

State of Rhode Island

County of Washington

In Hopkinton on the seventh day of March 2019 A.D. the Town Council held a Budget Workshop that was called to order by Town Council President Frank Landolfi at 6:30 P.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 1 Town House Road, Hopkinton, RI 02833.

PRESENT: Frank Landolfi, Scott Bill Hirst, Barbara Capalbo, Sharon Davis; Town Manager William McGarry; Town Clerk Elizabeth Cook-Martin; Finance Director Brian Rosso. Absent: Sylvia Thompson.

The Budget Workshop to begin budget discussions regarding the proposed FY 19/20 budget opened with a moment of silent meditation and salute to the Flag.

#### EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY BUDGET

EMA Director Ron MacDonald was present. The EMA Budget was reviewed. No changes were made.

#### PUBLIC WELFARE BUDGET

The Public Welfare Budget was reviewed. There is no Public Welfare Director presently; the person elected has not been sworn in and is expected to decline the Public Welfare Director position. The funding of the Public Welfare Director Stipend was discussed. Councilor Hirst supports including \$100.00 as the position is still listed in the charter. Councilor Capalbo does not support funding it as there are many social service agencies including the Warm Shelter, food kitchens and churches that are open and available to give assistance those in need. Councilor Davis does not support funding it. Council President Landolfi is open to funding it for \$50.00. Joe Moreau offered to donate \$50.00. Councilor Hirst would like to hear Councilor Thompson's opinion.

#### IT/GIS BUDGET

IT/GIS Director Chris Schieb was present. The IT/GIS Budget was reviewed. No changes were made.

#### IT/GIS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

IT/GIS has a computer replacement project in the CIP: \$14,600 is budgeted for the 19/20 FY; \$6,613.00 is in reserve for a total of \$24,100.00, which is needed

for various IT purchases and upgrades including an update to Vision Software, the purchase of couple of tablets for use by Inspectors in the Building & Zoning Department. The funding will also cover an upgrade to Windows 10 town-wide and for the purchase of a new server at the DPW complex. The latter two planned purchases are necessary to avoid security breaches; Windows 7 will not be supported in the year 2020.

#### POLICE BUDGET

Chief of Police David Palmer was present for discussions regarding the Police Budget, Dispatch Budget and Animal Control Budget.

The Police Department Budget was reviewed. Adjustments were made to the following line items in anticipation of a lateral transfer to fill a vacancy currently existing in the department. Mr. McGarry confirmed with the Council that they were satisfied with the MOA related to the lateral transfer and the consensus was yes. Line item #4060 Patrol Overtime was increased by \$30,000.00 to \$126,000.00; line item #5090 Education Reimbursement was decreased by \$2,000.00 to \$16,000.00. The payroll related line items, including health/dental insurance, health/dental insurance co-share and health/dental insurance buy back will be adjusted by the Finance Office.

#### DISPATCH BUDGET

The Dispatch Budget was reviewed. No changes were made.

#### ANIMAL CONTROL BUDGET

The Animal Control Budget was reviewed. Line item #5425 Uniform Cleaning was increased to \$300.00, a \$100.00 addition; line item #5120 Feed & Bedding had no funding amount so \$1,500.00 was added to this line item. No other changes were made.

#### POLICE DEPARTMENT CIP

The Police Department has one project listed in the CIP in the lease funding schedule which includes a final lease to own payment of \$28,134.00 for two police vehicles leased in FY 17/18 and \$23,163.00 for the first lease to own payment for two police vehicles in FY 19/20.

#### FINANCE/DEBT SERVICE/CIP

Finance Director Brian Rosso was present. The Finance Department Budget was reviewed. No changes were made.

#### TOWN MANAGER BUDGET

Town Manager William McGarry was present. The Town Manager's Budget was reviewed. No changes were made.

#### EDUCATION

The education budget was not addressed during this workshop.

#### CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP)

The Council discussed how to address the problem with the dead trees in Town with the potential that it could be a CIP project. A list of the 97 most dangerous trees had been compiled with an estimate of \$750.00 per tree for a total cost of \$72,750.00. Council President Landolfi reported that he and Mr. Rosso had discussed the potential of using the \$51,065.00 in an offsite improvements account but more research is necessary.

#### WARRANT ITEMS, OTHER DEPARTMENTS, AGENCIES & BUDGETARY MATTERS

A fourth budget workshop is scheduled for March 11, 2019. If needed, a fifth budget workshop is scheduled for March 13, 2019.

The workshop was closed at 7:50 PM.

Elizabeth J. Cook-Martin

Town Clerk