

Foxborough Advisory Committee Virtual Meeting

Wednesday January 26, 2022

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In Attendance: Paul Ivanovskis, Jack Martin, Dan Peterson, Jay Mahoney, Dennis Keefe, Sharon Weiskerger, Salina Chowdhury, Marlowe Farrar, and Raffaella Zizza-Feinstein. Besides the presenters, Bill Keegan was also present for some parts of the meeting.

Minutes: Taken by Tony Colangelo

7 p.m. Paul I.

We're here to explore our 1st review of budgets. Chris Gallagher will be presenting various budgets for the Department of Public Works.

Chris G. - DPW Director: Chris introduced Bob Worthley, Water Superintendent and Lance Delbury, Town Engineer will be part of the discussion.

The Water and Sewer are separate Enterprise Funds with separate Budgets and usage-based funding. Overall, their budget has a decrease of 0.58%. Salary and expenses have gone up 2.5%, but some debt service has gone off.

- 1. Water Enterprise Budget:** There is a new 1 million gallon tank on Hill St. and they have completed reconstruction of wells #7, #9, and #10 on Oak St. Also, a full renovation of water tank on Rt.1. In addition, other construction and replacement projects are still ongoing. Bob W. discussed Emergency Repairs on the budget. It is a new line item to take care of equipment that may explode and we can repair without having a special town meeting.
Chris reminded the Committee that Massachusetts towns are operating under a stricter standard for PFAS chemical limits in the water than the EPA requires. The DPW is looking into what is available grant wise for this funding. Chemicals are a large expense now. They are also replacing 20-25 fire hydrants per year in this budget.
- 2. Sewer Enterprise Budget:** Our system is a smaller portion of the town. 20% of our town is on sewer system. Our sewer goes down through Mansfield to a treatment plant owned by Mansfield, Norton and Foxboro, and that budget is increasing 0.6%. Other expenses were reviewed, and the Regional Sewer Assessment is one of the largest items in the budget. Payment to MFN to cover maintenance and operational expense for the regional treatment plant and debt service.
- 3. Public Works - Chris:** Overall budget increase of 2.45%. Reorganized the department staffing by moving some positions around. Salaries and positions were reviewed. Expenses were reviewed. Jack asked: Are there any plans for the Stretch Energy Code? Chris stated; Materials cost are still very high because of the pandemic. We may

consider again. Bill K. added; concerns are mostly because the cost of materials are so high and we probably won't reconsider until later this year in order to be considered for the "green community status". Jack asked; again, about the road and sidewalks funding? Chris answered: this will be reviewed in the capital funding conversation regarding what the % of funding from the meals tax should be between sidewalks and roads and OPEB.

4. **Snow & Ice Budget - Chris:** Historically this budget does not get adjusted. You just have to spend what you need from one year to the next.
5. **Street Lighting – Chris:** These expenses will decrease this year. 5 years ago, we purchased and converted to LED light fixtures. We completed our 5 years of payments this year for this. We spend about \$50,00 per year for electrical, compared to \$150,000 in the past. Budget will be about \$75,00 per year going forward to cover that and other costs.
6. **Solid Waste Disposal & Collection – Chris:** This is a level funded budget - \$40,000 each year.

Q: Was there something in the news regarding a grant?

A: yes, a grant for continuation for planning and looking at climate change. We have a construction grant for about \$163,000 for some projects around town.

Q: Bill, chapter 90 money has been going down, is that the trend in the state?

A: yes, statewide it has gone down from \$300 million to \$200 million.

Q: what is the status of the East Street intersection rebuild?

A: we will spend \$25,000 to finish the design and \$349,000 grant to cover the construction project.

Paul: asked committee members for a motion to approve the last meeting minutes. Dan made a motion to approve the minutes and Dennis seconded. Paul requested a vote and all members voted yes to approve except Raffaella, who abstained because was not present at the prior meeting.

Items to think about for upcoming budget. **Dan:** recommended we express concern how costs for LED streetlight replacements are all in one line item in the budget and not itemized as we transition from purchase to maintenance, repairs, and replacements. Also, Public Works is up 2.45% but if we look at the potential upcoming changes for the Snow and Ice budget the year over year will be substantial and well over the recommended 2.5%. The auditors will likely recommend we raise our budget a minimum of \$80,000 - \$100,000 to better reflect our yearly spend. We need to be prepared to explain to the town when and why this hit the budget. Finally, this year we are moving all gas and diesel costs to one line item in the budget. We used

to have it broken out in each individual budget so this year it will be very difficult to track as it is consolidated.

Paul stated if we don't see the 4-year history, we will have to request the info. Also, we should follow-up with Bill K. regarding where federal money is going to be used, etc.

9:08 pm Paul I. – Asked for motion to adjourn meeting. Dan made a motion to adjourn and Jack seconded. All members voted yes in favor.

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