

State of Rhode Island

County of Washington

In Hopkinton on the first day of May 2018 A.D. the said Financial Town Assembly was called to order at 7:30 P.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 1 Town House Rd., Hopkinton, RI 02832.

PRESENT: Frank Landolfi, Barbara Capalbo, David Husband; Town Moderator Scott Bill Hirst; Town Solicitor Kevin McAllister; Town Clerk Elizabeth Cook-Martin; Town Manager William McGarry; Finance Director Brian Rosso. Absent: Thomas Buck, Sylvia Thompson.

There were eight individuals from the public in attendance in the audience.

Town Moderator Scott Bill Hirst called the meeting to order with a moment of silent meditation and salute to the Flag. He introduced the Town Council members. Moderator Hirst read the rules of procedure: There will be no votes taken as there are no conflicting warrant items or petitions filed by electors, making the requirements of a quorum unnecessary; Sufficient copies of the budget have been prepared for public distribution; On May 8, 2018 at 6:30 PM the Town Council will make final revisions to the budget/warrants and adopt the same for placement on the ballot for the all-day Referendum; The electors of the Town will vote on the budget at the Financial Referendum scheduled for June 12, 2018 at the Town Hall. Polls will be open from 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM. The vote will be an approval or rejection of the municipal budget for FY 2018/2019 including the most recently approved Chariho budget, and warrant items - there are two proposed warrant items. In addition, the Town Charter requires the publication of an alternate budget comprised of the most recently approved Chariho School budget and the previous year's approved municipal budget and all approved warrant items. There is no ability to approve or reject individual budget line items. The deadline for receiving objections to individual line item(s) was by April 11, 2018 via the filing of a petition signed by 200 of the Town's electors submitted to the Town Clerk. None were received.

Town Council President Frank Landolfi read an introductory budget summary statement regarding the proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 as follows:

The Towns FY 2018/19 overall budget is \$25,547,648. This is an increase of \$831,276 or 3.4% from last fiscal year's budget. Education expenses are budgeted at \$18,759,809. This is an increase of \$419,492 or 2.3% from last fiscal year's budget. Municipal expenses are budgeted at \$6,333,562. This is an increase of \$69,542 or 1.1% from the last fiscal year's budget. Education revenue from State Aid is budgeted at \$5,255,713. This is a decrease of (\$35,252), or - 0.7%, from the last fiscal year's budget. The FY 2018/19 property tax rate is projected to be \$20.07 per thousand, which is unchanged from the FY 2017/18 property tax rate of \$20.07. This proposed budget incorporates some of the following items of interest: 1). In FY 18/19 the Town intends to use \$617,000 of Fund Balance to fund Capital Improvements and keep the property tax rate level from last fiscal year. 2). The budget includes an increase of \$342,242 for capital projects. Funding now stands at \$545,277. Major projects include funding for a new roof at the Police Station, a new Fingerprint Scanner for the Police Department, a new 1 Ton Pick-up for DPW, a new playground at Crandall Field and additional funds for the Town Hall Consolidation. He noted a tax math example: FY 2017/18 – A typical home valued at \$300,000, at the current tax rate of \$20.07 per thousand results in a total tax bill of \$6,021 (300x\$20.07); FY 2017/18 – That same home would have an unchanged tax bill of \$6,021.

Council President Landolfi reported the Town had a healthy surplus of \$343,000.00 in FY 17 and in addition to the surplus the Town was able to keep \$421,000.00 that was anticipated to be spent out of Fund Balance. He noted factors that were involved that resulted in an increase of \$764,000.00 in the Town's fund balance provided by the Finance Director included: Property Taxes - \$274,000.00; \$187,000.00 was due to delinquent taxes collected above the budgeted amount of \$86,000.00. The additional revenue was due to current year tax revenue collected above the budgeted amount. One-Time Sources of Revenue - \$184,000.00: \$131,000.00 State Transportation Aid which was not in the Governor's Budget prior to the Town setting the FY 17 budget; \$50,000.00 State

Grant reimbursed the Town for a portion of the Street Sweeper purchased in FY 15; \$4,000.00 State Aid to Libraries was increased after the Town Budget was set. Departmental Revenues - \$70,000.00. Several departments collected more revenue than expected in FY 17. The revenue budgets were all increased in FY 18 to reflect the increases in revenue. Departmental Expenses - \$236,000.00. Several departments under-ran their budgeted expenses; most of which were for reasons that could not have been predicted which included employees out on FMLA-unpaid leave for the majority of the year; change in billing for the Town Solicitor decreasing the monthly stipend; part-time employees were not used as much as expected; change in staffing resulting in lower pay rates; drop in fuel prices for Police and DPW fleets; employees changed their health insurance status from family plan to single plan; fewer police officers taking college courses. Councilor Capalbo noted she was pleased the tax rate stayed at \$20.07 even with the increase from the Chariho budget. Councilor Husband commented the unexpected revenue offset the school budget increase so it worked out this year; he hoped they would not see a huge increase in the school budget next year. He noted there were a lot of worthwhile projects coming up including the two playgrounds at Langworthy Field and Crandall Park as well as adding funding for the Town Hall consolidation; he was pleased about the mill rate held level.

The Moderator read through the proposed budget expenses line items. There were no questions on any specific line item in the proposed budget.

Patricia Debigare of 150 Maxson Hill Road indicated she has not been able to contact the dog warden to report a bobcat sighting. Council President Landolfi reported she was on leave. Councilor Capalbo suggested Mrs. Debigare call the Hopkinton Police Department. Council President Landolfi explained the police department was currently overseeing this department.

Kenneth Mott of 45 Canonchet Driftway commented on the damage done to the oak trees by the gypsy moths and winter moths and that the trees had taken a hit during the winter storms. He suggested adding extra contingency money to deal

with the trees as he expected there to be a great many dead trees that would be determined after the leaves appear. He reported 15 trees were in the right of way near him but expected there were other roads impacted similarly. Councilor Husband recommended he contact DPW Director Timothy Tefft to have him take a look at the trees near him. Councilor Capalbo felt it would be a couple of more weeks before the trees would be in leaf because of the weather.

Moderator Hirst read the resolutions that will be adopted by the Hopkinton Town Council on June 18, 2018 in accordance with Section 2380 of the Town Charter:

- 1.) A resolution authorizing the Town Finance Director to credit to appropriations and to receive monies which apply to the General Fund, as well as to credit to appropriations and to receive monies which apply to Funds other than the General Fund.
- 2.) A resolution that appropriations be expended and all monies be disbursed under the direction and supervision of the Town Council, except those pertaining to public schools, invoices payable, and interest which shall be disbursed by the Town Finance Director.
- 3.) A resolution that the Town Finance Director of the Town of Hopkinton be and is hereby authorized and empowered to borrow upon the credit of the Town as the same may be necessary during the present Fiscal Year such sum or sums as may be required to meet the expenses and obligations of the Town, provided however, that such loans shall not at any time exceed the sum of one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000.00).
- 4.) A resolution that the over-expenditures in the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year Budget, identified by the Town Finance Director, are hereby approved and.
- 5.) A resolution setting the tax levy.

There were no questions regarding the resolutions.

The Moderator recognized Senator Elaine Morgan who was in the audience.

ADJOURNMENT

Moderator Hirst declared the Financial Town Assembly adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Elizabeth J. Cook-Martin

Town Clerk