



BETH DELBUONO  
MAYOR

# TOWN OF NEWINGTON

200 GARFIELD STREET  
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

OFFICE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

## PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

April 6, 2021

*This hearing was presented as a Zoom Webinar/Meeting*

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Town Clerk

### TOWN COUNCIL'S TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022

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

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

#### *Overview of Budget*

- Mayor DelBuono presented the Town Council's Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022. On March 9, 2021 the Town Manager proposed his budget and tonight we are reviewing that again. Tonight there is a special meeting where budget adjustments may be made. On April 13<sup>th</sup> we have a regular meeting where changes can be made to the budget and on April 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. we will have a special meeting to adopt the budget and set the mill rate. Mayor DelBuono reviewed the budget summary. Town Government Operations had a decrease of 2.98%. The BOE budget had a zero percent increase. MDC payments have decreased by 1.4%. Debt Service: Town's share - decrease of 11%; BOE share - decrease of 9.2%. CIP: Town's share - increase 161.9%; BOE share - increase of 553.6%. Applying \$2.5 million from General Fund Balance to offset the burden to the taxpayer this year. Year to year we do take money to offset, depending on what is needed. We need to maintain a certain amount in the General Fund to maintain our bond rating and if there should be a catastrophic event or unforeseen expenditure. Net Grand List increased by 4.5%. Mill rate will be decreasing by 0.45% to 39.10. Town Manager and town staff went above and beyond to make sure they delivered a fiscally responsible budget; cannot thank them enough for putting this together for our consideration. Mayor DelBuono reviewed the Operating Budgets. Our philosophy is "need takes priority over want". Mayor DelBuono reviewed a chart with per capita income, per capita debt, and mill rate. Debt service is significantly lower than other area towns. The mill rate of 39.45 is fifth highest amongst area towns; need to reduce that. Mayor DelBuono stated that economic development has been a major focus; goal is to expand by \$150 million. Looking to preserve open space and focus on areas that are zoned for development or redevelopment. Mayor DelBuono reviewed a chart regarding mill rate and grand list growth. Mayor DelBuono reviewed expenditures - BOE is \$76,768,011; Town Government is \$37,246,581; CIP is \$8,833,988 - significant increase this year; address facilities needs and was previously underfunding this account. A major reason for this is due to the facilities report. Committed to making sure we are addressing needs brought to us. Looking to replace our public service communication/radio system which is a need and a priority for this council. Addressing equipment reserve fund and streets and sidewalks. Mayor DelBuono reviewed the Town Government Operations chart General Government increased by

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5.52%; Public Safety decreased by 1.21%; Public Works decreased by 4.16%; Community Planning and Development decreased by 3.23%; Public Health had a zero percent increase; Community Services decreased by 4.14%; Public Library decreased by 5.94%; Parks & Recreation decreased by 0.79% and Insurance-Miscellaneous decreased by 7.23% for an overall decrease of \$1,142,947 or 2.98%. The BOE requested an increase to their budget of 0.84%, the town manager brought forward a budget that reflects a zero percent increase. Total appropriations for Town and Board is \$4,177,021 or 3.3%.; amount to be raised by taxes increased by 4% but that is offset by \$2.5 million from fund balance and net adjusted grand list. New tentative budget mill rate will be 39.10. This is the second decrease in the mill rate since I have been Mayor.

*(Presentation available on Town's Website)*

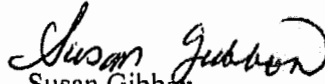
**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON TOWN MANAGER'S PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 (VIA TELEPHONE: 860-665-8736) (4 MINUTE TIME LIMIT PER SPEAKER ON ANY ITEM)**

- Susan Mazzoccoli, 149 Harris Drive stated the Mayor gave a nice presentation. Her concern is economic development. Very pleased to see a new store opening across from Stew Leonard's. Would love to see a focus on Best Market; citizens need to have either a small supermarket or general type of store there so there is more activity in our downtown. It would be a benefit to everyone; please focus on that after budget is completed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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*