



BETH DELBUONO
MAYOR

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

200 GARFIELD STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

OFFICE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

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Salvatore O. Rignato
Town Clerk

PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

March 9, 2021

This hearing was presented as a Zoom Webinar/Meeting

TOWN MANAGER'S PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022

To provide an opportunity for interested electors and/or taxpayers* to express their views regarding the Town Manager's Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Mayor DelBuono called the Public Hearing to order at 6:00 p.m.

Overview of Budget

- Town Manager Chapman gave a brief overview of the Town Manager's proposed budget for the fiscal year 2021-2022. The mill rate is proposed at 39.10 with a decrease of .18 from the previous mill rate. The Town Government Operation expenditures will increase by \$4,177,021 or 3.3%, mainly due to increases in CIP. Applying \$2.5 million from General Fund Balance. Decrease in overall spending of \$1,142,947 or -2.98%, primarily due to a reduction in health insurance and staffing. Newington has a per capita income of \$39,117 per person. Debt service is very low; approx. \$26 million; per capita debt of \$942 per person. Newington has the fifth highest mill rate within its surrounding towns. Town staff will be reduced to approx. 165 employees in 2021. Property revaluations were performed this year by Town Assessment team. The Economic Development team estimates approx. \$150,000,000 of new development that may place over the next 12 months. General government staffing will be reduced by 10 full-time employees; reducing costs by almost \$700,000. Have added a position of Facilities Manager in the 2021-2022 budget. Proposed Town Council utilize a professional firm to assist in developing an all-inclusive Strategic Plan. Solar as an alternative energy source will take center stage moving forward. Will be re-introducing alternative fuel vehicles back into the town's fleet. Looking at shared internal services provided by the General Government and School Department; need to look into sharing services. Planning on meeting with areas town regarding regionalization of services and resources. Developing a mentoring program for students of color will learn aspects of municipal government. A train station is a key aspect for developers; suggest town leadership pursue options with the state and develop a fixed timetable for the project for commencement as well as completion. Town leadership should work with the State to transfer Cedar Crest Hospital site to Newington. Need to address issues with Charter and need to form new Charter Revision Commission. ***Need must take priority over want.***

(Presentation available on Town's Website)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON TOWN MANAGER'S PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 (VIA TELEPHONE: 860-665-8736) (4 MINUTE TIME LIMIT PER SPEAKER ON ANY ITEM)

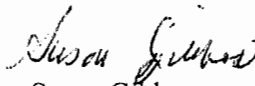
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- Neil Ryan, 237 Brockett Street want to thank the Town Manager for supporting the train station. Asked who makes up the Economic Development Team? What does the \$150,000,000 development include? Troubled by Town Manager's decision not to increase BOE budget; public school system a huge plus for town. Per capita income stated at \$39,000; is that based on every man, woman and child? The Town Manager works for the Town Council; not vice versa.
- Michael Branda, 77 Coronado Drive stated that he was concerned that there was no mention of dropping BOE budget to a zero percent increase. Superintendent has stated it is a budget of need; not of want. Sounds as if the Town Manager was stating the Anna Reynolds project is a more of a want than a need; take a full tour of the building; will see that this is a need and not a want.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor DelBuono adjourned the public hearing at 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan Gibbon
Council Clerk

**Pursuant to §805 of the Town of Newington Charter*