

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES RE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

The Board of Selectmen held a regular meeting Monday, January 29, 2024. The meeting was held in the Council Chambers at the Newtown Municipal Center. First Selectman Capeci called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and opened the meeting with salute to the flag.

PRESENT: First Selectman A. Jeffrey Capeci, Selectman Michelle Embree Ku and Selectman Dan Cruson

ALSO PRESENT: Finance Director Robert Tait and Representative Bolinsky.

VOTER COMMENTS: none.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES: Selectman Cruson moved to accept the regular meeting minutes of January 24, 2024. Selectman Embree Ku seconded. The motion unanimously passed.

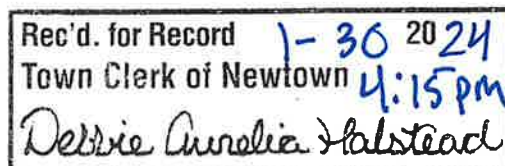
COMMUNICATIONS: First Selectman Capeci attended a Legislative meeting today. Mitch Bolinsky invited the Board of Selectmen to go to opening day of the legislature on Feb. 7. Governor Lamont will hold his State of the State Address. Representative Bolinsky attended the meeting and repeated his invitation to the board to be his guest at the opening day of 2024 session on Feb. 7, which begins at 10am. It is a short session; it is an interesting experience. He doesn't anticipate any changes in Town or school aid funding. Arlene Miles, of the Department of Public Works, sent an email hoping to reconstitute the recycling committee (att.). This will be done when the Board of Selectmen complete the budget meetings

FINANCE DIRECTORS REPORT: Mr. Tait passed out the schedule for the upcoming bond sale. Newtown's report includes statistics, the number students and the number of employees. A rating review will be held toward the end of February. Past, present and future budgets are covered. A planned bond sale is March 19 with settlement on April 2. The issue will be just below \$10 million

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion and possible action:

1. **First Selectman FY 2024-2025 Budget:** Selectman Cruson moved to approve the Board of Selectmen budget in the amount of \$48,856,666 and authorized the Finance Director to make any changes relative to rounding numbers. Selectman Embree Ku seconded. First Selectman Capeci noted a large increase was put in the Social Service/Human Service budget for the Director; he would like to reduce that from 20% to 8%. He believes the original request was too big in one step and believes the 8%, which is a larger increase than most employees, will bring her closer to where she should be; but not quite there. This is also will reflect a reduction to social security and retirement. First Selectman Capeci recommended an increase for the Economic and Development Coordinator / Fairfield Hills Authority Coordinator. This will also reflect a change in Social Security and Retirement but come in as a reduction as the position is funded 50% by the Fairfield Hills Authority. Selectman Cruson moved to reduce the proposed Social Services Budget by \$10,848 bringing the total to \$372,361. Selectmen Embree Ku seconded. The motion unanimously passed. Selectman Cruson moved to reduce the proposed Economic and Community Development budget by \$1,605 bringing the total to \$184,875. Selectman Embree Ku seconded. The motion unanimously passed. Selectman Embree Ku's main concern is the medical insurance fund. It is important to stick to the plan to contribute to the fund. She also noted Public Safety requests, Communications and Police budgets increased and each asked for additional staff. While both Selectman Cruson and Selectman Embree Ku respect First Selectman Capeci's thoughts on not wanting to add staff until he has more time in office to explore the idea, they both agree a larger, long term discussion needs to continue. First Selectman Capeci talked about the COPS grant; the deadline is in March and can get up to \$70,000 for a new officer, without adding to the budget in the first



year. Selectman Cruson does not want the Town to rely too much on grants, saying it can result in a fiscal cliff. Selectman Embree Ku would also like to hear more from the police department relative to traffic control during school hours and how personnel numbers might help that. There was discussion on police social workers who are trained in police work; someone to interact with the community and go out on specific calls. In the future Selectman Embree Ku would like to see large capital items, such as the 10-wheel dump truck and the street sweeper, in the budget under designated capital non-recurring. Mr. Tait said large equipment can go in the CIP and still be designated for the general fund. First Selectman Capeci spoke with Amy Mangold specifically about seasonal workers. Since minimum wage is increased each year, there will not be additional town level increases for seasonal employees. Selectman Cruson moved to reduce the proposed Parks & Recreation budget by \$12,918 for a bottom line total of \$2,821,012. Selectman Embree Ku seconded. The motion unanimously passed.

Selectman Cruson moved to adjust the bottom line of the 2024-2025 Board of Selectmen budget to the amended amount of \$48,834,506. Selectman Embree Ku seconded. The motion, as amended, unanimously passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion and possible action:

1. **Appointments/Reappointments/Vacancies/Openings:** First Selectmen Capeci said that the Fair Rent Commission has been busy; there is urgency to fill the vacancy. Selectman Cruson moved to appoint Steve Sedensky to the Fair Rent Commission. Selectman Embree Ku second. The motion unanimously passed.
2. **Driveway Bond Release/Extension:** none.
3. **Tax Refunds:** none.

VOTER COMMENTS: none.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: none.

ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business the regular Board of Selectmen meeting was adjourned at 8:18p.m.

Att: A. Miles email re: recycling Ad Hoc; Board of Selectmen Adjustments to First Selectman Proposed 2024-2025 Budget.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Marcinek, clerk



Susan Marcinek <susan.marcinek@newtown-ct.gov>

Fwd: Recycling Adhoc

Jeff Capeci <jeff.capeci@newtown-ct.gov>
To: Susan Marcinek <susan.marcinek@newtown-ct.gov>

Mon, Jan 29, 2024 at 5:15 PM

Communication for minutes.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Arlene Miles** <arlene.miles@newtown-ct.gov>
Date: Thu, Jan 25, 2024 at 3:56 PM
Subject: Recycling Adhoc
To: Jeff Capeci <jeff.capeci@newtown-ct.gov>
Cc: Fred Hurley <fred.hurley@newtown-ct.gov>

Hi Jeff,

Fred and I just met with HRRA and Waste Zero regarding Pay as you throw at the Transfer Station. This ties into the SMM trash reduction pilot program we are currently working on from CT DEEP.

The Recycling Adhoc committee will be essential to moving whatever model works best for Newtown forward. Is there a timeline when the group will be formed and when the first meeting may be? Waste Zero would like to do a presentation and start weekly meetings until they can iron out what model, if any, would work best for Newtown. Current permits expire on July 1. Normally we begin selling/renewing permits late April/early May. That is right around the corner and may not be feasible if there will be a change.

Arlene Miles
Public Works Administrator
203.270.4300

TOWN OF NEWTOWN

2024 - 2025 BUDGET - BOARD OF SELECTMEN ADJUSTMENTS TO FIRST SELECTMAN PROPOSED

MEETING DATE: 01/29/2024

	2024-2025 BUDGET	BOARD OF	2024-2025 BUDGET	
	1st SELECTMAN	SELECTMEN	BOARD OF SELECTMEN	
FUNCTION / DEPARTMENT / ACCOUNT	<u>PROPOSED</u>	<u>ADJUSTMENTS</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
<u>HEALTH & WELFARE</u>				
<u>SOCIAL SERVICES</u>				
Salaries & Wages	282,578	(9,630)	272,948	Adjust salary enhancement to 8%
Social Security Contributions	21,617	(736)	20,881	""
Retirement Contributions	15,343	(481)	14,862	""
<u>PLANNING</u>				
<u>ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT</u>				
Salaries & Wages	113,680	1,491	115,171	Adjust salary to agreement with union (from step 3 to 5)
Social Security Contributions	8,696	114	8,810	due to increased responsibilities (left out of budget in error)
<u>RECREATION & LEISURE</u>				
<u>PARKS & RECREATION</u>				
Salaries & Wages - Seasonal	327,990	(12,000)	315,990	Adjust seasonal wages due to discussions with department head
Social Security Contributions	121,204	(918)	120,286	after analysis
Total Board of Selectmen budget	48,856,666	(22,160)	48,834,506	