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TOWN OF BURLINGTON

Minutes

DEPT./BOARD: Ways and Means, DPW/REC Subcommittee
DATE: April 4, 2022
TIME: 2:00 PM
PLACE: DPW Conference Room

Attendance: Doug Davison, Sonia Rollins, John Sanchez, Rachel Leonardo, Tom Hayes (present for Warrant Article discussions)

Discussion of FY23 departmental budgets

- 2.20% overall increase (2.10 operating and 2.58 accomodated)
 - Water is a major driver due to PFAS. Mandated by DEP to open MWRA emergency connection to Lexington full time @ 1 million gallons per day. There are some savings realized from making less water but it does not offset the increase. This has increased Contracted Services.
 - Solid waste disposal is up due to closures of landfills and increase in fuel costs. Fuel is locked in for collection but not transport to landfill. .FY23 is the final year of the collection contract - it is going to get much more expensive.
 - Fuel prices have gone up requiring increases in the gasoline and diesel line. The unpredictable nature of these prices is concerning.
 - There was a decrease in operating costs due to new LED lighting and the decrease in water production. Rachel Leonardo was able to secure a grant to replace lights with LED throughout many buildings. The savings in electricity are significant.
 - Capital outlay is down due to a decrease in requests - This requires some discussion - There is a maximum limit of \$15K - not sure but think that is a Ways and Means guideline. At the time it was put in place it was to limit large purchases. Now a lawnmower costs more than 15K.
 - Street light line item is down significantly - making progress with paying off the project
- Staffing
 - FTE neutral reorganization to prepare for the future and to better support the department in a succession plan. They are proposing to fund the existing Operations Manager position. It has been in the budget but unfunded. There will be a Business Manager and an Operations Manager, both reporting to the Director. They are reducing the Water Treatment Plant Operators from 7 to 6 to reflect the transition to MWRA. They are shifting some seasonal employees around this year.

Discussion of DPW warrant articles for funding.

8. Accept Chapter 90 funds from state for roads - do not have final number yet
9. I/I Debt service - Annual article to pay 0% loan from MWRA for I/I - Finance 25%, grant 75%





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10. Sewer Enterprise to pay sewer bill - \$6,271,100 - d/t COVID businesses were not using as much water so paid less in water bills, which also cover sewer fees. Revenue from water bills will cover \$5,970,000 and the remaining \$301,100 will come from retained earnings
 11. MWRA debt service and water purchases - \$952,243
 12. Water purchase - FY22 budget did not cover the PFAS water purchase - this article provides an amount not to exceed \$500,000. This covers the overage from FY22. It is likely to be less due to what looks like a \$150,000 grant from the state.
 13. This article is an every other year and covers paving of streets, sidewalks, and town parking lots for a 2 year period. The amount is \$3.5 million, which is \$500,000 more than past requests with that additional amount being committed to new sidewalk construction - mostly filling gaps - not enough for big projects.
 14. \$1.1 million to fund reconstruction of Partridge Ln pump station - planned project - funded planning last year.
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- 7-01 \$20,000 - Chestnut Hill Cemetery fence - was in last year's budget but delayed to save money. This is only a warrant article because it exceeds the 15K limit for capital expenditures - should be in operating budget.
 - 7-02 \$200,000 - Stream Cleaning - another regular article to fund the cleaning of specific areas - this year they will be cleaning by Fairfax and working on drainage around Beacon and Winter
 - 7-03 \$130,000 - Grand View pump stations design - there will be an article to pay for construction next year.
 - 7-04 \$593,000 - Vehicle replacement program - 4 vehicles -
 - E3 - Ford Ranger 2WD used in field by engineers and to survey snow for cleanup during storms - replacing with F150 4WD - no plow
 - H11 - Sweeper replacement - on a 15 year rotation - have 2 sweepers, probably should have 3
 - H23 - Replace 2008 Sidewalk snowblower -will also have grinder
 - W7 - 1 ton dump truck - 2011 - probably won't be delivered until 2023
 - 18 Fund the contract for DPW - no final number yet

