

Newport Budget Committee & Selectboard  
Budget Workshop Minutes  
4-14-21 @ 5:30 PM  
Newport Public Safety Building

1. Call to order

a. Pledge of allegiance

2. Public Access None

3. New Business

**Budgets to be discussed:**

Manager began by going thru all the budgets listed:

**1) Selectboard \$13,070** He explained there were no adjustments in this budget as any increases in wages should be set by the board. There were no moves to do such with one question being asked about the MSRS account. Manager explained this is due to the clerk/treasurer taking minutes and for every dollar earned there must be payments made to MSRS.

**2) Administration \$336,896 Increase of \$9,222** due to increases in salaries and the purchase of a new copier (\$5,000) as our current machine is now 12 years old. There were questions regarding a \$600 clothing allotment in this budget that has not been in any prior. Manager explained admin is the only department that has no considerations for clothing. There was a question about office dress code and how these moneys would be expended. Regarding dress code the only day that jeans are permitted is on Friday, or winter storm days. There was some vocal opposition to the stipend however no vote was taken.

**3) Info Technology \$37,641 \$1,121** increase primarily due to the increase of \$1,000 in contract employee pay. (computer software /hardware tech) Contractual account was explained with no questions asked.

**4) Police \$581,421 \$204.00** increase over last years budget. Manager stated there is still currently one full time patrol position open. Questions regarding the increase in health and the decrease in the health Stipend account. Manager explained the 6<sup>th</sup> current vacant position is simply an unknown at this time but the addition in health insurance is to cover the cost of a single subscriber and the reduction in stipends is due a recently resigned employee was receiving a stipend, leaving only one represented in this budget. Gasoline account reduced by \$1,000 based on YTD expenses however everyone was

cautioned regarding the volatility in the market for the upcoming year and the fact our fuel supplier has not provided any bid prices to date for the upcoming year.

**5) Animal Control \$11,594 Increase** of \$256.00 for the additional \$300.00 in supplies.

**6) Municipal Buildings \$80,057 \$2,639 increase** with many of these funds found in the part time cleaning budget. There was another brief discussion about the difficulty in hiring and retaining employees. There was another increase in contractual of \$700.00 based on new NFPA standards regarding sprinkler inspections. As standards are adopted, they are simply passed on to the consumer regardless of install dates. A question was asked as to what makes up the total contractual and was explained by the manager.

**7) General Assistance \$10,770 \$3,564 decrease** due to the needs not being identified as they were last year. Manager has no real explanation for this other than the abundance of federal and state aid. It was asked about the reimbursement ration at which he responded by saying 75% from the State.

**8) Support Agencies \$7,550** Budgeted the same for this year as last, no questions or comments

**9) Memorial Day \$500** Same budget as years past moneys expended to the Legion and VFW after memorial day parade for participants bar-b-cue. Manager stated that there are current plans for a parade this year.

**Debt Service \$250,000 \$20,531 reduction** based on the retirement of debt on vehicles. Debt currently consists of two public works trucks and the Public Safety and Garage Buildings. Question regarding why taxes are committed for the total amount of funds budgeted when some state or town reimbursement augment these same accounts. Manager explained that reimbursements are never a guarantee and funds can be halted or manipulated on the State level or even local level. Our tax commitment requires the expenditure of funds for their specified purpose. Funds received are simply received as revenue such as identified in the ACO account, revenue account, or the general fund.

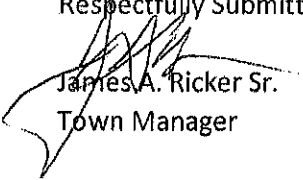
**11) County Tax \$446,649 \$26,169 increase**

**12) Cultural Center \$123,319 \$19,513 decrease** due to the elimination of a full-time position and benefits. Questions regarding what funding is available for part time staff and how many are currently employed at which the manager explained there are three part-time currently working with very limited hours. The Town is currently advertising for another part time position to fill the remaining vacancies with an end goal of being open five days per week. Manager was also asked to indicate where the mortgage payment for the building was and did so.

As in the first workshop there was no formal board votes taken, with the entire proposed budget and impacts on tax commitment being discussed at the meeting to be held on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Motion to adjourn: K. Rush / G. Demos, unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,



James A. Ricker Sr.

Town Manager