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TOWN OF BURLINGTON

Meeting Minutes

DEPT./BOARD: Ways and Means Town Hall 1 Subcommittee
DATE: April 25, 2023
TIME: 8:00 AM
PLACE: Town Hall Conference Room

MEMBERS and INVITED OFFICIALS:

Present:

John Danizio – Assistant Town Administrator
Gary Gianino – Treasurer/Collector
John Iler – Ways and Means Chair
Frank Monaco – Town Hall 1
Paul Sagarino – Town Administrator
Melisa Tintocalis – Economic Development Director

Absent: David Tait – Chair Town Hall 1

Meeting Purpose:

Discuss Proposed FY24 Warrant Articles

Article 21 Economic Development Placemaking and Community Events – \$40,000

The goal is to foster a downtown atmosphere where residents and visitors can walk, shop, and eat in a vibrant and inviting atmosphere. Several year ago a first step was taken which resulted in the successful “Pocket Park” . The center overlay created many years ago has been able to maintain a relatively high occupancy of local businesses in the area and the goal is to build on this. A three pronged strategy to achieve this goal is:

- Streetscape improvements with the help from the Transportation Improvement Program
- Land Use initiatives through zoning, MBTA programs, and revisions to the Overlay PDD
- Foster engagement with property and business owners

The purpose of the \$40,000 is to promote the business and property owner engagement.

Vote: 2-0-0

Accommodated Account Debt Service – \$8,188,670 a 7.66% increase (Principal \$4,963,473 , Interest \$3,225,197)

This funds currently committed borrowing. The driver of the increase is MWRA water supply infrastructure.

A longer discussion about future plans centered primarily around school building projects and financing considerations. We need more data and anticipate the Fox Hill and High School studies will provide much of what is needed.

Vote: 2-0-0





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Articles 4&5 withdrawn

Article 6 Fund Revolving Accounts

Revolving accounts governed by MGL Ch44 para53E-1/2 require annual Town Meeting approval. Aside from the house keeping matter of an annual approval the administration is asking for selected accounts to have the spending limits increased sufficiently to cover likely expenses and program changes.

Vote: 2-0-0

Article 19 Fund Administrative and Professional Labor Group

This 43 member group is still in contract negotiations. The goal is to settle this week. Funding will be from Negotiated Settlements line item already in the operating budget.

Article 20 Sick Time Buyback – \$500,000

The administration is anticipating an unusually large number of retirements that will require sick time buy back over the next 48 months. It will be very difficult to cover these costs with the usual operating budget process hence they wish to reserve from free cash an adequate amount. The buyback is contractual provided the employees give a 12 month notice.

Vote: 2-0-0

Article 23 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Training – \$20,000

The one year DEI committee has completed its report. The purpose of this article is to fund a consultant to work with elected officials. This will involve training, recommendations, and drafting of an actionable plan.

Vote: 2-0-0

ARPA Funds Allocation

The total grant of \$8.5 million must be expended by July 1, 2025. We currently have used or plan to use \$2.5million for revenue replacement and ongoing COVID related expenses/programs. The administration will provide an update in about 6 months. The expectation is the approximate \$6million balance will be used to offset water/sewer project costs to keep them off the debt schedule.

Adjourned 9:30 AM

