



BETH DELBUONO
MAYOR

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

200 GARFIELD STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

OFFICE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING #1

Tuesday, March 14, 2023

This hearing was presented as a Zoom Webinar/Hybrid Meeting.

To provide an opportunity for interested electors and/or taxpayers* to express their views regarding the Town Manager's Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

Mayor DelBuono called the public hearing to order at 6:04 p.m.

- Acting Town Manager Krupienski stated the legal notice was placed in the Rare Reminder on Thursday, March 9th. First of two public hearings. Mr. Krupienski stated that there is an increase in appropriations of \$5,771,000, with \$40 million going towards Town Government, \$81 million for Education, \$4.9 million for MDC, \$3.4 million for Debt Service, \$9.3 million for CIP and \$54,000 for the Employee Leave Fund. Key points: No new initiatives; approved through 2026 with NIPSE wager per union contract 2.25%, contract negotiations for AFSCME; increase in cost for software maintenance (licensing and maintenance); employee benefits (higher than usual employee costs and contributions to existing pension plans); personnel changes (looking at completely funding deputy assessor position, funding for a police officer, currently have 5 openings, fund library position); inflation for parts and materials (costs have increased, trying to keep them under control; facilities director has decrease in budget); medical costs (remain flat this year); decrease in facility expenses (starting to see benefits of much more energy efficient building with solar improvements). Mr. Krupienski provided a list of projects in the five year plan. There are three proposals for capital improvements for the BOE – Appropriation to CIP Reserve \$125,000; Bus Replacement Program - \$488,725 and School Entrances (Security) - \$200,000. Estimated revenue: Prorated property and real estate, prior year taxes interest and liens, approx. \$1.9 million; municipal aid funding from the state, approx. \$24 million; revenue from interest earnings, charges for services, licenses, permitting fees, approx. \$2 million; apply \$2.9 million from general fund; and motor vehicle and property tax levy, approx. \$110 million. The state has limited mill rate on motor vehicles to 32.46. Major Challenges: Inflation/market conditions; grand list growth; infrastructure needs (bonding for Anna Reynolds project); continue to provide services with limited resources. Mr. Krupienski stated for state aid overall is approx. \$1.4 million increase. Attributable items to mill rate increase: town appropriation of \$1.7 million; BOE decreased by \$2.8 million; debt services increase of \$867,000; small increase in CIP of \$501,000; non-tax revenue decrease of \$1.6 million; motor vehicle increase \$938,000 = equates to an increase of 1.35%. Looking at an increase of \$3.2 million. No change to motor vehicle taxes; increase in property tax of 3.5% or average of \$202 per household.

Public Participation

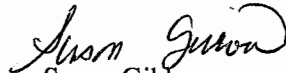
- Chris Riley, 169 Forest Drive, asked about the decrease in non-tax revenue, it is an increase or decrease? Is the school appropriation related to the budget they will be presenting later?

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- Jacob Knowlton, 10 Hillside Street. Saw revisions to the Zoning Code was going to occur. When will that happen? Had concerns with adding more positions for police officers; doesn't seem to be too much conflict in town. Appreciate graphics.
- Acting Town Manager Krupienski stated that the school budget will be presented later this evening. The negative revenue is offset directly, will ask finance director to review. The TPZ will hold public hearings regarding any changes to zoning regulations. Regarding the police staffing, we are staffing for patrol officers.

Mayor DelBuono adjourned the public hearing at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Susan Gibbon
Council Clerk

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