

February 21, 2013

The special meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Newton was held on the above date at 6:30 p.m. Present were Mrs. Becker (arrived at 6:49 p.m.), Mr. Elvidge, Mr. Flynn, Deputy Mayor Ricciardo, Mayor Diglio, and Town Manager, Mr. Thomas S. Russo, Jr. Also present were Mrs. Debra Millikin, Deputy Town Manager, Ms. Dawn Babcock, CFO, Mrs. Kerry Deckert, Recreation Supervisor, Mr. Rick Straway, DPW Foreman, Mr. Ken Jaekel, DPW Supervisor and Harold E. Pellow, Town Engineer.

Mayor Diglio made the following declaration that "in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this special meeting was given to the two newspapers of record and posted on the official bulletin board on February 12, 2013."

**TOWN MANAGER'S REVIEW OF BUDGET**

Mr. Russo deferred his comments until later.

**PUBLIC WORKS/ENGINEERING/RECREATION BUDGET REVIEW AND CAPITAL PROJECTS**

At this time, Mr. Jaekel reviewed several areas of the Public Works budget as well as the Capital expenditures. The Council had several questions which were addressed by Mr. Jaekel and Mr. Straway.

Mr. Straway outlined the details on refurbishing the 2000 Freightliner Tandem Truck at a cost of \$65,000.00. It was noted that a new Tandem would cost approximately \$180,000.00.

Mrs. Deckert reviewed the Swimming Pool budget; Parks & Playgrounds budget as well as the Capital expenditures. Mrs. Deckert outlined some ideas for increasing the pool revenue. Mrs. Deckert also advised Council of a serious leak issue recently discovered in the swimming pool. She has contacted the vendor as well as insurance and will keep the Council updated on the situation.

Mrs. Millikin updated Council on the grant received for sidewalks on Madison Street through the Department of Transportation (DOT) for \$140,000.00 and outlined the details on the implementation of same.

Mr. Russo also addressed several areas of the capital improvement expenditures.

Mr. Pellow, Town Engineer, updated Council on the Road Improvements/Resurfacing/Curbing/Sidewalks. Mr. Pellow outlined the streets to be paved this year.

Mr. Russo and the Town Council had a lengthy discussion on the Fire Museum Refurbishing.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET REVIEW AND CAPITAL PROJECTS**

Mr. Derek Wechtler, Deputy Fire Chief, and John Prutzman, Assistance Fire Chief, addressed several areas of the Fire Department Operating budget and expenses.

Mr. Russo requested that Ms. Babcock add \$1,000.00 to transportation/mileage in the Fire Department budget but advised that their total budget amount would stay the same.

A lengthy discussion was held on the replacement of Engine 803 at an estimated cost of \$650,000.00. Councilman Ricciardo expressed interest in obtaining quotes on refurbishment of Engine 803 slated to be replaced. Mr. Wechtler is currently pursuing an invoice on the repairs necessary for Engine 803 and will keep Council updated.

**TOWN MANAGER'S REVIEW OF BUDGET**

Ms. Babcock addressed areas in Debt Service.

Mr. Russo continued reviewing several areas of the capital improvement requests from various departments.

Mrs. Read outlined her capital improvement request for hardware/software for the Municipal Clerk's office.

Mrs. Millikin provided details on the Senior Shuttle bus replacement.

Mr. Russo noted that he would remove the fiber optic project from this year's capital program. If the Newton Public Schools proceed with this project, perhaps the Town could piggyback on same in the future.

After Council consensus, Mr. Russo will work with Mr. Wechtler on costs for refurbishing Engine 803, in lieu of replacement as well as move the replacement of the Incident Command vehicle to 2014.

Council addressed concerns regarding the cost of the Fire Museum. New ideas were discussed and will be discussed again prior to adoption of the budget.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Mayor Diglio opened the meeting to the public.

Anwar Qarmout, 45 Woodside Avenue, Newton, had several comments on various areas of the municipal budget which were addressed by Mr. Russo and the Town Council.

Michael Malone, 59 Trinity Street, Newton, expressed his concern with the exorbitant amount of capital expenditures and feels that it is time to stop spending, in

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order to reduce taxes.

There was no one else from the public to be heard.

**COUNCIL & MANAGER COMMENTS**

Mr. Russo reminded the Governing Body of the Town Council meeting on Monday, March 11, 2013 at 7:00 p.m., in addition to Executive Session.

Councilman Ricciardo outlined the budget process which begins being prepared in the Fall with the Town Manager and the CFO.

There being no further business to be conducted, upon motion of Mrs. Becker, seconded by Mr. Flynn and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine A. Read, RMC  
Municipal Clerk