

REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING

May 14, 2020

Penfield: Parks & Recreation Director Anthony Calabrese explained everything from March through June has been canceled because of the Governor's executive order. The beaches and golf courses are open and 1,000s of beach stickers have been mailed out. Dru Georgiadis, district 9 asked how access to Penfield can be limited to residents only when federal funding was used. First Selectwoman Brenda Kupchick explained she had issued a state of emergency so as long as it is in effect (similar to the executive order) non residents are not allowed to use Fairfield beaches to ensure the safety of our residents.

In response to several questions regarding programming, Mr. Calabrese said the department is investigating various options including drive-in movies at Jennings & Lake Mohegan. They are using technology with virtual zoo trips and online Zumba classes. They are unsure what the soccer program or clinics will look like. Currently they are evaluating a child care option based on state guidelines in lieu of camp.

Mr. Calabrese further explained seasonal vs. part time payroll, maintenance items that fall under DPW such as the beaches, coverage at the beaches, pavilions, golf courses and the unknowns as we move through the summer season and comply with state regulations and protocols.

Insurance & Human Resources: Pat Egan explained insurance & claims reduced wile heart & hypertension increase 12.4%. Town is extremely careful regarding workers comp for first responders because of Covid19 and limiting exposure as much as possible. Jim Haselkamp noted a \$409,000 reduction bases on the AON March renewal. The department increase is for the time & attendance system that will increase accountability. Regarding unemployment, $\frac{3}{4}$ of the part time staff has been laid off; there will be reimbursement to the Town for unemployment related to the pandemic.

OPEB: Stephen Chykirda, Actuary from Hooker & Holcombe explained the new mortality tables as they predict how long retirees will live. Lengthy discussion ensued regarding the JRIB's approval of the new tables, the implications and timing of implementing the new tables, information given to the BOF, how the discount rate is just as important a variable and the switch from Callan to Vanguard.

Legal Services: Karen Wackerman recused herself and Mark McDermott moderated this portion of the meeting. Town Attorney Jim Baldwin said the budget increased for BAA appeals and the former HR director had been paid \$50,000 from the legal services budget.

Ms. Wackerman returned to the meeting.

Contingency: Ms. Bosse explained the contingency account has reserves for contract negotiations, unforeseen emergencies, etc. The BOF cut the wage reserves and reduced contingency to \$300,000.

Fire: Chief McCarthy noted the budget includes 2 transfers from the ECC budget. If that had not occurred it would've been a .92% increase due to the CBA increases.

Emergency Management: Line 55301 C-Med Communications increased \$73,000 with a corresponding reduction in the ECC budget.

Police & ECC: Chief Lyddy noted the 2% raise per the CBA July 1st. \$207,000 was transferred from the ECC to the Police budget with the corresponding reduction in ECC. The BOF made a significant reduction to the vehicle request, but understands due to the pandemic.

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Fund Balance: Ms. Bosse said nothing is being added to the fund balance in the proposed budget; it currently stands slightly below 11% because the budget has gotten smaller the percentage of budget has increased.

Jill Vergara asked if revenue projections do not pan out does the difference come from fund balance. Ms. Bosse said if the revenues are less and the expenditures are higher it goes against the fund balance account which is the undesignated surplus. Fund balance has increased from 5% to 11% since FY10; the town has taken a measured approach to increasing the % each year. 115 is a comfortable range and is one metric the ratings agencies look at.

Debt Service: Ms. Bosse explained the debt service budget provides for the bond and BAN payments and coincides with the waterfall chart. Refunding bonds settled resulting in \$1.7 million in savings. The BOF increased the use of debt service reserves by \$1 million to \$2,300,000. Total debt expense is \$23,894,303.

Finance Department: The grant writer position was cut by the BOF. Currently, one employee is working on the FEMA documentation and reimbursement for the pandemic.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth P. Browne, MMCTC, MMC
Town Clerk