



**Minutes**  
**Town Council Budget Work Session**  
March 29, 2023

Approved May 22, 2023

The March 29, 2023 Town Council Meeting and Budget Work Session was held remotely by Zoom videoconferencing.

**Call to Order:** Mayor Compton called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. In attendance were Councilors Dave Cosson, Christine Dibble, Sylvie Favret, Eva Patrone, Rob Gilmore and Barbara Raimondo. Also, present were Treasurer Jean Moyer and a few additional residents.

**Approval of the Agenda:** It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda.  
*Action: Vote: 6-0 to approve as presented.*

**Draft FY2024 Budget Work Session:**

The Mayor and Council discussed, with Treasurer Jean Moyer, many of the line items in the draft budget. The following may be noted for FY24:

- Dwelling Tax – increasing to \$240 per dwelling per our trash and recycling contract.
- Highway User Revenue
- Tax Duplication – the higher amount for FY24 is based on the County draft budget.
- User Fees – Recreation Committee Programs.
- Investment Earnings – will continue to reflect the restricted ARPA funds on hand.
- Cost-of-living increases for town full and part-time employees.
- Creation of a Maintenance Coordinator position (part-time estimate of 5 hr/week at \$25/hr).
- Use of a payroll service to facilitate salary, benefits and tax payments for full and part-time employees, including onboarding and time accounting.
- Committee budgets.
- Resuming surveying and mapping.
- More rigorous accounting for restricted revenue (e.g., ARPA funds).

There was a discussion about ARPA funds and the status of our funds. Mayor Compton explained he has been advised that the Town's ARPA funds may be claimed as lost revenue due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and may be used for normal municipal expenses.

HPC Chair Bob Booher suggested the Town consider buying historic properties that are being demolished by neglect. He proposed the Town could put additional monies into a

Property Acquisition account for the purpose of preserving such historic resources. Councilor Raimondo noted that a more detailed plan would be needed to justify actual expenditure of such funds. It was suggested that the purpose of the existing Boarder Acquisition Fund could be broadened to include any property of interest to the Town, but any change would have to be approved by the Town Council.

Christine Dibble proposed the Council discuss how to improve enforcement of Town Ordinances and inspection of construction done by contractors. Some thoughts about engaging an inspector and/or “enforcer” were expressed.

Based on tonight’s discussion, a revised draft FY 2024 Budget will be reviewed at the April Town Council meeting and the tax rates and Budget will be approved for consideration at the Annual Town Meeting on May 13, 2023.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Kathryn L. Lehman  
Town Clerk