Resurfacing of Trinity Street & Moran Street
- \* Resurfacing of Garner Avenue, Pine Street, Mason Avenue, Lower Union Place



# CIF PROJECTS FOR 2025



2025 PROJECTS (incl. CIF Downpayment)		
Department	Item	Amount
CIF	Downpayment for Capital Projects	\$187,170
DPW	Electronic Signboard Trailer	\$50,000
	Recycling Center Upgrades	\$90,000
	Electrical Improvements Memory Park	\$50,000
Manager	Munic. Buildings/Facilities Improvements/Upgrades/Renovations/Furniture/Equipment	\$25,000
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>\$402,170</b>



# W/S BUDGET



The Town maintains independent financial records for the Water and Sewer fund. Both functions are supported by customer billings and do not require property tax revenues to meet financial obligations. The Water and Sewer budget is proposed at \$6,182,000 for the 2025 year. The Water and Sewer budget provides service to 2,775 accounts. The current rate structure will be reviewed annually to ensure the Town can properly maintain both current staffing and operations and fulfill its obligations for the health, safety, and welfare of residents with proper long-term capital project implementation.



# REVENUE COMPARISON – W/S



WATER/SEWER BUDGET REVENUE COMPARISON													
(2013 - 2025)													
	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Fund Balance	1,206,000	1,265,000	614,900	643,262	593,703	845,972	407,250	407,000	330,000	303,000	357,767	353,424	438,274
Water & Sewer Rents	4,450,000	4,388,338	4,079,001	4,061,838	4,068,984	4,016,305	3,999,848	4,001,546	3,539,843	3,552,781	3,553,500	3,566,198	3,709,920
Additional Rents									442,000				
Miscellaneous	350,000	395,517	253,466	150,133	74,400	43,000	55,000	52,820	55,820	52,808	51,075	47,200	44,470
W/S Capital FB & Reserves	171,939	172,246		13,500	33,200	20,107	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	
W/S Reserve for Debt Svc													13,668
Interest & Costs on Assessments	4,061	4,590	5,108	5,615	11,342	12,138	12,902	13,634	14,337	15,011	15,658	16,278	16,918
W/S Reserves for Cap Impr						10,000							
Total W/S Utility Revenues	6,182,000	6,225,691	4,952,475	4,874,348	4,781,629	4,947,522	4,525,000	4,525,000	4,432,000	3,973,600	4,028,000	4,033,100	4,223,250
Fund Balance Anticipated	1,206,000	1,265,000	614,900	643,262	593,703	845,972	407,250	407,000	330,000	303,000	357,767	353,424	438,274
% F/Bal to Total budget **	19.51%	20.32%	12.42%	13.20%	12.42%	17.10%	9.00%	8.99%	7.45%	7.63%	8.88%	8.76%	10.38%
Fund Balance 1/1	3,477,961	3,620,740	2,500,785	2,150,040	2,064,276	2,260,713	1,300,236	1,070,766	886,950	842,620	897,441	779,506	931,674
Fund balance Anticipated	1,206,000	1,265,000	614,900	643,262	593,703	845,972	407,250	407,000	330,000	303,000	357,767	353,424	438,274
F/Bal after Budget Intro	2,271,961	2,355,740	1,885,885	1,506,778	1,470,573	1,414,741	892,986	663,766	556,950	539,620	539,674	426,082	493,400
Statutory excess to F/Bal		1,122,221	1,734,855	994,007	679,467	649,535	1,064,685	636,470	513,816	347,330	302,946	471,359	286,817
Fund Balance 12/31		3,477,961	3,620,740	2,500,785	2,150,040	2,064,276	1,957,671	1,300,236	1,070,766	886,950	842,620	897,441	780,217
** FB - RBC's		600,000											
** FB		665,000											
		1,265,000											



# CAPITAL PROJECTS FOR 2025 W/S



2025 W/S Capital Improvement Program										
Dept. Project	Cost	Reserved	Town	W/S	Town	W/S	Other	Debt	Future	
		To Date	CIF	CIF	Surplus	Surplus	Funds	Authorized		
W/S Capital Improvement Fund	\$100,000.00			\$100,000.00						
W/S Capital Outlay	\$100,000.00			\$100,000.00						
W/S Refurbish Chlorine Contact Tanks (S)	\$400,000.00							\$400,000.00		
W/S Replace RBC's 1B/2B (S)	\$1,250,000.00							\$1,250,000.00		
W/S Secondary Sludge Returns Piping & Valves	\$250,000.00			\$250,000.00						
W/S Lead Service Lines (W)	\$100,000.00			\$100,000.00						
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$2,200,000.00</b>			<b>\$550,000.00</b>				<b>\$1,650,000.00</b>		



## CONCLUSION



### RENEWED COMMITMENT TO EFFECTIVE, EFFICIENT, AND LIMITED GOVERNMENT

Now that we have concluded the 2025 budget process, I want to thank all the department heads and staff for their invaluable assistance in putting together these important documents. In closing, it is my firm belief the budget appropriations and revenue projections, as contained in the 2025 budget for Newton, will enable the Town to meet the public's demand and need for critical services. Furthermore, the budget is structured as a fiscally responsible document to ensure the financial well-being of our municipal government is preserved.

This 2025 budget as presented will enable the municipal organization to continue mission achievement – achieving the excellence in governance expected by our customers: the taxpayers, businesses, residents, and visitors of Newton. Thank you once again for the opportunity to serve the good people of Newton!

Yours for a Better Newton,

*Thomas S. Russo, Jr.*

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

Mayor Le Frois opened the budget hearing to the public.

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

Upon motion of Mrs. Diglio, to approve **Resolution #114-2025**, seconded by Mrs.

Teets and roll call resulted as follows:

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

**COUNCIL MANAGER COMMENTS**

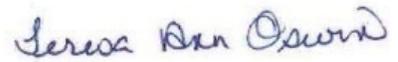
Mr. Couce addressed the Cowards and stated he stays by his decision but advised them they may have legal options such as a restraining order.

Mrs. Teets stated the Board of Education is working on their budget and Dr. Piccirillo has joined the Chamber of Commerce. She also said Jenny Derricks of the TAPInto was recognized at the State FBLA meeting for her coverage of schools and events.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to be conducted, upon a motion by Mrs. Teets seconded by Mr. Couce and unanimously carried, the Regular meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Teresa A. Oswin, RMC  
Municipal Clerk