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TOWN OF NEWTOWN

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SHARED MEETING ROOM #1, 3 PRIMROSE STREET, NEWTOWN, CT

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2024

MINUTES

PRESENT: Laura Miller, Chris Gardner, John Zachos, Heather Dean, Keith Alexander, Derek Pisani

CALL TO ORDER: Laura Mill called the meeting to order at 6:31PM

VOTER COMMENTS: None

COMMUNICATIONS: None

NEW BUSINESS: The Municipal Committee subcommittee of the Legislative Council held a special meeting to discuss the proposed Annual (Municipal) Budget 2024-2025. A list of questions will be submitted to the chair of the Legislative Council for consideration from the respective parties. (See attached)

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9PM

Respectfully submitted,

Derek Pisani (member)

Questions for the various municipal departments and agencies:

Tax Collector: we would like clarification of the Measures and Indicators on page 80 for the Current Year Tax Collection Rate; are they actual or projected? Could we budget for a higher number? [See the assumption on page 53 regarding the Tax Levy]

Town Clerk (and in general): Page 85; clarify the % change for **Salaries and Wages** listed at 1.49% verse the average increase noted of 2.93%?

Technology: Why ADP? Are there any savings on head count? Is the \$65K non-recurring for licensing? **GIS Software Specialist;** why the jump?

OPEB Contribution: \$35K for consulting? Is this annual? Do we not have in-house expertise?

Energy Communications: page 121 **Equipment Rental:** Provide detail behind #1 and #3. Didn't we just spend \$5MM on new equipment? Please clarify #9 \$81.7K for **Fiber Net Services**.

Police: page 129 **Selex ES;** clarify this budget item and provide any statistics if available. Page 132 Police Vehicles; can we cut back to two (2) vehicles this tax cycle? Is a trade-in value applied?

Fire Department: In a difficult tax year, an increase of 7.73% seems excessive. Page 139; **Energy Electric** is up 27.27% while **Public Works** electricity use is down? Solar? **Capital** – where can we cut back? Page 141; **Length of service awards** – what is the head count? Can we provide a lesser increase?

Lake Authorities: What is the fund budget and how is it calculated? Is there an account balance?