

# **BUDGET NARRATIVE - 2025**

## **GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS – TOWN CUSTODIAN AND BUILDINGS GROUNDS WORKMAN**

The bottom line of this budget has increased \$4,985 or 2.98% Contracted Services line is up 25%. This increase is due to the request for commercial cleaning of the HVAC ducting in the Safety Complex. This year the ducts at the Town Hall will be cleaned. All three municipal buildings were professionally cleaned, floors stripped, waxed and carpets shampooed. This floor maintenance will be performed annually in the future. The remaining increase in wages is reflective of contractual 2% COLA, increased FICA, increased retirement, and one staff member being at max wage grade. Health insurance Premium increases account for additional increases.

## **GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS – PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING**

The bottom line of this budget has increased \$1,150, or 5.42%. The increase is attributed to the heating fuel line. With the replacement of the highway garage furnace last year, we now have a more accurate use history for tracking and budgeting. The maintenance supply line remains the same, which is driven by increasing inflation and supply chain issues.

## **GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS –TOWN HALL**

This line item remains unchanged.

## **GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS –TOWN HALL ANNEX**

This line item remains unchanged.

## **PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. – PERSONNEL**

The bottom line of this budget has increased \$53,430 or 5.87%. The wage line item is significantly increased (5.06%) due to contractually obligated 2% COLA and step increases, with multiple employees becoming more tenured. Increasing demands for services outside regular working hours has resulted in overtime budget increases. The overtime line has increased by 22.35%. Increased wages, COLA and steps drive this increase. Significant highway overtime is expended to adequately maintain Saturday coverage of the Transfer Station. The Public Works Department continues to be in desperate need of additional temporary help particularly at the Transfer Station. A significant amount of departmental efforts are being made to address the increased demand for additional public services. Last year the addition of the full-time Highway employee has been a success and brought a noticeable increase in production, with the ability to have two separate crews on the road at one time. The health benefit line has increased significantly (11.28%) due to plan cost increases and employee plan changes. The uniform line has increased 22.97% due to contractual increases.

## **PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. – OPERATIONS**

The bottom line is up \$18,900, or 2.12%. The majority of this increase is in construction supplies 33% or \$4000, and vehicle repairs, both of which have been historically overspent. Additionally, the Public Works Department has absorbed the Recreation and Code Enforcement vehicle repair line items for efficiency purposes, increasing the line by 12% or \$6500. An aging fleet and unforeseen vehicle repair costs due to deferred maintenance and high rate of inflation have resulted in a need to increase the vehicle maintenance line item. The expected life span of vehicles is being scrutinized and is requested to be decreased through a warrant article. The drainage line item is up 42.9% or \$5000 in anticipation of increased drainage projects and material costs of required necessary excavation safety equipment. The paving services line remains unchanged to remain in the 3% budgetary increase limitations. The remaining increase reflects the ever-increasing costs for services and materials, almost all of which have been adversely affected by supply chain issues and the high rate of inflation. Fuel line item has increased 7% in anticipated increase usage. The contracted services line remains unchanged from last year.

## **STREETLIGHTS – STREET LIGHTING**

This line item remains unchanged.

## **TRANSFER STATION - OPERATIONS**

The bottom line is down \$7295 or 1.9%. The decrease is predominately due to reducing the transfer station replacements/improvements line by 80% or \$20,000 to comply with the 3% overall budget increase constraints. The increase in wages is reflective of contractual 2% COLA, increased FICA, increased retirement. The health insurance line is up 16.97% or \$7660. Temporary help, materials and supplies, equipment repairs and maintenance remain unchanged.

## **TRANSFER STATION - SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL**

The bottom line is down \$4490 or 1.28%. This decrease is predominantly due to reduced hauling costs in recycled aluminum. With the purchase of the new bailer from grant funding the Department now bails all our aluminum recycling. Bailed aluminum produces a better sale price, and transportation is included in the sale.

## **BEACH**

This budget is up \$5500 or 18.72%. The major factor affecting this increase is the cost of contracted services. Contracted services increased by 17.86% due to beach rubbish collection price increase of 15%. This contractual increase is still 50% less than the only other price quote the department has. Wages account for the additional increases. This fund is self-supporting, funded through parking ticket revenue.

## **LAND MANAGEMENT**

The operating side of this budget is up \$5275 or 7.29%. The majority of this increase is due to DNA sampling and testing of Parsons Creek \$2900 and the funding of the Rails to Trails Maintenance line \$1500.

## **CAPITAL OUTLAY**

<u>Fuel Use Tracking System</u> Track Departmental Consumption	\$25,000
<u>Road Condition Street Scan</u> Provide Pavement Condition Index (PCI) to Aid the Paving Program	\$20,000
<u>MS4 Assistance</u> EPA Mandated Requirements	\$40,000
<u>Harbor Road Seawall</u> Design Services FEMA 25% cost share	\$36,500

## **WARRANT ARTICLES**

<u>Highway Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund</u> To reduce the service life of heavy equipment.	\$250,000
<u>MS4 Capital Reserve Fund</u> Mandated BMP in 2 years.	\$25,000
<u>Building Maintenance Expendable Trust</u> Additional funding for DPW site fence replacement.	\$10,000
<u>Washington Road Improvements LTAP Grant</u> Extending funding indefinitely.	\$0
<u>Harbor Road Bridge</u> Extending funding indefinitely.	\$0