

January 23, 2012

A Special Joint meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Newton and the Newton Board of Education was held on the above date at 6:00 p.m. Present were Mrs. Becker, Mr. Elvidge (arrived @ 6:27 pm), Mr. Ricciardo, Deputy Mayor Diglio, Mayor Le Frois, Mr. Thomas S. Russo, Jr., Town Manager and Mrs. Lorraine A. Read, Municipal Clerk. Also present were Mrs. Ginny Rafferty, Treasurer, Mr. Rick Straway, DPW Foreman, Ms. Dawn Babcock, CFO, Mrs. Debra Millikin, Deputy Town Manager, Police Chief Michael Richards and Kerry Deckert, Recreation Supervisor.

Present for the Newton Board of Education were Mr. Caffrey, President, Ms. Egner, Vice President, Ms. Dunn, Mr. Goldschmidt, Mr. Heckman, Ms. Larsen, Mr. Morris, Ms. Thomas, Ms. VanAuken, Ms. Cooke, Ms. Gianni, Ms. Snyder, Business Administrator and Dr. Greene, Superintendent.

Mayor Le Frois made the following declaration that "in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this public meeting was given to the two newspapers of record and posted on the official bulletin board on January 18, 2012."

Mr. Russo gave opening comments and thanked the Newton Board of Education for meeting with the Town Council. He indicated that the State created a best practices checklist which requires a joint meeting with the Board of Education. Mr. Russo recognized the great relationship the Town holds with the Newton Board of Education and is always looking to build on the relationship with additional opportunities for shared services.

Dr. Ken Greene, Superintendent, also provided opening comments and agreed that the Town and the Board have a great partnership to build on. Dr. Greene distributed and briefly outlined an analysis of shared services through the Tri-District Consortium.

Mr. Russo inquired whether there has been any feedback with regard to shared services within the Newton Public School District and was advised by Dr. Greene that shared services have been a positive experience with no resistance from fellow School Districts.

Councilman Ricciardo questioned why the Green Township soccer fields are not available to the Newton School District which was addressed by Dr. Greene.

At this time, Mr. Russo introduced members of the Town staff that work directly with the Newton School District. Mr. Rick Straway, Foreman of DPW, outlined the shared

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services with the school district maintenance team at Newton High School (i.e. equipment; shared fields; personnel). Mr. Russo introduced Mrs. Kerry Deckert, who recently joined the Newton staff as Recreation Supervisor. Mrs. Deckert gave a brief background on her Recreation background and outlined her projects and future plans for the Town of Newton recreation.

Chief Richards also reiterated the great relationship held with the Newton Board of Education and the Newton Police Department. Chief Richards briefly outlined some of programs that his department works on with the school district and looks forward to their continued support.

Ms. Donna Snyder, Business Administrator and Dr. Greene thanked the Town for their continued support with the Newton School District.

Mayor Le Frois thanked all of the Town staff and administration for being here this evening and for their valuable input.

Mr. Russo briefly outlined some of the key attributes of the Town of Newton, including being ahead of the curve on shared services. Mr. Russo outlined some of the shared services provided to/from other municipalities and continues to look for additional shared services in the future.

Dr. Greene briefly addressed the numbers of students attending the Newton Public Schools and advised that the Elementary School has added an additional Kindergarten this year.

Mayor Le Frois opened the meeting to the public.

Mr. Thomas Hoffman, resident of Sandyston, inquired about the utilization of the School Resource Officer (SRO) at Newton High School, which was addressed by Chief Richards.

Both boards agreed that an annual joint meeting of the Town Council and the Newton Board of Education is a helpful tool with the continued dialogue among both boards.

There being no one else from the public to be heard, upon motion of Mr. Ricciardo, seconded by Mrs. Becker and carried, the Council adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine A. Read, R.M.C.
Municipal Clerk