

PUBLIC HEARING of the Town Council held Thursday, May 19, 2005 at 7:00 o'clock P.M. in the auditorium of the Burrillville High School, 425 East Avenue, Harrisville, for and within the Town of Burrillville.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Council President Wallace F. Lees; Councilors Jacqueline Zahn, Councilors William A. Andrews, Nancy F. Binns, Margaret L. Dudley, Ronald E. Faford and William E. Gonyea.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

Relative to discussing the Municipal Budget.

NOTE: The public hearing was duly advertised in the Local Section of the Woonsocket Call on May 9, 12, and 16, 2005.

1. Comments from the Budget Board.

Arthur R. Hurley, Chair, Budget Board, addressed the impact of increases in health insurance and expenses for trash removal. Mr. Hurley pointed out that citizens can reduce the cost of trash removal by increasing the amount of recycled material. Mr. Hurley said that there was no way that the Budget Board could have recommended further reductions to the municipal operating budget without exceeding their scope.

2. Comments from Michael C. Wood, Town Manager.

Michael C. Wood, Town Manager, noted that his general comments would address the entire budget. Mr. Wood referenced his memo of May 2, 2005 addressed to the Town Council which summarized his recommendations. He said that the entire net budget was 3.35 percent lower than FY2005, the reduction being a result of changes in spending for capital improvement. Mr. Wood said that the budget recommendation reflected an increase of \$1.14 million (4.69 percent) for the school department, an increase of about \$442,000 (5.52 percent) in the municipal budget, a decrease of \$308,000 (-5.69 percent) for debt service. Michael C. Wood, Town Manager, said that the overall budget, excluding the capital improvement program, was within 5.5 percent.

Michael C. Wood, Town Manager, commended the Budget Board for their work in reviewing revenues. He said that the revenue figures have changed since the Budget Board submitted their recommendation and would most likely change again before the budget adoption. Mr. Wood said that his recommendation represented a conservative approach to the unknown values, i.e. state aid.

Mr. Wood discussed the proposed expenditures. The municipal budget, he said, reflects hard numbers, while the school has indicated that the budgeted amount is insufficient. Mr. Wood said that the school has not yet indicated the purpose for funds beyond

the proposed budgeted amount, but hoped to have that information at the public hearing related to the school budget, scheduled for Thursday, May 26, 2005. Mr. Wood commented that this situation was not unusual, and the situation is usually somewhat mitigated once state aid revenues are established.

Michael C. Wood, Town Manager, reviewed the impact of RIGL §45-13-13, discussed efforts to correct this situation and suggested that the matter might be resolved in 2005. Mr. Wood suggested that elected officials should contact members of the general assembly and urge a resolution.

Michael C. Wood, Town Manager, indicated that the projected impact of his budget recommendation would be an increase from \$12.55 per thousand to \$13.13 per thousand for property tax. There would be no impact on the motor vehicle excise tax rate of \$40.00 per thousand.

3. Comments/Input from Town Council Members: None

4. Public Comment:

Note: Persons who wish to address the Council shall state their name and address.

Helen Moroney spoke on behalf of the Pascoag Library, requested an increase of \$1,500 over the proposed budget in order to conform to

new state staffing requirements for libraries.

Carl Toti of Pascoag Main St. asked for clarification of the budget calendar. It was noted that the reference to “charter due date” on the calendar indicates budget deadlines set by the charter.

5. VOTED to close the public hearing.

Motion by Councilor William A. Andrews. Second by Councilor Jacqueline Zahn. The motion was unanimous. Voting in favor of the motion were Council President Wallace F. Lees, Councilors Jacqueline Zahn, William A. Andrews, Nancy F. Binns, Margaret L. Dudley, William E. Gonyea and Ronald E. Faford.

6. VOTED to adjourn at 7:15 P.M.

Motion by Councilor William A. Andrews. Second by Councilor William E. Gonyea. The motion was unanimous. Voting in favor of the motion were Council President Wallace F. Lees, Councilors Jacqueline Zahn, William A. Andrews, Nancy F. Binns, Margaret L. Dudley, William E. Gonyea and Ronald E. Faford.

The meeting was taped. The tape is on file with the minutes.

Louise R. Phaneuf, Town Clerk