

# Foxborough Advisory Committee Virtual Meeting

Wednesday February 16, 2022

**In Attendance:** Paul Ivanovskis, Dan Peterson, Sharon Weiskerger, Jack Martin, John Mahoney, Dennis Keefe, Salina Chowdhury, Marlowe Farrar, Raffaella Zizza-Feinstein, Eric DeLisle and Mike Brown.

**Minutes:** Taken by Tony Colangelo

**7 p.m. Paul I.** – Let's begin tonight's meeting with Bill K, Town Manager, to begin discussion of the town budget.

**Bill K.-** We have discussed some department reorganizations in the past such as Human Services. Today we will talk about this new department that will be called **Land Use**, which will include, Planning, Conservation and Building Inspection. These department functions will remain the same as they become part of the new budget presentation. They will all present their budget to us.

**Gabriela Jordan, Planning Department;** - Last year's budget we tried not to spend much. Engineering budget salary will be more this year because we need to bring in a new engineer. We also have a salary increase for Land Use Director because of change in responsibilities. Salaries for the rest of the budget hasn't changed – pretty flat. Expenses are also pretty flat for now but may go up a little. This budget includes Planning, Conservation and Building which were individual departments before. **Scott Shippey, Building Commissioner;** - with this new budget the Local Inspector salary will go up 25% because our permit coordinator is no longer with us – so we moved that money to the local inspector position. Clothing allowance also went up because we didn't have to wear specific clothes before – but now we do have to wear specific identifiable clothes. **Kevin Weinfeld, Chair of Planning Board;** - I have no comments to add about the budget. **Jane Pierce, Conservation Agent;** - The Conservation Budget is the same as it was before. No changes – pretty conservative.

**7:13 p.m. Paul I. - Municipal Buildings Budget; Tony reported (Bill Y. ??).** We are picking up all fuel costs for the DPW & Police Department. Our maintenance budget went up very little. Overall budget with the fuel change will go up 27.01% -- \$165,196. **Bill K. commented;** by putting all the fuel costs in this department it will be easier to manage. Heating and electricity are also all in this budget. Concerns are mostly about the fuel costs. **Marie A., Finance Dept. stated** – We have taken the current fuel budget and increased it slightly, about \$3,000 for next year to, perhaps, take into account the continued increase in fuel costs.

**7:29 p.m. Paul I. - General Government Budget – Bill K- Town Manager;**

**Mark Ferencik, Historical Commission Chair**, is now included and consolidated with the General Government Budget. At \$14,175 it has been pretty stable from year to year.

**Bill K.**, stated I will be retiring next year and the Board of Selectman have added some money in the budget for the search process for my position. This process usually takes about 25 weeks. The budget will include \$15,118 – up 64.6%. Our budget for salaries 1.97% or \$10,564. Rest of the budget is pretty flat. Overall budget is up 1.74% or \$10,848.

**George Samia; Finance Department;** - Overall our budget is up 1.95% - \$28,499. This budget includes the Town Accountant, the Treasurer/Collector, Board of Assessors and Finance Director. We have made a number of internal movements to reduce positions and to cover positions we have to cover. We have done this over the past 3 years since I was hired. **Marie Almodovar;** -- the **Financial Services** portion of our budget we had to move money to cover MUNIS, Tax Forms and Bills. MUNIS are used to cover both the Town and Schools.

**Bill K.; Advisory Committee Budget** - No Changes - \$2,500 per year, mostly secretary salary expense. **Legal Services Budget** – Pretty flat – no change \$180,090. **Geographic Information System / IT – Marie A., stated;** the web site line out of the finance budget was moved here to IT Service. We added fire to the Board of Health Inspections and Selectman. Budget increase of \$18,837 – 37.57%. Total budget \$68,976. People GIS is used for licenses and permits and they are able to pay on-line.

**8 p.m. – George S.; Debt Service Budget Line Item** – These are various bonds which includes principal and interest payments for various renovation projects to schools, library, town hall, etc. Most of our bonds are for 20 years. \$2,556,000 for principal and \$911,054 in interest for our annual debt service. This is down (-4%) or (-\$145,516). Foxboro has a AAA bond rating. Triple A. This allows us to get a discounted rate on bond loans.

**8:20 p.m. - Bill K.; Pensions Budget;** This is part of Norfolk County Pension System and we pay into it. They pay for on-going costs of pensions and the outstanding debt is up 7.28% - \$398,226. **Unemployment Compensation;** - Pretty flat. Will stay the same next year. **Group Insurance – Health Insurance Budget;** Up 2.75% - \$249,854. Overall budget is \$9,325,554. We will need to increase this by 4.07% but should be offset by the increase in state aid this year. **Risk Management Budget;** - this line-item, budget is pretty flat at \$826,505. **Reserve Fund Budget;** - Flat - \$75,000. **Salary Reserve Fund Budget;** - Our contracts all end this year so we expect we will need this for new contract settlements. About \$275,000 – up 42.9%. **Bill K** answered question from **Paul** re: Warrant Articles. We should hear by March 8<sup>th</sup> from the Attorney General's office if we have to re-do anything with these. 6 of the articles were zoning articles for the town and may have to be reviewed again depending on decision. We will be kept updated.

**8:45 p.m. Paul I.** – Thank you all for your presentations. For committee members, I still need to review minutes for the last 2 meetings before I pass them out for your review. Also, I may not be here for our meeting next week, but Dan P. will be acting as chair. Dan also agreed to review one of the last meeting minutes to help out. Info for everyone; Dennis has pulled papers to serve as Board of Selectman as reported in the Foxborough Reporter. Dennis will be removed from the Adv Comm because of this – you can't serve on both. **Jack Commented;** he may be able to take a leave of absence rather than retire until he finds out if he is selected. **Paul I. stated;** ok, we may have to look into this. Any other topics from anyone? **John M;** question, - do we have anyone else trying to join the Adv Comm? **Paul I.;** - I don't know of anyone else yet. I would like to get the committee back up to 15 members.

**9 p.m. Paul I.** – Do I have a motion to adjourn? Jack made a motion to adjourn. Dan seconded the motion. Everyone voted yes to adjourn.