



TOWN CLERK
HANSON, MA
2021 JUL 21 AM 10:09

Town of Hanson

Finance Committee

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Meeting Opened: 1900 (MD/MW: 5-0)
Adjourned: 1200 (MD/MW: 5-0)

Minutes of: 9 March 2021

	Michael Dugan	Kenneth McCormick	Patrick Powers <i>Vice Chair</i>	Michelle Woerdeman <i>Clerk</i>	Amy Wright	Kevin Sullivan <i>Chairman</i>
Present	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Expires	6/30/2023	6/30/2021	06/30/2023	6/30/2022	6/30/2021	6/30/2022
Time						

Motion to open

Old Business

NTR

New Business

1. Chief Miksch started off discussing Police budget
 - a. High level – budget up by \$157K primarily due to two increases:
 - i. 2% cost of living increase
 - ii. 2% increase for next fiscal year
 - b. Increase in maintenance line primarily due to COVID (i.e. PPE)
 - c. All officers with 2% increase and slight increase to OT
 - i. Regarding OT, fortunate so far this year with less storms, favorable from budget perspective
 - d. Decrease in uniform cost of about \$3K
 - e. Increase in computer/ IT costs, primarily related new phone system. Additional costs related to recording line and support software
 - i. Grant to recognize overdoses is going away causing increase in software costs
 - f. Comcast services all purchased through the Police budget, should expect slight decreases in other budgets (e.g. Fire Department)
 - g. Building repairs and maintenance due to custodian needed for COVID disinfecting, etc. which is causing \$20K increase
 - h. Vehicles increase due to purchase of hybrids instead of all gas (\$3K per vehicle), however, gas cost should offset this in long run
 - i. All wireless communication devices, including tablets, and monthly cost per device go through Police budget, with the exception of the Water Dpt.
 - i. Additional cost related to redundancy communication system being set up. If Comcast were to go down, this would be the backup system.

Account Balances

Free Cash: \$ 1,296,088
Stabilization Fund: \$ 1,306,343
WHRSD Capital Stabilization: \$ 160,992
Water Surplus: \$ 820,493
Recreation Retained Earnings: \$ 4,205
Solid Waste Retained Earnings: \$ 15,585
Reserve Fund: \$90,000

- j. They had issues with taser gun screens and will ship one taser back to manufacturer to see if this can be fixed. Currently TBD on whether this can be fixed or they will need to be replaced entirely. The display on the screen indicates which cartridge is active.
 - i. \$11K placeholder in the budget for this.
 - k. Responses to questions:
 - i. \$56K for night shift cost
 - ii. \$250K for OT budget – add “OT” in this budget so it’s more clear
 - iii. Lost one officer to Braintree Police due to competitive salaries
 - iv. Unsure of whether \$1.9 trillion COVID package will flow down to Hanson at this point
2. Karen Stolfer discussed the Library budget
- a. 2% increase in salaries consistent with expectations, 50 cent per hour increase requested for some staff based on workload/ to be competitive with other local libraries (amounts to additional \$1,600)
 - b. There is a shared employee with Town Clerk office who requested increased hours. This may result in staff becoming eligible for benefits, which is an increased cost.
 - c. Total budget is 3% increase year over year
 - d. Response to questions:
 - i. Need to consider how we can change 50 cent increase to whole dollars
 - 1. Average of \$23 per hour in neighboring towns and our Library is currently at \$21
 - ii. The building seems to have leaks, which may be due to siding issues. Some money previously set aside for this that was never used.
3. Budgets presented and overall deficit discussed by committee
- a. To make up \$2M overall budget deficit (this is approx. 10% of entire budget), 2% salary increase may be the first line item to revisit (non-contracted increases)
 - i. The Police, Fire, etc. unions all have different timing for cost of living allowance increases.
 - ii. 2% cost of living really only would decrease deficit by approx. \$70K, but better to do this than cut headcount
 - b. To potentially present 3 budgets; 1 with no override, 1 with half of an override, and 1 with full override
 - i. To establish timeline working backwards from town vote in May
 - ii. Need to meet with key stakeholders prior to presentation (i.e. Selectman)

Consider any Line Item Transfers

N/A

Consider any Reserve Fund Transfers

N/A

Miscellaneous

N/A

Next Meeting Date

TBD

Meeting minutes:

N/A