

## **Advisory Budget Committee**

### **Minutes**

November 30, 2021

This meeting was at the Barrington Town Hall with remote participation available.

Members Present: Steve Saunders, Peter Royce, Michael Houst, John Morris, and Scott Shephard

Alternates Present: Dannen Mannschreck

Others Present: Conner MacIver

Steve Saunders called the meeting to order at 4:31 pm.

Steve Saunders moves to approve the meeting minutes from the November 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting. The group agrees.

Conner MacIver distributed updated materials for review by the group. The materials included:

- 2022 Budget Summary by Function 20211130
  - Updated budget summary showing current budget proposal
- 2022 Budget Process Changes Summary by Function 20211130
  - This shows, by Function, how the budget changed through the process
- 2022 Budget Changes Details 20211130
  - Details of each budget change since the original budget proposal on 9/30/2021
- 2022 Revenue Estimation Workbook 20211130
  - This shows the first pass at the 2022 revenue estimate. This will be updated after the close of 2021.
- 2022 Operating Budget Tax Rate Impact 20211130
  - This shows the impact of all contributing factors on the 2022 tax rate.
- Unassigned Fund Balance History 20211130
  - Updated slightly to reflect current conditions
- Targeted Fund Balance History 20211130
  - Updated slightly to reflect current conditions
- 2022 Warrant Article Impact on Unassigned Fund Balance 20211130
  - This shows the impact of using unassigned fund balance on the anticipated future fund balance amount

Conner MacIver shared that the current budget proposal is \$7,661,332 (down \$103,964 from the original proposal) and the projected Default Budget is \$7,545,890.

The group recognized that the proposed budget includes all recommendations from the ABC.

Michael Houst vocalized his support based on the majority of the increase based on the Fire, Police, and Highway staffing changes. Michael Houst also pointed out that the inflation rate is 4.26% and the proposed budget increase is 5.35%.

The group discussed the proposed addition of Library staff hours and associated cost of approximately \$12,000. The group appreciated the additional information from the Library Department.

Ultimately, the group recommended removing the additional hours from the proposed operating budget.

The group, by unanimous consent, agreed to recommend the current budget proposal of \$7,661,382 to the Select Board.

Conner MacIver explained that the operating budget as presented can be proposed with no tax rate impact based on locally collected revenue increases. This fact in conjunction with the inflation rate should be used to help garner support for the proposed operating budget.

Conner MacIver updated the group regarding the Town's fund balance position and the amount available to fund 2022 warrant articles while remaining within the 12.5% target of unassigned fund balance.

The group agreed to develop proposed warrant articles within the 12.5% target. The group went through the warrant articles to establish a recommendation for each.

- Bridge and Culvert Capital Reserve: The group agrees with the \$150,000 as proposed.
- Highway Equipment Capital Reserve: The future funding challenge is the replacement of the grader; the group has asked the Road Agent to prepare possible options for replacing the grader. The group agrees with the \$150,000 as proposed.
- Police Equipment Capital Reserve: The group agrees with the \$90,000 as proposed.
- Fire Truck Capital Reserve: The group has proposed increasing the proposed amount by \$20,000 to \$100,000.
- Library Capital Reserve: The group expressed a concern with the lack of plan for the new Library. The group also discussed the prior year article which passed but did not achieve the 60% a bond request would require. The group does not support an article to add money to this capital reserve.
- Emergency Communication Capital Reserve: The group agrees with the \$50,000 as proposed.
- Transfer Station Capital Reserve: The group agrees with the \$25,000 as proposed.
- Dam Repair/Engineering/Replacement Capital Reserve: The group agrees with the \$25,000 as proposed.
- Tricentennial Celebration: The group discussed the current balance and the fundraising efforts. The group understands that the primary purpose of these funds is for a fireworks display. The group proposes reducing the request to \$10,000.
- Fire Rescue Equipment Capital Reserve: The group agrees with the \$10,000 as proposed.
- Cemetery Capital Reserve: The group agrees with the \$13,000 as updated.

- Library Technology Capital Reserve: The group agrees with the \$3,000 as proposed.

The group discussed adding money for paving in 2022. John Morris suggested adding a \$100,000 non-lapsing paving article. The group agrees by unanimous consent.

Based on these recommendations, there is a total of \$726,000 proposed from fund balance which would result in \$1,652 over the 12.5% fund balance target.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Conner MacIver.

DRAFT