

State of Rhode Island

County of Washington

In Hopkinton on the twenty seventh day of February 2023 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 23/24 budget.

**PRESENT:** Michael Geary, Scott Bill Hirst, Stephen Moffit, Jr., Sharon Davis and Robert Burns; Town Manager Brian Rosso and Town Clerk Marita Murray.

### **PLANNING**

Town Manager Rosso explained that the Planning Department is in the Clerical and PTE Union so there are the same increases in salary and other adjustments concerning insurance and pensions. The rest of the budget is level-funded except for the mileage cost which was taken out because it was not being used. Counselor Davis noted that the Planner's revenue cost was not regarding solar but was for land development fees. Counselor Hirst questioned whether the Hopkinton Town Planner salary was comparable with other similar towns and Mr. Rosso advised that it was.

### **BUILDING/ZONING**

Mr. Rosso noted that Anthony Santilli, our Building Official, works three days a week in Hopkinton and two days a week in Richmond; therefore, the budget reflects 66% of his income. The Deputy Zoning Official, Sherri Desjardins, received a pay increase since she acts more as a building official than a clerk. Revenue has decreased due to the lack of solar revenue and are now just for permitting fees. Councilor Davis requested an updated solar revenue spreadsheet and Mr. Rosso indicated that he would produce that, but it was similar to last year.

### **TAX ASSESSOR**

Tax Assessor, Tiana Zartman, was present. Mr. Rosso stated that compensation and salaries were like other departments. There is an increase in contract services due to the increase in printing the tax roll. Mr. Rosso noted that the line item for mileage and fuel may come out of the budget if the decision is made to use the vehicle that was gifted by Velma Clinton to the town. He has suggested that it be

used three days a week by the Building Official and two days a week by the Tax Assessor. At this time those employees use their own vehicles and get reimbursed for their mileage.

### **TAX COLLECTOR**

Mary Lynn Caswell was present. Mr. Rosso noted that the only thing that was adjusted in this budget, other than compensation and salaries, was a decrease in the tax bills due to there being no more tax on motor vehicles.

### **MUNICIPAL COURT**

Monica Gordon was present. Councilor Davis asked why revenue was down and Mr. Rosso explained that was due to Covid but was starting to increase.

### **IT/GIS**

Jeffrey Frenette was present. Mr. Rosso provided the Council with a detailed printout of the contract services line item. He noted that this line item covers the entire town, including Police, Vision, Recreation, Building & Zoning, Finance, Municipal Court, town-wide email, etc. They did this because they felt that it was easier to have one point of contact for all the software programs. Councilor Geary asked if the Hopkinton website annual maintenance was for the entire town and Mr. Rosso explained that this was the annual operation/upkeep of the website. Mr. Frenette noted that CivicPlus insures for cybersecurity and includes Civic Ready which is the new Code Red platform. The rest of the budget was level-funded.

### **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

Mr. Rosso noted that there was an item in the CIP for computer replacement. They were trying to be proactive with their computers and update them every few years so that the cost is not all at once. This year the town is looking to acquire six more computers. They are going to be implementing a two factor authentication system regarding cybersecurity due to the fact that the Trust will no longer insure against cyberattacks if the town does not meet minimum requirements.

The workshop was closed at 7:00 p.m.

Marita D. Murray  
Town Clerk

Sydney Fernandes  
Deputy Town Clerk