Mayor DelBuono called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. ROLL CALL
   Councilor Braverman (via zoom)
   Deputy Mayor Budrejko
   Councilor Camillo (via zoom)
   Councilor Donahue
   Councilor Manke
   Councilor Nagel
   Councilor Page
   Councilor Radda
   Mayor DelBuono

   Staff Attendees:
   Janet Murphy, Director of Finance (via zoom)
   James E. Krupienski, Town Clerk
   Susan Gibbon, Council Clerk

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – ON AGENDA ONLY (Via Zoom Application or Phone)
   (3 MINUTE TIME LIMIT PER SPEAKER ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)
   • Carol Duggans, 17 Dover Road. Appreciate working with BOE for their budget; discussed importance of media specialists in the schools.
   • Jen Rodriguez, 71 Northwood Road. BOE bipartisan work; discussed importance of media specialist.
   • Jonas Roberts, Fister Drive. Discussed importance of library media specialists in the schools.
   • Valerie Whitney, 46 Michael Lane. Discussed importance of library media program and specialist.
   • Dana Havens, 113 Stoddard Avenue. The BOE has an income source available and not sure of all of them. (via zoom)
   • Richard William Lavariere, 3 Winterberry Court. Position can be funded; surplus of funds from over funded in other areas. (via zoom)

   Email Correspondence
   • Forrest Helvie, 282 Lamplighter Lane (attached hereto)
   • Diana Lamenzo, 78 Woodland Street (attached hereto)

4. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
   • Councilor Donahue asked when media specialist position is retiring. Who cut the position? Should be able to find the money in their budget.
   • Mayor DelBuono stated she appreciates everyone coming out tonight to discuss media specialist
position. MOU amount by BOE needed to maintain staff. Understand importance of media specialists in schools; did not receive any request needing that amount.

• Councilor Page stated he feels in a bind; normal economy, higher inflation, would be fighting for media specialist; agree they need our support. The MOU was endorsed by the superintendent; support MOU and budget as presented.

• Councilor Radda wanted to reiterate what Councilor Page said; appreciate everyone coming out. Positions have been unfunded in the library; understand how important libraries and media specialists are. Will look at funds in the future.

• Councilor Camillo stated at there have been two budgets where they were close to zero; return money to town; not returning money to the town; needs to be looked at. Seem to be overfunding.

• Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated she wanted to reiterate what Councilor’s Page and Radda said. Feel confident the BOE will find the money within their budget to fill the position. It’s not our job to tell the BOE how to spend their money. Budget interactions went well.

• Councilor Nagel stated he wanted to offer remarks to supporters and role of council. Both the specialist and library positions were not brought forth to us in terms of need. We only have certain powers and cannot tell the BOE how to spend their money.

• Councilor Manke thanked the people for coming out. Make it clear that we do not eliminate positions in the schools. Understand importance of books and libraries. It’s a BOE issue and how they choose to fill the position.

• Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated that she wanted to be clear that the superintendent needed to come up with a budget that was not excessive and she and the BOE could live with; the budget is reasonable and yet support needs. Sure she will listen to your concerns.

5. CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS

A. Budget Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between the Board of Education and Town Council for FY 2022-2023

Motion by Councilor Page

RESOLVED,

That the Newington Town Council hereby authorizes Keith Chapman, Town Manager, to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Town of Newington and the Board of Education, regarding the return of $476,600.00 to the General Fund by the Board of Education, no later than June 30, 2022. The Town Council would restore $592,113.00 to the Education budget for FY 2022-2023. This MOU shall be relative to the FY 2022-2023 budget only. A copy of the fully executed MOU shall be attached to this resolution.

Seconded by Councilor Radda. Motion passed 9-0.

• Councilor Manke stated that he appreciates the cooperation between the leadership of the council and the leadership of the BOE to try and make the budget as whole as possible; creative way to do it and what’s needed to prevent any layoffs. Commendable that we were able to get this done.

• Mayor DelBuono stated she wanted to thank BOE Chair Bruce Fletcher as well as Superintendent Brummett for coming forward with this idea before we even started discussing the budget with this amount and the health benefits and for opening the dialogue. Thank you and appreciate the two bodies working on this collaboratively.

*Council adjourned for a brief recess at 7:46 p.m.

*Mayor DelBuono resumed the meeting at 8:01 p.m.

B. Adjustments to Tentative Budget FY 2022-2023

1. Councilor Manke moved to increase Grant Writer by $30,000.00. Account Number 10120-8217. Doing great job. In last year’s budget for $24,800. Over the past 10 months they’ve earned their keep.
- Seconded by Councilor Donahue.
- Councilor Page asked if it was $30,000 last year.
- Councilor Manke stated last year is was $24,000, because it was prorated.

Roll Call Vote:
Councilor Braverman - yes
Deputy Mayor Budrejko - yes
Councilor Camillo - absent
Councilor Donahue - yes
Councilor Manke - yes
Councilor Nagel - yes
Councilor Page - yes
Councilor Radda - yes
Mayor DelBuono - yes

- Motion passed unanimously 8-0 as indicated in the above roll call vote.

2. Councilor Manke moved to increase Assistant Town Manager by $160,000.00. Account Number 10120-8101.
- Seconded by Councilor Nagel.
- Councilor Page stated he knows there is a range for positions; people may think that’s a high number for an assistant town manager, but that is salary plus benefits.
- Councilor Manke stated yes, it includes benefits.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that when we look at the classification pay range it’s an A-12 position and the salary ranges were between 83 and change and 153 and change. Allows for salary and benefits.
- Councilor Nagel stated this was a position we had in the last budget, but it was not part of this budget; just putting funds back in for something that already exists.

Roll Call Vote:
Councilor Braverman - yes
Deputy Mayor Budrejko - yes
Councilor Camillo - yes
Councilor Donahue - yes
Councilor Manke - yes
Councilor Nagel - yes
Councilor Page - yes
Councilor Radda - yes
Mayor DelBuono - yes

- Motion passed unanimously 9-0 as indicated in the above roll call vote.

3. Councilor Manke moved to increase Board of Education by $592,113.00. Account Number 14000-8601. Per the Memorandum of Understanding we just passed.
- Seconded by Councilor Radda.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that the next motion works in conjunction with this to accomplish the MOU, it’s a general fund balance transfer of $476,000 and the revenue coming into the general fund would be expended towards this item. It’s an offset to the MOU.

Roll Call Vote:
Councilor Braverman - yes
Deputy Mayor Budrejko - yes
Councilor Camillo - yes
Councilor Donahue - yes
Councilor Manke - yes
Councilor Nagel - yes
Councilor Page - yes
Councilor Radda - yes
Mayor DelBuono - yes

- Motion passed unanimously 9-0 as indicated in the above roll call vote.

4. Councilor Manke moved to decrease General Fund Balance by $476,000.00. Account.
   - Seconded by Councilor Radda.
   - Roll Call Vote:
     Councilor Braverman - yes
     Deputy Mayor Budrejko - yes
     Councilor Camillo - yes
     Councilor Donahue - yes
     Councilor Manke - yes
     Councilor Nagel - yes
     Councilor Page - yes
     Councilor Radda - yes
     Mayor DelBuono - yes
   - Motion passed unanimously 9-0 as indicated in the above roll call vote.

5. Councilor Manke moved to decrease Building Permit Revenue by $75,000.00. Account Number 10450-5301.
   - Seconded by Deputy Mayor Budrejko.
   - Ms. Murphy stated that it is a decrease in the appropriation because it’s offsetting, but an increase technically in revenue that we’re projecting.
   - Councilor Manke stated that the two motions offset each other.
   - Roll Call Vote:
     Councilor Braverman - yes
     Deputy Mayor Budrejko - yes
     Councilor Camillo - yes
     Councilor Donahue - yes
     Councilor Manke - yes
     Councilor Nagel - yes
     Councilor Page - yes
     Councilor Radda - yes
     Mayor DelBuono - yes
   - Motion passed unanimously 9-0 as indicated in the above roll call vote.

6. Councilor Manke moved to increase Building Outside Consultant by $75,000.00. Account Number 10450-8103. To hire consultants to come and help in this department.
   - Seconded by Deputy Mayor Budrejko.
   - Councilor Page asked if this would serve the function as a commissioning agent or a clerk of the works or is this a separate function that this person serves.
   - Councilor Manke stated that these are outside building consultants that will come in and file permits, etc. Nothing to do with town property.
   - Ms. Murphy stated that we’re seeing economic development continue you need building inspectors to do outside inspections during the building process.
   - Councilor Page stated that number should sufficiently cover that increased activity.
• Councilor Manke stated that is what was recommended.

Roll Call Vote:
Councilor Braverman - yes
Deputy Mayor Budrejko - yes
Councilor Camillo - yes
Councilor Donahue - yes
Councilor Manke - yes
Councilor Nagel - yes
Councilor Page - yes
Councilor Radda - yes
Mayor DelBuono - yes

• Motion passed unanimously 9-0 as indicated in the above roll call vote.

7. Councilor Manke moved to decrease P&Z Revenue by $17,000.00. Account Number 10420-5704. This goes in hand with next item, increasing part time by $17,000 to help in the office.

• Seconded by Councilor Nagel.
• Mayor DelBuono stated that we are using $17,000 of the revenue for the part time.
• Councilor Manke stated that is correct.

Roll Call Vote:
Councilor Braverman - yes
Deputy Mayor Budrejko - yes
Councilor Camillo - yes
Councilor Donahue - yes
Councilor Manke - yes
Councilor Nagel - yes
Councilor Page - yes
Councilor Radda - yes
Mayor DelBuono - yes

• Motion passed unanimously 9-0 as indicated in the above roll call vote.

8. Councilor Manke moved to increase P&Z PT by $17,000.00. Account Number 10420-8103.

• Seconded by Councilor Donahue.

Roll Call Vote:
Councilor Braverman - yes
Deputy Mayor Budrejko - yes
Councilor Camillo - yes
Councilor Donahue - yes
Councilor Manke - yes
Councilor Nagel - yes
Councilor Page - yes
Councilor Radda - yes
Mayor DelBuono - yes

• Motion passed unanimously 9-0 as indicated in the above roll call vote.

9. Councilor Manke moved to decrease Solid Waste by $54,670. Account Number 10352-8220. This reflects the contract we signed with the new solid waste provider; it came in less than we anticipated.
• Seconded by Councilor Radda.

• Councilor Page stated the bulk waste, where we have a company go house to house and pick up items; know that was taken out of the budget last time or time before; I disagree with that decision. Think the money we’re saving on this could be used to reinstate bulk pickup. My concern is, and I don’t have hard data, we’re increased risk for illegal dumping and some blight situations. Last year while campaigning spoke with folks near park areas or dead end areas and they expressed concern about more items being dumped and then it needs to be cleaned up. Think we should look at that and visit that because concerned in the long haul for things like blight and illegal dumping. Not against this, opportunity we could be missing.

• Mayor DelBuono stated we need to vote on resolution on the table; if you want to introduce your own resolution you are certainly welcome to do that. One of the reasons we did look at bulk waste pick up was that there was some abuse of it going on. The average resident would maybe use it once per year, but there were a few instances where people were having their friend bring items into town and using our bulk pick up because it was free here versus paying in their own town. The cost was going up because of that and when we compared to other towns the fees and structure were comparable to other towns. Mr. Hillman can provide you with data we having from other towns.

Roll Call Vote:
Councilor Braverman - yes
Deputy Mayor Budrejko - yes
Councilor Camillo - yes
Councilor Donahue - yes
Councilor Manke - yes
Councilor Nagel - yes
Councilor Page - yes
Councilor Radda - yes
Mayor DelBuono - yes

• Motion passed unanimously 9-0 as indicated in the above roll call vote.

10. Councilor Manke moved to increase Historical Properties by $50,000.00. Account Number 31110-88908. This is used for upkeep that might be needed.

• Seconded by Deputy Mayor Budrejko.

• Councilor Radda stated she was reviewing the proposed budget and $500 was allotted; now requesting $50,000. Can I get some clarification as to why the increase. Want to preserve what’s in the community.

• Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated that historically it’s been $500, can’t do much with $500. Last year we took a look at this and bumped it up. As a town we do a terrible job of looking after our historical properties. Given the budget situation we’re in, and the economy, we can’t increase it to the level where it should be, but putting just $500 shows me, and the people of Newington, that we just don’t care at all about historical properties. We need to recognize our historical properties and we need to maintain them. What’s exciting this year is our grant writer has been in contact with SHPA and there are opportunities to get grants roofs, siding, signage; many grants require commitment from the town, but also matching funds and this will allow us to pursue grant monies.

• Ms. Murphy stated that you are talking about two different accounts when you talk about the $500. The $500 is an operational account and the $50,000 will go into CIP account which rolls over from year to year.

• Councilor Manke stated that in the 2021-2022 CIP budget its $50,000 for Historical Properties.
• Councilor Nagel stated he served on the historical society for over 15 years; know that side of it in terms of historical and having been on the council off and on, that $500 is just like a placeholder and indeed to say we care. This is long overdue and it's just more than a superficial way of support of the maintenance of our historical properties. It puts an investment into them and we're not just talking about it and mean to do what the town says it's going to do and indeed there are funds there to handle it or in part to start to match grant funds. It's important to this council and needs to be considered a valuable part of our culture in town.

Roll Call Vote:
- Councilor Braverman - yes
- Deputy Mayor Budrejko - yes
- Councilor Camillo - yes
- Councilor Donahue - yes
- Councilor Manke - yes
- Councilor Nagel - yes
- Councilor Page - yes
- Councilor Radda - yes
- Mayor DelBuono - yes

Motion passed unanimously 9-0 as indicated in the above roll call vote.

11. Councilor Manke moved to increase Matching Grant Funds by $350,000.00. Account Number 30310-8235. Originally in the budget for $225,000, Janet asked that we increase it by $100,000 because we have so many grants coming due that we have a matching component of the grants. We recently got a rather large grant that has a matching component of $250,000 so we needed to increase it more so.

- Seconded by Councilor Radda.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that Councilor Manke alluded to the EOC Grant we received and it's a $1 million grant that requires us to put up $250,000.
- Ms. Murphy stated that Gary Fuerstenberg, our town engineer, stated that won't give him any more grants until he finishes what he has and we need to keep those in the pipeline and moving which means we need our matches.
- Councilor Page what is EOC.
- Mayor DelBuono stated it is the Emergency Operations Center.
- Councilor Page sated that we were provided information on that but don't yet know where that will be located because we were hustling to secure the grant.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that is correct.
- Councilor Page stated that the purpose of the EOC is to provide a place for operations in response to disasters or other public emergency situations.
- Councilor Manke stated that that receiving this grant is prestigious, only two given out in the state, with us being one of them. The staff here did really well to write the grant and get it approved. Where to put it, etc. will happen within the next couple of months.
- Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated that to show the importance of this, on Thursday, Senator Blumenthal was here in town to announce it.

Roll Call Vote:
- Councilor Braverman - yes
- Deputy Mayor Budrejko - yes
- Councilor Camillo - yes
- Councilor Donahue - yes
- Councilor Manke - yes
- Councilor Nagel - yes
- Councilor Page - yes
Councilor Radda – yes
Mayor DelBuono - yes

- Motion passed unanimously 9-0 as indicated in the above roll call vote.


- Seconded by Councilor Radda.
- Councilor Manke stated that the rationale behind this was in CIP we had three actual studies being done this year – the town center, Newington Junction and Cedar Street, so we recognized it’s hard to do all three this year. So we’ll do two this year and one next year.
- Mayor DelBuono stated the Town Planner was consulted on this and she agrees that this made sense.
- Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated that she would like everything done at once, but the reality is, even as outside consultants would be doing this, it still takes a lot of staff time to coordinate. As long as this is going to get done eventually, she is fine with it and in terms of setting the priority. Also, in CIP, she is going to be doing a complete overhaul of the regs and that’s going to take a good amount of time. Town center, there’s already stuff happening there and we need to make sure that Northwood Plaza is taken care, Keeney Manufacturing, how the center should evolve and that’s an immediate need and functioning. Newington Junction it’s functioning and we need to get going. Of any of these that could be delayed, it’s Cedar Street and maybe next year we’ll have a clearer idea when funding will come through for a train station.
- Councilor Page stated that in the original town manager proposal, wasn’t there $50,000 proposed for Newington Junction and $100,000 for Cedar.
- Councilor Manke stated that is correct.
- Councilor Page stated that the money allocated would be for architectural design.
- Councilor Manke stated architectural design for Cedar Street.
- Councilor Page stated that when the original proposal, back around 2019, by the previous council, there were recommendations for architectural design then and no monies allocated in 2019. My concern is we keep talking about this and we keep saying we’ll do it another year, I think there is great urgency, think this a great opportunity, the Cedar Street train station for so many reasons with mass transit as an important piece of our puzzle locally, regionally and country wide. Think it’s appropriate to keep the money and look at the feasibility of Newington Junction. Thinks it’s not appropriate to remove money about the much greater viability of the Cedar Street station over Newington Junction. $100,000 in the scope of potentially millions and millions of dollars of revenue coming to our town is money well spent. Urge reconsidering this and keeping the $100,000 there as it will benefit our town immensely.
- Councilor Donahue stated that the state basically told us there is no vision for a train station on Cedar Street in Newington in the near future and don’t think we should invest in something that the state has no interest in at this point in time. Know we need to improve the center of town and Newington Junction. We’re not saying we’re never going to do it, and with the state having no interest in a train platform, we take the money out this year and if the state shows an interest, we put it back in.
- Councilor Manke stated that this reflects the fact that doing three studies in one year is problematic. It will take a lot of staff time, especially on top of the other duties town staff has. I’m in favor or doing two this year and one next year.

Roll Call Vote:
Councilor Braverman - yes
Deputy Mayor Budrejko - yes
13. Councilor Manke moved to change wording in CIP regarding Chapman Street Fire Station by removing the word demolition and just put Fire Storage Building on Chapman Street for $185,000. It doesn’t change the amount, it just changes the wording of the line item.

- Seconded by Councilor Donahue.
- Mayor DelBuono stated for clarification, is that something we do in this or when we adopt the Long-Range Capital Improvement Plan.
- Ms. Murphy stated that you would do it now. We don’t go into detail when we adopt the long range one.
- Councilor Radda asked Councilor Manke to clarify.
- Councilor Manke stated that our thinking is that down the road that demolition is not the thing to do with that building, maybe restoration; but if it says demolition, you can’t use that money for restoration or anything else with that building. We want to cover our bases.
- Councilor Radda stated she agrees that building and that area are close to my heart.
- Councilor Manke stated that it keeps our options open.
- Councilor Page stated that with this authorization, are you sashing that down the road, should we decide to take that building down there is carte blanche to do that or we’re have the right to have that discussion before that decision is made and the public has some input as a potentially historic resource.
- Councilor Manks stated that this is only a line item in CIP so I believe it doesn’t authorizing anything happening unless we approve it. Hope that it would come back to the council.
- Councilor Page stated that the town should at least have a say or discussion about that. It may be that we take it down or do something else with it, but it does have potential historic value. Don’t know if there’s any correlation between that property and Firehouse 3 and what their needs might be in the near future.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that this came up during our Saturday budget discussion and some of us were surprised to hear the demolition talk. This will just allow us as time goes on and proposals come forward, we may demolish it or save it and use it in another capacity. It give us the opportunity to do one or the other.
- Councilor Nagel stated it gives us an option from the way it is written now. It’s more beneficial and the decision to do down the line is a topic to be discussed another time. At least there are funds there to do whatever we all deem to be appropriate.

Roll Call Vote:
Councilor Braverman - yes
Deputy Mayor Budrejko - yes
Councilor Camillo - yes
Councilor Donahue - yes
Councilor Manke - yes
Councilor Nagel - yes
Councilor Page - yes
Councilor Radda - yes
Mayor DelBuono - yes
Motion passed unanimously 9-0 as indicated in the above roll call vote.

- Mayor DelBuono thanked Majority Leader Manke for all of his hard work; the majority brought forth these motion and we worked on them collaboratively. I appreciate the lead you took on working with the finance director to make sure we had the wording, accounts, amounts and everything ready for tonight.
- Councilor Manke stated he wanted to thank Janet Murphy for her help with this; appreciate your educating me year after year.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that the majority is done with their adjustments. She asked Councilor Page if he had any motions to bring forward at this time.
- Councilor Page stated no, but have some clarifying questions. The Assistant Facilities Director position – can we get clarification on the dollar amount for that.
- Ms. Murphy stated she believes she sent Councilor Page information on that and to be clear, that position has already been filled.
- Councilor Page stated that’s already in the budget.
- Ms. Murphy stated yes, this year we did a budget transfer and $100,000 is currently allocated under Facilities Management for the Assistant Facility Director position.
- Councilor Page stated that given the square footage the facilities manager currently manages and best practices from comparable towns, its felt that an assistant facilities manager is needed as opposed to hiring out per project a person to manage those tasks.
- Mayor DelBuono stated yes. The town manager brought this forward based on the size and scope of our facilities and it was an absolute need.
- Councilor Page stated it looks like there’s no more monies being allocated for the six-month temporary Deputy Chief position. Correct?
- Mayor DelBuono stated correct.
- Councilor Page stated that we can revisit that down the road if that’s what is needed by Chief Clark.
- Mayor DelBuono stated yes, of course.
- Councilor Radda stated that she raised the need for a teen librarian at Lucy Robbins Welles Library and will table that for a later discussion and want to make folks aware we are cognizant of the need, importance and stress that places on the current staff not having hat position filled at this point in time.
- Councilor Page stated to clarify, the $476,000 to the general fund, is not, as I think has been done in the past, to necessarily increase the fund balance relative to what we’re required to do for our bonding and so forth. It’s merely and accounting move and it’s not for bonding requirements.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that we want to keep our fund balance at 10%.
- Ms. Murphy stated that we try to keep it at 12, but 10 is the policy.
- Councilor Manke stated that the $476,000 is a pass through.

C. Adoption of Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-23

Motion by Deputy Mayor Budrejko

RESOLVED:

That the following General Fund appropriations of the Town of Newington are hereby adopted for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023, in accordance with Section 805 of the Charter of the Town of Newington:

APPROPRIATIONS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Town Government Operations:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Government</td>
<td>$6,431,049</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Safety</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Works</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Planning &amp; Development</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Community Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Library</td>
<td>1,782,256</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That, in accordance with Section 805 of the Charter of the Town of Newington, the following General Fund estimated revenues be raised to meet these appropriations:

ESTIMATED REVENUES:

Current Taxes $98,962,850
Prorated Taxes 1,130,637
Prior Years Taxes 400,000
Interest & Liens 350,000
Motor Vehicle Tax 8,540,080
Payments in Lieu of Taxes 3,760,127
Assessments 16,248
Licenses & Permits 359,500
Rentals 100,000
Investment Income 100,000
Fines 22,000
Charges for Services 651,600
Refunds & Reimbursements 22,000
Sale of Town Property 5,020
State Aid 16,375,535
Federal Aid 9,000
Miscellaneous 60,000
Transfers from Other Funds 182,894 $131,047,411
General Fund Balance Applied 2,976,000 $134,023,411

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Clerk is hereby instructed to place the accompanying General Fund Budget Summary on the record of this meeting to illustrate the above appropriations and revenue estimates.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the following budget is hereby adopted for the Public School Capital Improvement Projects Reserve Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023:

APPROPRIATIONS:

District-wide HVAC 60,000
Painting 30,000
Carpentry 30,000
District-Wide Playground Renovations 50,000
District-Wide Technology Infrastructure 750,000
District-Wide Blacktop/Paving 50,000
District-Wide Vehicles 30,000
NHS Music Wing Expansion 200,000

TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS $1,000,000

ESTIMATED REVENUES:
General Fund Appropriations $125,000
Interest Earnings 2,000
Tuition Receipts 800,000
School Rental Receipts 73,000

TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES AND APPLIED FUND BALANCE $1,000,000

Seconded by Councilor Manke. Motion passed 9-0. (roll call vote)

- Councilor Page stated with the pandemic and funds coming from the Feds that the town has received or will receive, that’s not reflected under Federal Aid or are we saying we’re not anticipating any more federal funds.
- Ms. Murphy stated that the federal aid we’re receiving is not into the general fund; this is to fund the General Fund and CIP. The additional $4 million aid we will be getting this June goes into the Grant Fund and payments related to that grant go directly against that fund not operational.

D. Adoption of Long-Range Capital Improvement Plan 2022-23 through 2026-2027

Motion by Councilor Donahue

RESOLVED:

The Newington Town Council hereby adopts the “Town of Newington Long-Range Capital Improvement Plan 2022-2023 through 2026-2027,” a final copy of which will be on file in the Town Clerk’s Office.

NOTE: This vote is binding only for the funds committed for fiscal year 2022-2023; the proposed funding for 2023-2024 through 2026-2027 is for planning purposes only and is subject to change through future budget deliberations.

Seconded by Councilor Nagel. Motion passed 9-0. (roll call vote)

- Motion passed unanimously 9-0 as indicated in the above roll call vote.

E. Set Mill Rate for FY 2022-2023

Motion by Councilor Radda

RESOLVED:

In accordance with Section 805 of the Town Charter of the Town of Newington, the Town Council hereby fixes a tax rate of 38.47 mills for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023, which shall be levied on taxable real and personal properties and motor vehicles property in the Town of Newington listed on the October 1, 2021 Grand List, and said tax shall become due and payable in accordance with Section 43-1 of the Newington Code of Ordinances. The Town Manager is hereby...
authorized to make out and sign the rate bill in accordance with this motion.

Seconded by Councilor Donahue. Motion passed 9-0. (roll call vote)

Roll Call Vote:
Councilor Braverman - yes
Deputy Mayor Budrejko - yes
Councilor Camillo - yes
Councilor Donahue - yes
Councilor Manke - yes
Councilor Nagei - yes
Councilor Page - yes
Councilor Radda - yes
Mayor DelBuono - yes

Motion passed unanimously 9-0 as indicated in the above roll call vote.

- Mayor DelBuono asked Janet to give a breakdown of what this is in comparison to last year in terms of percent.

- Ms. Murphy stated that for Total Appropriations, it was an increase of almost $3.5 million (2.7%) over the prior year’s budget. The Estimated Revenues from non-tax sources, increased almost $2.5 million (11.3%); the amount from the fund balance we’re using went up $476,000. The amount raised by taxes increased $1.6 million (1.1%); that’s being offset by an increase in the net Grand List of 2.5% ($68,652,798.00). Bottom line, your mill rate decreased .34 mills (.88%).

- Mayor DelBuono stated that she wants to send her thanks to our Town Manager, Keith Chapman; our Finance Director, Janet Murphy and our entire town staff for the efforts that went into putting together a budget that was fiscally responsible. It looked at needs versus wants. It looked at the times that we’re living in right now are so difficult and the impacts of the economy right now overall. There’s just not enough gratitude from the town staff and town manager for the efforts that went into bringing forward for this council for our deliberation a very meaningful and responsible budget for us to make minor changes to. Especially thankful that this is the third year in row that we’ve been able to decrease the mill rate. Hope that shows the tax payers that this council is cognizant of the struggle that many of our taxpayers and residents are having. We all feel it, times are tough and realize that we can’t just increase expenses and expect tax payers to pay for that. Our town manager has done an amazing job with economic development in the last few years which is barely hitting now and we’ll see more of that as projects come to fruition over the next few years. This is months and months of work on the part of our entire staff; each department works to bring forward a reasonable budget to the town manager for his consideration. Thank you to the entire council, this was a very collaborative budget season, not just among us, but with the board of education. Confident the board of education will find a way to fund the position that was mentioned earlier. Pleased that the superintendent and board chair found a way of negotiating, figuring out a way to meet staffing levels in conjunction with our need to be cognizant of the impact on the tax payer and our mill rate. Overall it was a very collaborative budget season, very collaborative effort and super appreciative.

- Deputy Mayor Budrejko stated that she really thinks this year it, don’t want to say fun...but Janet, where ever you are, you’re a rock star; thank you very much for all your efforts in putting this together that was understandable and meaningful. Also, the town manager challenged the staff to come up with a lean, mean budget and they responded appropriately which enabled us to put this budget through to the residents of Newington with a small decrease in the mill rate. Again, thank you to the board of ed for working cooperatively with us this year, didn’t feel any rancor. Everybody wants to do what is best for Newington. I thank my colleagues and Councilors Page, Radda and Braverman; we asked tough questions of each other and got our points across.

- Councilor Manke stated he wanted to also thank everybody, but especially our finance director Janet Murphy for answering all my questions; the councilors for working on the budget and the town manager and staff for putting it together. This is the best time to be on the council the minute the budget passes because then you go back to regular stuff.
Councilor Page stated he wanted to echo everything you’ve all said. Especially our board of ed for bringing forth a very responsible and reasonable compromise in meeting the school’s needs. This is a time to be thankful for all that’s been accomplished. As we look forward to the growth that’s happening in Newington, we need to continue to monitor the challenges that will bring. Growth is good, I support growth, it’s in our motto, growth and progress. Think we have what it takes to manage that growth responsibly as it effects all of our services in town and our quality of life. I am pro-development and simultaneously pro responsible management of that as best as we can within our resources. As a separate but related issue, know that the pools are crying for our attention, know people have visited that in the past and we need to keep looking at that; it’s going to mean some dollars and we will need to make tough decisions down the road. We’re running out of land and we are going to have to look at creative ways to address those needs and not squeeze our taxpayers. This is a time to celebrate the hard work everyone has done and I’m grateful for that. Just keeping mindful of our future and challenges ahead.

Councilor Nagel stated he’d like to echo also what others have said and offer my gratitude and thanks for our town manager, all the department heads, Janet especially for creating a good base for us work from and doing a lot of the work in terms of what we can do in terms of needs instead of wants and making our job somewhat easier. It may not seem so here on the council to determine what needs to be added, or deleted, or changed and one notable thing about the adds and deletes that we did make, many of them were washes and indeed funds were added as things came up and we realized there was need for additional funds. As we stated earlier, there were a few things we couldn’t fund but were beyond the bounds of this council and may very well be worked out within the funds that have been allotted to the different resources. Once again, kudos to everyone. I’ll be happy for this minute and will hopefully continue to be happy as we serve outside of the budget season.

Councilor Radda stated as a new councilor, I want to thank my colleagues on the council, staff in the town hall for clarification, for answering questions; the board of ed. We all worked together and we’re all working towards the same goal. We all may be taking different paths, but we’re working towards the same goal. Particularly want to thank the residents who have come out either via email or here in person to offer their voice. Think it’s incredibly important and people need to know that we listen; we take it in, we understand it and it’s not a wasted effort to come and speak. Everyone’s voice is important and we need to hear that and I appreciate we put the budget to bed.

Mayor DelBuono stated she wants to send a quick thanks out; negligent in mentioning James Krupienski, our Town Clerk, but also our clerk of the council, for all his efforts in helping us and Sue Gibbon who helps us out here at the council table too; thank you both for your help in our process.

6. REFUNDS (Action Requested)

   A. Approval of April 19, 2022 Refunds for an Overpayment of Taxes

Motion by Deputy Mayor Budrejko

RESOLVED:

That property tax refunds in the amount of $133,343.11 are hereby approved in the individual amounts and for those named on the “Requests for Refund of an Overpayment of Taxes,” certified by the Revenue Collector, a list of which is attached to this resolution.

Seconded by Councilor Nagel. Motion passed 9-0.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – ON AGENDA ONLY (Via Zoom Application or Phone)

   (3 MINUTE TIME LIMIT PER SPEAKER ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

   • None

8. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

   • None

9. ADJOURNMENT
Motion to adjourn the meeting by Councilor Manke. Seconded by Councilor Donahue. The meeting adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Gibbon
Council Clerk
Good evening,

I am writing this evening with regards to the MOU that was recently shared with the public focused on a guarantee of providing sufficient funding to ensure there were no staff layoffs in exchange for a sum of $476,600.00. While it was not stated in the memo (I am including a copy to ensure what I am referencing is accurate to what you are also tracking), it would seem that the arrangement is predicated on the board of education returning to the town council any health funds breakage, which seems to be estimated at $476,600.00.

To be clear, I am glad to see there is discussion about a recognition of increased costs that are outside of the board of education's control (e.g. collective bargaining mandated raises). On the other hand, the arrangement does bring a few questions to mind, and they are one I hope you will take into consideration:

1. The total of $476,600.00 would no doubt be an estimate of funds the board would receive back. What if the estimate proves to be inaccurate or changes between now and the end of the fiscal year? Would the arrangement then change, thereby leaving the BOE to pick up the balance, or would the TC maintain the spirit of the arrangement and ensure a complete funding of the 2.46% increase?

2. Did the board of education utilize health savings funds in FY 2021-22 to address budgetary concerns, and if so, how so? The reason I ask this question is because that means those same line items that were funded during this budgetary year will no longer have the same funding source come FY 2022-23. As a result, this will necessarily means the board of education will need to increase next year's "ask" to account for that lost funding.

In short, we are back in the same place come next year.

Again, I am cautiously optimistic that we are moving past the space of flat-funding (and effectively cutting) the board education budget. My primary concern in writing this evening, however, centers on what I perceive to be some significant questions that this memorandum doesn't address, but should be accounted for given the scope of the issue at hand.

Thank you all for continuing to keep these conversations going, and I look forward to hearing your thoughts about these issues in tomorrow's meeting and the weeks ahead.

Best,

Dr. Forrest Helvie
282 Lamp Lighter Lane
Newington
MEMORANDUM

To: Newington Town Council
From: James E. Krupinski, Town Clerk (On behalf of Keith Chapman, Town Manager)
Date: April 1, 2022
Re: Discussion-Budget Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between the Board of Education and Town Council for FY 2022-2023

The Town Council and the Board of Education are interested in entering into a one-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023. The proposed MOU would ensure that no staff layoffs would be necessary within the Board of Education. The BOE would agree to return $476,600.00 upon adoption of the FY 2022-2023 budget. The Town Council, based upon the proposed funds being returned to the Town, would increase the Board of Education budget, by $592,113.00, for a total of $78,660,125 for FY 2022-2023. This MOU would be a one-time agreement for the 2022-2023 budget year only.

This item is proposed to move forward to the April 19, 2022 Special Meeting, at which time the Town Manager would be authorized to execute the MOU on behalf of the Town Council. A Resolution will be included for adoption prior to the adoption of the budget to allow for the necessary changes, based on the proposed MOU requirements.

Attachment:
- Draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – FY 2022-2023 Budget
Hello,

I am writing in support of keeping the E green media specialist the way that is , with no cuts. Mrs. Carlson goes above and beyond for her students. As an educator myself I see on a daily basis how important media is for my students. They go into the library and become new found and confident readers. The connections they make with books and the conversations they have about their interests and relationships they build are all kudos to the media specialists. They love books and fall in love with reading each time they enter the library. This position is crucial for students at the elementary level. We need to catch kids before third grade for them to be successful and life long learners and readers. Please keep the position the way that it is for our readers and scholars.

Diana Lamenzo

Please read my letter at the 4/19 town council meeting.

Thank you