

State of Rhode Island

County of Washington

In Hopkinton on the thirteenth day of February 2020 A.D. a budget workshop was held in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 1 Town House Road, Hopkinton, RI 02833 to discuss the proposed FY 20/21 budget.

PRESENT: Frank Landolfi, Scott Bill Hirst, Barbara Capalbo, Sylvia Thompson, Sharon Davis; Town Manager William McGarry; Deputy Town Clerk Marita D. Murray.
Also present: Finance Director Brian Rosso.

LAND TRUST

Mr. Rosso explained that in 2012 they took a bond out and that was the \$75,000 in debt services and then the 2019 bond was \$174,000, so they are at \$249,000 for debt services. The 2012 bond will expire in 2031 and the 2019 bond will expire in 2034. The Land Trust has been funded in the past through the CIP and they receive \$15,000 from the real estate tax stamps received by the Town Clerk's Office.

Marilyn Grant indicated that they will be celebrating 20 years of the Hopkinton Land Trust at Crown Farm in late August. It was noted that there was \$35,000 in the budget from Southern Sky Solar and Atlantic Solar. Ms. Grant noted that the \$15,000 received from Atlantic Solar was a one-time payment; however, the \$20,000 from Southern Sky will be yearly for about twenty-five years. There were no changes to this budget.

Councilor Thompson noted that if this budget is rejected then the town will be working off a budget that is three years old.

TAX ASSESSOR

Elizabeth Monty was present. Council President Landolfi noted that the health and dental insurance was decreased and Mr. Rosso explained that this amount was for the prior employee who had left. The present Sr. Clerk is receiving single coverage health insurance.

There was no change to this budget.

TAX COLLECTOR

Mary Lynn Caswell was present. Council President Landolfi noted that the health and dental insurance increased and Mr. Rosso explained that this amount was due to the Deputy Tax Collector receiving family plan health insurance.

There was no change to this budget.

MUNICIPAL COURT

There was a question as to why the Clerk's salary was more than the Judge's salary. It was noted that this was contractual. It was asked why revenue was

down and Ms. Caswell noted that it depended upon how many tickets the Police wrote.

There was no change to this budget.

IT/GIS

Chris Scheib was present. Councilor Capalbo asked why contracting services had gone up. Mr. Rosso explained that contract service was for anything town wide that was tech-related. Vision Appraisal had gone up \$2,000, we are upgrading our email service and Tri-Tech police software had increased, among other things. Mr. Scheib also noted that he was in the process of purchasing the domain name of Hopkinton.gov so that no one else could purchase it and use it and they are looking to purchase new desktops for five department heads whose computers are approximately eleven years old and a new server for the town hall.

There was no change to this budget.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Councilor Davis asked if they were going to be putting any more money aside for tree removal. Town Manager McGarry indicated that National Grid had hired Stanley Tree to take down some of the dangerous trees and he believed they had removed approximately 300 trees so far, at no cost to the town because the town provided them with two flaggers. He noted that there was still \$72,500 in that account which can be used for the next fiscal year, but he believed this may be enough to complete a majority of the job.

Council President Landolfi asked Mr. Rosso to touch upon the new developments that happened at the School Committee meeting and what that potential impact might be. It was noted that they skipped right over the fund balance but they did cut the budget by over \$800,000 in expenses. Council President Landolfi felt they should make some additional cuts. Mr. Rosso advised that the cuts they made reduced our mill rate by 32 cents, which brings us to \$18.45. Mr. Moreau commented on all the fluff that was in the Chariho budget and noted that they had six summer custodial janitors to paint the rooms. Councilor Davis noted that there was \$12,000 in the budget which was \$1,000 per teacher to mentor each other and this was on top of their salaries. Councilor Hirst noted that the Chariho budget is only the bottom line because the money in the line items can be moved anywhere. He felt the media should educate the public as to the facts and procedure. Council President Landolfi felt that if they should reduce the fund balance by 2.5%.

The Workshop was closed at 7:35 P.M.

Marita D. Breault

Deputy Town Clerk