



Town of Burlington

BURLINGTON BOARD OF FINANCE PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2021

A Public Hearing conducted via Zoom Conferencing was called to order by Chairman Gerald Mullen at 7:33 p.m. on Wednesday, May 18, 2021. Board members present were: Gerald Mullen, John Achilli, Susan Brault, Steve Carrier, Donald Desiderato, John Kirschner and Andrew Klimkoski. Also in attendance were First Selectman Theodore Shafer and Finance Director Elisa Michell.

2021-22 Town Budget.

Chairman Mullen presented the proposed 2021-22 Town Budget. The proposed budget of \$38,131,222 represents a 1.49% increase over the current fiscal 2020-21 budget. Burlington's portion of Region 10's budget at \$27.6 million, represents 72.4% of the proposed Town budget expenses. He then reviewed each of the budget expenditure categories and noted material factors that attributed to the changes from the current fiscal year's budget. Police Capital is budgeted at \$0 but the Board expects to spend approximately \$256,747 in equipment purchases. Most of this amount is to purchase cameras that is being required by the State to improve police accountability. This money will be taken from a special reserve account that is funded by police private duty fees not taxpayers.

Chairman Mullen then reviewed budget revenue. Total State aid amounts to \$4.18 million, the majority being \$3.83 million in Education Cost Sharing (ECS) funds. Funds from the State are budgeted to be less next year due to a reduction in ECS funds. The Town's budget uses the lower amount being proposed within the State budget proposals put forth by the Governor and the Legislature's Finance Committee. The Board will not know the true amount until the State passes its budget. Revenue from building permits and conveyance taxes are projected to increase next year due to increased activity. The Combined affect will equate to around a 1/10ths of a mill increase to 33.4 mills. Following the presentation, Chairman Mullen opened the floor to questions.

Thomas Zabel asked why budgeted welfare expenses are budgeted to go down. Chairman Mullen responded welfare expense is less due the hired help not needing to work as many hours to support the program. Mr. Zabel then noted that pistol permit fees were higher and asked if any of the State's COVID aid was included in the proposed budget. Chairman Mullen responded it was not. He noted that similar to other State ECS funds, the Town will not know how much it will receive until the State budget is passed. Mr. Shafer then noted that any COVID aid will be received in two payments split between the current and next fiscal years. Mr. Zabel then expressed his viewpoint that any funds received be used to avoid an increase in the mill rate.

Following the question-and-answer period, Chairman Mullen noted that the Town Budget vote will be held on Tuesday June 1st. He then asked for a motion to adjourn. On a motion made and seconded by Kirschner/Brault, the motion unanimously passed to adjourn the public hearing at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew J. Klimkoski

Andrew Klimkoski, Secretary