

# NEWS OF NEWPORT

Wendy King, Town Manager  
Stephanie Banks, Mayor  
Michael Capriglione, Commissioner  
Mark Wohner, Police Chief

Timothy Chatburn, Vice Mayor  
Michele MacDonald, Commissioner  
Lisa Spencer, Commissioner

## FY2026 General Operating Budget, Tax Rate and Tax Increase

Over the course of the November and December 2025, regular meetings, council has voted on a new tax rate based on the new assessed property values, passed the FY2026 General Operating Budget and implemented a tax increase which will add \$158,000 to the budget. The tax rate was calculated to zero and the rate was split, meaning commercial properties will be taxed differently than residential properties. Those rates were \$.20 per \$100 of assessed value for residential properties and \$.37 per \$100 of assessed value for commercial properties. We needed to raise taxes since they have not been increased since 2019 and while the expense budget has been kept the same since then, the cost of everything has increased. The increased tax rates are \$.27 per \$100 of assessed value for residential properties and \$.44 per \$100 of assessed value for commercial properties. There will be properties that will see an increase, some that see a decrease, and some will stay the same. The exemption value was also changed from \$32,000 to \$173,000, following the County's exemption rate.

**2026 Election** – There will be two open seats on Council for the municipal election taking place on April 6, 2026. The seats are two-year terms.

If you are interested in running for office, you need to be at least 21 years of age, have resided in town for at least two years and not have been convicted of any crime considered a felony in Delaware.

Candidates will need to complete the Candidate Filing Form by Friday, March 6, 2026. By completing the form, candidates will be consenting to obtaining a background check at his/her expense (to be reimbursed if elected) if an election will be held.

Here are some notes from our Maintenance Department: Please try to not park in front of your trash cans or pile trash bags on top of the cans. The arm on the trash truck is being utilized so access needs to be as clear as possible. If you have a driveway, please use it when it snows. The plows need clear access. They are picking up your live Christmas trees through January. Thank you for your cooperation.

Upcoming Meetings: January 15, February 19, March 19.