

Finance and Budget Committee Minutes May 16, 2006 Room 312

In attendance: Councillors Cantor, Slifka, Verrengia, Carpenter

State Budget Update

It was reported that the final state budget was \$375,000 less than what was appropriated in the Town budget for FY07. An outline of the specific items was handed out and is attached. This amount will be made up during the fiscal year after reviewing actual revenues and expenditures, so no specific action is required of the Council.

The Committee also discussed other state legislation that will impact the Town:

1. Legislation that will no longer allow for an offset of workers compensation payments when an individual receives social security payments.
2. Legislation requiring that a veteran's disability income be excluded from the definition of income when applying for and deciding on property tax exemptions.
3. Legislation requiring the keeping of a registry and the notification of individuals and organizations who desire to receive land use hearing notices

Revaluation Legislation

The Committee discussed options for communicating to residents about the upcoming revaluation. The Committee asked that a draft statement that can be included in this years tax bills be presented at the next meeting. A timeline for the Assessor's office to conduct and implement the revaluation was presented (attached).

Year-end Projections

The fiscal year-end projections were presented (attached) and discussed. The projections have not changed significantly since the last review at the end of March. There is a surplus of approximately \$1.2 million expected. Of that amount, \$850,000 will be used to increase the Town's fund balance and keep the ratio at 7.45% of expenditures. The other \$350,000 will be used to purchase capital equipment which was not budgeted for in the current fiscal year.

Other Business

The committee discussed the contributions that were appropriated in the budget and how this process might be improved on next year. The Interval House was added to the list at an amount of \$3,500.

The next meeting was set for May 23rd at 8 AM in room 312. Agenda items will include parking at blue back square and a review of the revaluation notice that will go out with this year's tax notice.