

Special Budget Meeting
October 23, 2025
Borough Hall

The Special Budget Meeting of Newtown Borough Council was called to order at 5:30 P.M. on Thursday, October 23, 2025. President Heinz asked those in attendance to join her in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Councilors Heinz, Bauman, Foley, Tognini, & Woldorf; Mayor Burke; Manager Totaro
Absent: Councilor Phillips

Public to be Heard

Tara Grunde-McLaughlin, Resident, asked what Newtown Township residents are paying on average in municipal real estate taxes.

Joe Lovi, Resident, questioned the amount of money the Borough is charged for fire services and whether it could be lowered by paying per fire call. Mr. Lovi noted that Newtown Fire & Emergency Services provides mutual aid to other municipalities with whom they don't have a fire service agreement.

Review Preliminary Worksheet Budget – Craig Totaro

Borough Manager Craig Totaro shared the preliminary budget with Council and addressed their questions and concerns. The Manager reported an approximate \$100K balance at the end-of-year and stated how a large portion would go towards bridging the gap in fire services.

Mr. Totaro stated that active negotiations are taking place with Newtown Township regarding fire services and the Newtown Borough Police Department (NBPD) which could result in some changes to the budget. The Manager provided data regarding the percentage of real estate taxes paid to the Borough in recent years, millage equivalency to dollars, amount increase in the borough assessment, earned income tax revenues, and more.

Mr. Totaro attributed the increase in expenditures in 2026 primarily to the hiring of an additional police officer, increase in lease payments to the Newtown Fire Association (NFA) for the police station, and over a 200% increase in fire services which will result in a tax millage increase next year.

President Heinz announced that the request from the NBPD for a new vehicle and additional full-time police officer were denied due to lack of funding.

Announcements - none

Public to be Heard

Joe Lovi, Resident, reiterated that the Borough consider paying per call for fire services, noting that the Borough has no control over the decisions made by the township in providing these emergency services. Mr. Lovi shared additional comments as well.

President Heinz called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:33 P.M. Councilor Tognini so moved, Councilor Woldorf seconded, and the motion was approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy S. Musto
Borough Secretary

Attendees

Tara Grunde-McLaughlin
Courtney Lang
Nicole Rodowicz
Joe Lovi
Bernie Sauer – Zoom
Glenn Beasley – Zoom
Warren Woldorf - Zoom