

State of Rhode Island

County of Washington

In Hopkinton on the tenth day of May 2021 A.D. the said meeting was called to order by Town Council President Stephen Moffitt, Jr. at 7:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 1 Town House Road, Hopkinton, RI 02833.

PRESENT: Stephen Moffitt, Jr., Sharon Davis, Robert Marvel; Acting Town Manager Brian Rosso; Town Clerk Elizabeth Cook-Martin and IT Director Jeffrey Frenette participated remotely; Scott Bill Hirst, Michael Geary were present in the Meeting Room.

The Meeting was called to order with a moment of silent meditation and a salute to the Flag. Instructions for participating in the remote meeting were included on the agenda.

DISCUSS/REVISE PROPOSED FY 2021/2022 BUDGET, INCLUDING EXPENSE, REVENUE AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Councilor Hirst indicated he was satisfied with the proposed budget. He asked Mr. Rosso if he had any modifications to make regarding the proposed budget. Mr. Rosso stated he was comfortable with the budget and how it had been developed with the Town Council. He stated there was good news regarding funds coming to the town through the American Rescue Fund but they were waiting for guidance from the U.S. Treasury on how those funds can be used and how much funding the Town is getting. He stated that was the current situation with every city and town in the State right now. If we had more information at this time there could have been a different approach. He felt that not using fund balance was the prudent thing to do to keep the Town in good financial health. The fund balance level is just where it should be now according to our Auditors and Moody's and to dip into that any further would not be wise. He indicated that if everything comes to fruition; that we get good feedback from the U.S. Treasury and we find we can use those funds to offset losses in revenue for the previous and current fiscal year. If that is the case, there will be positive momentum moving forward and perhaps we could use those funds for some CIP projects.

But until we know for sure, he is hopeful we will be able to offset loss in revenue, which will help fund balance and help us in upcoming years to supplement our tax revenue but at this time that is in limbo and because we are not exactly sure how it will be handled, we need to sit tight with the budget and take the prudent approach.

Councilor Hirst made a motion for the Town Council to adopt the budget for presentation to the voters in June for the budget referendum. Discussion:

Councilor Davis asked why the budget could not have been adopted last week at the last meeting. The Town Clerk stated they were following the process in the Town Charter.

DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND VOTE TO ADOPT THE FY 2021/2022 BUDGET FOR THE JUNE 8, 2021 BUDGET REFERENDUM BALLOT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR DAVIS TO ADOPT THE FY 2021/2022 BUDGET FOR THE JUNE 8, 2021 BUDGET REFERENDUM BALLOT.

IN FAVOR: Moffitt, Davis, Hirst, Geary, Marvel

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

Councilor Hirst asked if there were any warrants to present. There are no warrant questions. Councilor Hirst stated over 70% of the budget is consumed by Chariho which shows the Town's commitment to the Chariho School District; the Town Government portion was less than 25% of the budget.

Councilor Geary thanked Mr. Rosso for his efforts with handling the proposed budget.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR DAVIS TO ADJOURN.

SO VOTED

Elizabeth J. Cook-Martin

Town Clerk