

RCL 2021 Annual Report - Interesting Information

A record \$1,962,272 from reserve funds was used to keep the 2021 tax rate flat. This leaves \$2,345,958 in the fund - which is 8.08% of what the town may spend in 2022.

Town Revenues (collections from fees, etc..) was \$5,068,648. Motor Vehicle registrations \$1,736,337.84, Dog Licenses \$3,910, Beach Parking Permits \$76,925

Town valuation is \$2,204,844,000 This could go over \$3B with the reassessment happening in 2022.

2021 debt payment of \$315,203 is \$1M less than the 2011 \$1,320,426. Implies we have not been making long term investments and what has been helping to keep tax rates from going up with the increased spending.

Ten Elect bodies (Select Board, Cemetery, Supervisor of the Checklist, Library, Trustee of the Trust funds, Budget Committee, Planning Board, Board of Adjustment, Sewer and School). Rye Water, Rye Beach and Jenness Beach are districts and those commissions/boards are also elected.

Nive are appointed by the Select Board (CIP, Demolition Review, Heritage, Historic, Mosquito, Conservation, Recreation, Beach, Energy, Recycling)

WBTSCC is assessed at \$10,172,800

Attorney Donovan was paid \$42,264.46 in fees for TD Bank (500 Washington Rd). In 2020 \$41K for Parsonage, \$9K for Parsonage lawsuit, \$1.1K for Library - so over \$94K across two years.

Conservation Commission lists 500 Washington (TD Bank) value at \$663,000, but paid \$700,000

Rye has 213 Acres of Farm Land. Annual report says 546 Acres of wetlands, but the National Resource Inventory says over 2,563 acres of wetlands and that is by a strict definition.

Town has 151 employees with a salary cost of \$4,437,912.16. \$475,459 was paid in Overtime. School is showing an additional 95 employees. RWD would be additional.

Trustee of the Trust funds is managing \$5,02,503 for the town.

6 live births, 77 deaths, 6 marriages reported

The 2021 Annual Report is dedicated to Gregg Mikolaities for his longtime services to the community, both on the ZBA and on the Recreation Commission, and to Lee Arthur as Rye Recreation Director for 21+ years.

In Memoriam, James S. Raynes, for serving on the Rye Conservation Commission for 25+years. He was honored by the RCC through the dedication of 56 acres of Rye Conservation Land in his memory: the "Jim Raynes Forest," which trailhead is located off of South Road at the end of Signature Drive.

Selectmen's Report highlights the staff changes that occurred in 2021.

Notably, Town Counsel, Michael Donovan "said goodbye to Rye" after 28 years of services; Public Works Director, Dennis McCarthy retired in December 2021 after 11 years of services; and Lee Arthur, who left the Rye Recreation after 21 years of services to work in a full-time position for the Rye Sewer Department.

The Town selected Donahue, Tucker, and Ciandella (DTC) to replace Michael Donovan, with Eric Maher as lead counsel for Rye.

Becky Bergeron, Town Administrator, highlights in her report, the challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic with thanks to the Police and Fire Department for organizing multiple vaccination clinics.

The acquisition of the former TD Bank building is described as "a solution to the decade long space needs problem at Town Hall" via a "successful partnership" between the Town, RPL, and RCC. The interior of the former TD Bank building was completely demoed by Public Works Department staff as a "first step" in the renovation process.

Next steps: approval of the final design for renovations (*it is unclear which phase, 1, 2, or 3?*) and the issuance of a comprehensive Request for Proposal. It is anticipated that by late fall/early winter of 2022, the "Town Hall Annex" will be completed.