



## **REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING**

April 4, 2018

### 1320 ACTIVE EMPLOYEE BENEFITS (Health & Life)

Bob Mayer noted the 6.78% increase for health insurance which is self-insured. Life insurance is not self-insured.

### 2010 CONTINGENCY

Bob Mayer explained the contingency account has reserves for contract negotiations, etc. The BOF reduced revenues & expenses for the Fire Training Center and placed them in the contingency account.

### 2020 FUND BALANCE

Bob Mayer explained the reasoning for funding the fund balance and maintaining the current ratio at 9.5%. Erin Lopez, District 2 asked how long it would take to get to 10% to which Mr. Mayer explained because of the reductions in State funding we would not have the opportunity to increase the fund balance as much as we would like to as quickly as we would like.

Michael Herley, District 10 asked what the fund balance amount was and what it is invested in. Mr. Mayer indicated \$29,153,000 and there are strict rules as to investments. Town funds can only be invested in AAA investments; the return averages 1.5 – 2%.

### 10030 DEBT SERVICE

Bob Mayer explained there was a fund transfer into the following year budget in the Debt Service Fund Use of Reserves of \$1.6 million.

Nancy Lefkowitz, District 1 asked if there were corporate responsibility guidelines for our investments to which Mr. Mayer replied no. He noted that the interest rates would be higher this year when we have the bond issue.

### 1310 RETIREE BENEFITS

In response to Erin Lopez, District 2 Bob Mayer stated we fully fund the ARC; other municipalities are more aggressive in their investments styles but our rate of return has been about 7%. Dru Georgiadis District 9 asked if they are trying to maintain the 7% to which Mr. Mayer replied it is a realistic number to achieve.

Hannah Gale, District 6 asked if there was a guideline for socio-economic investments in either US or international equities. Mr. Mayer explained the Investment Board does not pick individual investments rather we have investment managers who invest for us.

Pamela Iacono, District 8 noted that investments are not under the RTM's purview to which Mr. Mayer concurred that it is the purview of the Joint Retirement Investment Board.

### 3050 ASSESSOR

Assessor Ross Murray explained there was a decrease in IT Software and an increase in education for more training and educational opportunities for staff.

Jill Vergara, District 7 asked how much we spend on the Circuit Breaker program. Mr. Murray said the program was de-funded by the State. There is \$450,000 in the current year and the same amount in the

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proposed budget. Ms. Vergara noted the seniors are paying for their own tax relief. First Selectman said the cost for the program is split out over the 20,000 taxpayers.

### **3090 TAX COLLECTOR**

Tax Collector Dave Kluczowski noted the payroll increase due to the PETA contract settlement.

Pete Tallman, District 8 asked where decreasing the number of tax payments stood. Mr. Kluczowski said it was discussed and tabled. He noted that although a position was eliminated last year his staff understands the uncertainty from the State. He has received compliments about customer service and noted that \$24 million more than last year was collected in December because of the new tax plan and the DMV kiosk has been well received.

Joe Siebert, District 5 asked if there had been any discussion about a tax lien sale. Mr. Kluczowski said it would be too late for this year. Alex Durrell, District 3 asked what percentage of taxes is collected through People's Bank vs. online. Mr. Kluczowski said there's no charge at People's but they only take payments during the 4 collection months. There is a 2.9% fee for online payments and a 95 cent fee for an E-check. 7% pay online while 3% pay at People's; the balance is through the mail or in person.

### **3110 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

IT Director Dave Kelly said there were small reductions in several places for licensing, software and vendor costs.

Erin Lopez, District 2 questioned the large reduction in overtime. Mr. Kelly said the stipend to an employee had ended now that the department vacancy was filled. Dru Georgiadis, District 9 asked about moving the servers to which Mr. Kelly replied that the project had been approved in the capital non-recurring budget

### **4010 FIRE**

Chief McCarthy said there was a new line for Self-Supporting Regional fire Training School.

Mark McDermott, District 7 asked about the fire command vehicle. Chief McCarthy said they would be moving from a Suburban to a pickup truck with a cap. The BOF reduced the equipment for the vehicle by \$7,500.

Pete Tallman, District 8 asked if there were any way to reduce the OT lines. Chief McCarthy said that they are trying to reduce sick leave usage. There are 4 permanent vacancies (1 per shift) that are filled with OT everyday as it is cheaper to pay time & ½ than have 4 full time positions with benefits.

Michael Herley, District 10 asked about the status of the Southport Fire Station. Chief McCarthy said the site is limited with the amount of space; it needs to be determined if it is appropriate to renovate or find a new location, but because of the economic climate that has been backburned to 2020/2021. Mr. Herley suggested speaking with the various Southport neighborhood groups to keep them apprised.

Ruth Smey, District 5 asked the Chief if he was aware of the new generation of firetrucks. Chief McCarthy said the trucks are carrying more equipment now so they look at the overall body, etc.

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4030 POLICE

Mark McDermott, District 7 asked if there had been 6 hires for the 6 retirements. Chief MacNamara said there are 3 officers at the Academy now and 4 vacancies. It takes a year for training. Mr. McDermott asked if there is movement to increase the SROs. Chief MacNamara said there is one at each high school and 5 that rotate among the schools. The infrastructure has caused some of the delay in response time to get inside a school building. Cost vs. value is taken into consideration. Nancy Lefkowitz complimented Chief MacNamara on allocating appropriate resources as well as collaboration with other towns.

Josh Garskof, District 5 asked if there is a way to hire trained officers. Chief MacNamara indicated they had hired certified officers as well as those with no training. Of the past 23 hires 12 were certified.

Michael Herley, District 10 asked about the decrease in the crime rate but noted there are pockets in town where there have been spikes in car break ins. Chief MacNamara noted the reduction in crime in town but there has been an increase in car thefts and break ins. Juveniles were under 16 but now a juvenile is under 18 so they are not charged as an adult. There's no responsibility and it's a trend throughout the region. Changing the age for a juvenile is a state legislative issue.

8010 BOE

Dr. Toni Jones, Supt. of Schools noted two adjustments at the BOF \$62,000 in pension and \$190,000 savings as a result of the new bus contract that was recently negotiated.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business this evening the meeting recessed and will reconvene tomorrow at 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth P. Browne, CMC, MCTC  
Town Clerk