

Advisory Budget Committee

Minutes

November 1, 2022

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

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

Alternate Members Present: Bill Irving

Others Present: Conner MacIver, Dannen Mannschreck, Vanessa Price (Town Planner), John Huckins (Building Inspector), and Linda Markiewicz (Tax Collector)

Steve Saunders called the meeting to order at 4:30pm.

Steve Saunders introduced Vanessa Price and the Land Use budget.

Michael Houst asked about the communications budget line. Conner MacIver explained that the former Town Planner stopped using the Town-issue cell phone and the new Planner uses a Town-issued cell phone.

Steve Saunders asked if the consultants budget would support all that was proposed. Vanessa Price (Town Planner) explained that the Land Use Department is pursuing a grant (which is likely to be received) which will fully fund the Housing chapter update of the Master Plan. She also explained that the Department is reviewing engineering updates to the regulations and evaluating innovative ideas for zoning amendments.

The group had no further questions. The group thanked Vanessa Price for her participation.

Steve Saunders introduced John Huckins and the Building budget.

The group discussed notes provided by John Huckins in his budget materials. Steve Saunders asked if the demand on the Building Department continues to increase with building permits. John explained that revenue and demand in the department continues to carry the funding for the department as allowed by State law.

John Huckins explained how the Town follows its own zoning requirements and typically waives permit fees on Town projects.

Peter Royce asked about overtime and earned-time buyout benefits/payroll taxes. Conner MacIver explained that those benefits/payroll taxes are added to the department's benefit lines.

The group had no further questions. The group thanked John Huckins for his participation.

Steve Saunders introduced Linda Markiewicz and the Tax budget.

Linda Markiewicz gave a brief overview and summary document of her department's budget.

Steve Saunders asked about the utilization of the conferences and training budget. Linda Markiewicz agreed that the budget could be reduced based on current utilization.

The group had no further questions. The group thanked Linda Markiewicz for her participation.

John Morris asked about how new tax base is factored into the tax rate impact. Conner MacIver shared the [Operating Budget Tax Rate Impact](#) document he prepares annually.

Conner MacIver explained to the group about the ongoing discussion of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Districts. The group discussed the idea and will expect further conversations.

Conner MacIver passed around updated budget binder documents.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Conner MacIver.