

**BUDGET COMMITTEE AND JOINT SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING, APRIL 13, 2015
MINUTES**

Meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m. by Chairman Schrumm.

A quorum was determined to be present.

OPERATING BUDGET FY 2015-2016.

Present: David Schrumm, Thomas Ruocco, Robert J. Oris, Peter Talbot, Patti Flynn-Harris, Liz Linehan.

Staff: Town Manager Milone; Finance Director Jaskot; Executive Assistant Ms. Talbot.

Mr. Milone reviewed the elements of the resolution broken out for the Board of Education budget and requirements.

A - \$358,000 cut in General Government;

B - \$1.110 million cut in Education;

C - adopt budget in its totality;

D - adopt mill rate; generation of tax levy; collection rate.

E - adopt additional language (distribution, mailing out tax bills etc.)

Page 2 - standard breakdown of the component parts, increases, and \$358,000 cut from General Government; \$1.110 cut from Education; Debt Service reduced by \$210,000; total budget is \$1,679,091 less than what Town Manager proposed.

Handout April 8, 2015 - at \$1.677 million; adjustments were made due to hours cut in Senior Services, and rounded to \$3,000; there was a cut for the Assistant Town Clerk and cut of one hour for each of the Senior Services positions; overall it was \$1,673.

Page 3 - detail to support all of the revenue changes, and expenditure changes.

Dept. of Education adjustments were broken out in the 4 parts identified (20, 21, 22, 23) shows the reduction by these elements.

Page 4 - standard tax payment to the average taxpayer; increase of 1.45%; last five years average increase has been 1.56%.

Pages 5 and 6 - bands redeveloped to see more clearly and specifically the impact of the increases. The cumulative percentage is 98.19% of taxpayers paying less than \$200. Two year period going from mill rate of 27.6 (FY 2014 budget to current budget); 2014 was the pre-revaluation and shows effect over 2 year period.

On page 5 it shows Town Manager's proposed budget with under 4% at less than \$100; with the mill rate change by the Council it is now 62.54%; the cumulative of less than \$200 in the proposed budget was 33.69% and it is now 98.19%. The 3/4 mill rate change made a big difference, and did a lot for people at the lower end.

Page 7 - Mr. Milone reviewed the expenditure side changes.

EXPENDITURES

Town Clerk - change was removal of 5+ hours for Assistant Town Clerk, and adjustment on a lease; \$3,187 total change.

Registrars Office/Elections - assumption of primary election removed, savings of \$13,000.

General Services - \$22,750; denial of request for Electronic Media Consultant position.

Public Property - transferred money to the Pool for the portion of the performance contracting lease; Library Parking.

Employee Benefits - reduced by \$228,000; change in rates savings of \$90,000+; \$50,000 taken from VEBA to reduce some of medical benefit expenses; pension savings of \$87,753. Total cut was \$228,064

Police Department - elimination of the request for 3 new Dispatchers; adding money back for 3/4 of the year for a police officer; \$51,403 reduction.

Fire Department - increased by \$8,245 due to pension contribution increase.

Public Works - major change with denial of half year funding for Mechanics position; and add back of money for street lights, \$4,500.

Human Services - 25 hour positions reduced to 24 hours per week; \$1,700 change.

Library - reduction of \$7,108 in Program Materials to keep extra hours for Sunday operation.

Debt Service - reduction due to refunding BOE.

Contingency - no change; C.N.R. no change.

Board of Education - reduced by \$1.10 million.

REVENUES

Page 9 - current tax levy went down by \$1.903 million; \$2 million was result of mill rate going down by .76; \$85,758 added back for increasing the collection rate to 99.1%.

Certificate of Occupancy & Supplemental Motor Vehicle Taxes - those are mill rate sensitive, and reduce a little.

Page 10 - SSRWA is mill rate sensitive revenue, reduced by \$14,000.

Page 11 - Increase in Building Department Revenues by \$15,000; Town Clerk increased by \$20,000.

The issue of the street sweeper, which was not in the budget, was raised by Mr. Oris.

Mr. Milone said the \$30,000 to lease the street sweeper is not in the budget for next year. There were problems with leasing the equipment, as the one promised to the Town was sold, and another is not available. Now, the PW Department must go to Massachusetts to try and get a street sweeper.

WPCD - user fee remains at \$380; pension decreased by \$18,176; additional hours for Electrician was not approved, and is kept at 30 hours per week.

Pool - budget adjustments were made, which will be absorbed by the insurance contribution line item on the revenue side; water to fill pool \$12,000; pool consultant \$5,000 removed from the budget; rental/lease has to do with the performance contract, lease payment out of the general fund; pensions increased slightly; pool insurance fund balance is \$85,173.56, with adjustments cited.

The balance after things to be done at the pool is \$61,432.56.

Mr. Oris said there was \$257,000; \$100,000 was used last year; Ms. Adams is asking for \$72,000; and this leaves a balance of \$85,000. He asked if this was correct.

The \$71,999 is the estimate from Ms. Adams to be spent for the interior improvements to the pool, and Mr. Milone said this leaves a \$85,173 balance.

4. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Talbot; seconded by Mr. Ruocco.

MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest:

Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk