



STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

MICHAEL J. PURCARO
Chairman

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DAVID J. OLENDER
Vice Chairman

BOARD OF FINANCE

PEGGY A. BUSSE
JAMES F. FAY
DOUGLAS B. HARDING
BARRY C. PINTO

BUDGET DELIBERATIONS THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2022

MINUTES

Members Present: Michael Purcaro-Chair, David Olender-Vice Chair, Peggy Busse, James Fay, Douglas Harding and Barry Pinto.

Others Present: Lori Spielman-First Selectman, Tiffany Pignataro-Finance Officer/Treasurer, Dr. Scott Nicol-Superintendent, Brian Greenleaf-Dir of Finance & Operations BOE, Board of Selectmen David Stavens, John Turner and Melinda Ferry, Board of Education members Elizabeth Nord and Miriam Underwood, Walter Lee-Emergency Mgmt. Director, Timothy Webb-DPW Director, Mary Blanchette-HML Board Chair, Susan Phillips-HML Director, Lisa Houlihan-Town Planner, Sgt, Brian Santa-RST, James York-Fire Marshal, Dustin Huguenin-P&R Director, Diane Lasher-Penti-Youth Services Director, Sheila Grady-Senior Center Director, Peter Hany-EVAC President, Tim Seitz-CLFD Chief, Jack Rich-EVFD Chief, Elizabeth Feldman-EVFD Treasurer, Thomas Palshaw; Via Zoom-Joshua Rosenfeld-EVAC Treasurer, Sam Saunders-Recycling Monitor DPW, Mary Cone-HML, J Clay.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Chairman opened the meeting with the announcement that the Board of Selectmen voted to move the budget to a referendum scheduled for May 24, 2022 from 6 am-8 pm. He also clarified that the meetings being held this week are scheduled by Charter requirement. He stated that the changes tonight are a result of collaboration with department heads, himself and the Finance Officer. Dr. Nicol introduced Stephanie Venturis who will be taking over the position of accounting coordinator due to Anita Yost's retirement.

The chairman then read off the list of adjustments.

Revenues

Recreation, +\$2,000

Senior Center, +\$5,000

Senior Center Lunch Program, +\$10,000, this hadn't been accounted for in the budget previously and is now being budgeted for.

DOT Elderly and Disabled Grant, +\$27,023

Emergency Mgmt. Performance Grant, +18,379, Due to full time position, grant maximized.

General Government Operating Budgets

60275, -\$5,300 software costs for new laptop computers with software installed.

50103, Town Clerk -\$5,000 reduction for correction to hours due to seasonal needs.

Probate Court -\$7,469 furniture cost unnecessary, included in the renovation.

60223, Town Planner -\$1,725 in travel mileage, option to attend virtually.

50101, Town Administrator +\$37,500 to move the start date to January 1, 2023 for more stability and to help the Finance Office as opposed to adding staff in the Finance Office. If approved, the Board of Selectmen will need to revisit the transition.

Boards and Commissions

50101, -\$1,000 Registrars of Voters salaries.

60250, -\$4,500 Registrars of Voters scanners purchased last year.

50103, -\$499 Shared Services for staff doing the meeting minutes.

60222, +\$1,000 Conservation Commission reclassification of dues and subscriptions from account 60250 -\$1,000

60250, -\$500 Trails Committee, removal of funding for Ad Hoc Trails Committee, funding from other sources.

Public Safety

Center Fire

60222, -\$1,773 subscriptions

60250, Proposed reduction in Target Safety for non-active membership. Mr. Rich stated that it is a per person fee. EMS members also are covered under this. No reduction taken.

60232, -\$200 for use of Town postage machine

60234, -\$300 from Celebration account. Acknowledgment of work done. Brings this in line with Crystal Lake and EVAC.

CLFD 50115, -\$1,500 savings to outsource building cleaning. Chief Seitz acknowledged that he had discussed this with the Finance Office to realize cost savings starting in the fall.

Police Dept 60346 Ammunition Account, -\$850. Sgt. Santa has surplus ammunition to swap out 10,000 rounds to save money. Surplus of 45 ammunition for the Glock ammunition.

60759, -\$13,208 utilizing State bid for new firearms for the Glock 45's. Trading in pistols for the Glocks at a savings.

50111, -\$15,718 reduction in covered shifts, correction to provide extra police protection services. Current staffing patterns will be analyzed. Sgt. Santa stated that this is a pilot program for shifts past normal duty time. The Chairman stated that overall this line item is an increase; this is a minor reduction.

50123, -\$68,089 reduction to the coverage for vacations and leave days for the 4 troopers. The budget was originally for 200 days but when the records were reviewed, it showed an average of 100 days resulting in a budget savings.

Emergency Management

60273, -\$1,500 eliminates auto repairs from this budget to be handled by DPW.

60271, -\$900 for radios purchased this year.

EVAC 60274, -\$4,000 reduced to 4 radios this year and 4 in the next budget.

Public Works Dept.

50111, Reduce DPW budget by \$123,981 salary for the retiring Director, move to Salary Adjustment Account.

50103, decrease for two summer help. Mr. Webb would like to keep one summer help. The reduction was reconsidered to -\$12,500 to fund one position.

50103, -\$25,000 decreases the proposal to increase to full time the recycling monitor. The chairman agreed that this is a valuable position but not this budget year. Mr. Webb stated that this position has become important and that the future duties are valuable. Ms. Busse confirmed that this position should pay for itself in the long run and asked if the savings can be quantified. Mr. Webb stated that Sam is working on that information now.

60759, -\$22,500 to remove the infield machine and fund it through ARPA. This is a one-time purchase and has to go to the ARPA Advisory Commission and through the process.

60350, Gas increased by +15,120 due to price increases

60351, Diesel increase by +14,900 due to price increases

60281, Winter Account -\$8,000 reduction in price of treated salt

450-60250, -\$12,800 MSW and Bulky Waste due to change in contract from MIRA to Murphy Road Recycling from \$116/ton to \$105/ton.

455-60250, Recycling -\$9,088 also due to the new contract.

Recreation

60234, -\$310 professional development

60341, -\$801 office supplies

50301, -\$1,100 Lacrosse Referee, they overestimated the games per week.

Human Services

60234, -\$1,500 removal of national conference and hotel costs

60341, -1,000 office supplies

Senior Center

60223, -\$100 Travel

60234, -\$1,000 Travel removed Boston Conf.

Town Properties

Center Fire Main St 60250, -\$2,400 for HVAC inspections changed from quarterly to annually and build in cost containment for overhead garage door inspections.

Nutmeg Firehouse, -\$1,790 HVAC inspections quarterly to annual and cost containment for overhead garage door inspections.

Ms. Feldman stated that they do annual maintenance for the overhead doors. Based on this information and further discussion, the reductions were changed to Center Fire -\$1,300 and 6 Nutmeg Dr. -\$890.

Fixed Changes

Social Security 930-50149, -\$2,764 FICA

Health Insurance 950-50151, -\$27,858

Deferred Compensation 950-50156, -\$727

Per the Finance Director, this is net based on the Town Administrator timing change made, DPW Director and any payroll changes made so far.

Miscellaneous 60250, Building Demo & Eviction, -\$5,000

Salary Adjustment 50150, +109,375 added for the DPW Director position.

Capital Improvements

LOCIP increase \$292 to match the grant.

-\$92,000 Crystal Lake gym floor, will be addressed when more information is received.

-\$100,000 HML Air Handlers to be removed and addressed through the HML Endowment Fund.

-\$30,000 BOE Modern Furniture, Mr. Greenleaf to seek out other funding for this.

-\$35,000 First Selectman's vehicle removed. A vehicle for the Emergency Manager will be purchased through a proposal to purchase through the capital reserve.

Remove the following to the ARPA Advisory Committee for funding:

EVAC Exhaust Removal \$25,000

BOE Elevator Modernization \$95,000

TH Parking Lot renovations, set priority to repair at \$20,000 (-\$80,000 reduction to original proposal and \$20,000 to ARPA

EHS Track \$230,000

DPW Pickup Truck \$45,000

Pool Cars \$70,000

Police Cruiser \$50,000. Sgt. stated that the new vehicle will be a hybrid to replace the old Tahoes.

Mr. Webb asked what if the ARPA Committee doesn't fund these items. The Chairman stated that the items don't get funded. Mr. Webb stated that the items will cost more in the future years. He is also concerned that the amount of money being requested from the ARPA funds may be more than the allotment.

Board of Education

\$-163,597 The chairman stated that this reduction will not affect teaching and learning and will not remove services from the classroom. This reduction will not eliminate the full time athletic director. Dr. Nicol stated that the BOE will determine where the reductions are made. The two Special Ed teachers are needs, not wants. Mr. Greenleaf stated that in the last 5 years, the BOE budget has been flat aside from salaries, benefits and transportation.

At this point, the changes made would reduce the 2 mill increase to less than one mill increase. The exact number will be determined by next Wednesday's meeting.

Mr. Harding stated that the Emergency Services Committee met two weeks ago and they agreed to increase the incentive rates for the emergency services personnel. Mr. Turner stated that the committee will be meeting in early May to determine the adjustment to be passed to the Board of Selectmen with a January 1 start. Mr. Purcaro asked that a projection be brought to next Wednesday' deliberations.

There were no additional comments from the Board members.

Mr. Stavens stated that the ARPA Advisory Committee meets on April 28.

Adjournment

MOVED (BUSSE) SECONDED (OLENDER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted:



Lori Smith, Recording Secretary