

March 10, 2008

The regular work session meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Newton was held on the above date at 7:30 p.m. Present were Mr. Elvidge, Mr. Diglio, Mr. Ricciardo, Mr. Storm, Mayor Unhoch and Town Manager, Eileen Kithcart.

Mayor Unhoch the following declaration that “in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this work session meeting was given to the two newspapers of record and posted on the official bulletin board on December 26, 2007”.

### **2008 BUDGET- AUDITOR (Possibly) & FINANCE DIRECTOR**

#### **A. Budgetary Impact**

Ms. Kithcart reiterated to the governing body the Town’s tax impact will be 12 points instead of 8 points, due to the Governor’s proposed cuts to our State Aid amounting to \$309,417.00 (which equates to approximately 4 points). The new State mandated cuts for municipalities are affected based on population. The Town of Newton having a population total between 5,000 and 10,000, will receive one-half of the amount received in the State’s 2006-2007 budget.

Ms. Kithcart advised that the Town is mandated to introduce the Municipal Budget by March 20<sup>th</sup> which will include the reduced revenue figures by the State.

Councilman Ricciardo and Councilman Elvidge commended the Ms. Kithcart and Ms. Babcock for their diligent efforts with the Municipal Budget.

#### **B. Capital**

Ms. Kithcart addressed an additional capital expenditure of \$200,000 for the municipal improvements after finding out that upon inspection, the roof at #1 Firehouse cannot be repaired, is saturated underneath, and is

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starting to damage the steel beams.

Mr. Ken Jaekel, Director of Public Works and Mr. Rick Straway, Foreman, addressed the Council regarding the request to purchase a slope mower for the Town. Mr. Jaekel presented two quotes from two different companies and waiting for one more quote. Mr. Jaekel is looking for a multi-purpose machine for various tasks. The Town currently maintains several acres to mow, in addition to the maintenance of the detention basins and dams.

After a lengthy discussion, the Town Council agreed to proceed with the mower demonstrations to take place in the near future.

The Governing Body addressed the request from Recreation for a water service line at Memory Park. Council addressed the quote submitted by Harold Pellow and Associates in the amount of \$4,500.00. Council requested additional information from Water & Sewer Superintendent prior to approval.

### **PEOSHA COMPLIANCE ISSUES**

Mr. Jaekel addressed PEOSHA compliance issues with the new Public Works facility and advised that he has scheduled a pre-inspection with PEOSHA inspectors to alleviate a “surprise” visit, which will allow for more time to come into compliance.

The Town Council, along with Mr. Jaekel and Mr. Straway, discussed several areas of maintenance issues surrounding several municipal facilities, including the shelter building at Memory Park. Council suggested that a maintenance schedule be created for Town buildings.

Mr. Tom Ferry, of Ferraioli, Wielkocz, Cerullo and Cuva, our Town Auditor, arrived at 8:40 p.m. to address the Council on issues

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surrounding the State cuts and how it affects the Town of Newton.

Mr. Ferry would recommend not adopted the Municipal Budget until such time as the State of New Jersey adopts their budget. The Town may hold their public hearing, but wait on adopting the budget. If the Town waits to adopt, this will allow the Town more flexibility for budget amendments, if there is changes to the State Budget. It is certain that the Town of Newton was cut by \$309,417.00. Mr. Ferry advised that the Town of Newton did not fare “too” bad, compared to some of the other municipalities.

Mr. Ferry concluded that this is a very “odd year” for all Municipalities in the State. After a lengthy discussion, the Town Manager is hoping to know more information by the beginning of April. Mr. Ferry will be in contact with Eileen and Dawn prior to the Town adopting the Municipal Budget.

Mr. Ferry briefly addressed refinancing bonds for the Town and advised that the net savings needs to be at least 3.5% to the Town for a viable refinance. Mr. Ferry will review and advise Ms. Kithcart.

### **MAIN STREET BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT**

Mrs. Millikin, Community Development Director, addressed Previous questions of the Town Council regarding the Main Street Beautification Project and outlined the project as set forth in accordance with the State grant. It was noted that the lampposts are 100 feet apart, as it is with the previous beautification project on Spring and Main Streets.

### **UTILITY PENALTIES**

Ms. Kithcart advised that the Utility Advisory Board is looking into changing our ten percent (10%) flat delinquency rate for the utility bills to an increase of 18%, which is in-line with the interest rates. An Ordinance will

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be coming before the Council shortly.

Ms. Kithcart requested a response to who would be marching in the St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup> and was advised by Councilmembers.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Upon motion of Mr. Ricciardo, seconded by Mr. Storm and carried, the Town Council went into executive session at 9:20 p.m.

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council of the Town of Newton (hereinafter referred to as the "Town Council"), convened a meeting in full compliance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, set forth in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12, and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 allows a public body to enter executive session during a public meeting to discuss certain matters, and

**WHEREAS**, it has become clear to the Town Council that there is a need to enter executive session to discuss one or more of the exceptions to the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, as set forth in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12, and

**WHEREAS**, this work session meeting of the Town Council will not reconvene;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Town Council of the Town of Newton that it will enter executive session to discuss issues related to litigation and personnel;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the discussion conducted in executive session by the Newton Town Council shall be disclosed to the public as follows:

### **LITIGATION**

Ms. Kithcart updated Council on pending litigation issues.

### **PERSONNEL**

Ms. Kithcart updated Council on several personnel issues.

Upon motion of Mr. Storm, seconded Mr. Diglio and carried, the Town Council left executive session at 9:56 p.m.

Mayor Unhoch declared the meeting opened to the public.

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There being no one from the public to be heard, upon motion of Mr. Ricciardo, seconded by Mr. Storm and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine A. Read, RMC  
Municipal Clerk