

Primer on FY15 Budgets as submitted

- Revenues are increasing by 0.9%;
- Expenses are increasing by 1.5%, inclusive of all town, school, and warrant articles;
- The current budget projects a 4.53% increase in taxes, or an average \$393 increase per household. It retains over \$1Mill of levy capacity and does not rely on any one time revenues.
- Health insurance costs are reduced by 5%, resulting in a one-time \$147,000 surplus that we are recommending be placed in the OPEB trust fund (this is predicated on the teacher's union agreeing to the same health insurance changes as all other town employees, union and SAP);
- An additional \$125,000 from overlay surplus is also recommended to be placed in the OPEB trust fund, for a total FY15 commitment of \$272,000;
- Budgets such as Conservation, Council on Aging, and Youth and Family Services are maintaining level service budgets, but are requesting increases in their bottom lines as they move the costs of service back into the budget which had previously been funded to some degree by outside sources (i.e., Friends groups). These outside sources can no longer sustain the level of funding that has been required of them in the past.
- Public Works is seeking to privatize cemetery operations, which would result in a savings and the layoff of one position. Other positions would be assimilated into openings created by retirements.
- Police is seeking to add one full time officer for a second person on the night shift. This will improve safety as well as alleviating scheduling issues, and although not budget neutral this results in approximately \$20K in overtime savings.
- Fire is seeking to add two firefighter positions to balance the four groups in the department (two currently have five FF, two have four FF). It is projected as at or slightly better than break even financially, but it will gain efficiencies as well as scheduling certainty for the department with better control over OT.
- A new line item for Economic Development has been created, and seeded with \$15,000 to fund EDC initiatives such as website and outreach.
- The Personnel Board is including funding for a classification and pay study for all SAP employees.
- Planning Board is including funds equal to 5 additional hours/week to be used for projects, interns or OT for existing staff to increase staff time for other things including economic development. Funds are also included for a dedicated minute taker for PB meetings.
- Capital budget includes a \$70,000 proposal for an automated gate at the transfer station. The cost of transponders will be passed through to the users as a one-time cost.
- Capital budget also includes \$15,000 funding for a needs assessment and site selection study for a new public safety facility.