

Kim Healy Questions

BOS Budget Review

2/15/2022

Questions for Budget presentation:

>

> Pg 17 Misc revenue for 2021- what is in 2021 and why so low for 22 and 23 compared to 19 and 20?

FY2021 includes the monies awarded from the Cares Act, which was described in response to a question from Ross. A total of just over \$324,000 was awarded.

> Pg 17- Interest investments- 2021 low, 2022 similar to historical numbers, 2023 low again?

The town is very limited in what we can invest in, not much higher than bank savings rates. Interest rates plummeted at the start of the pandemic. The rates that we have been earnings have remained relatively flat since, though we should have a pick up with the just recent increase in rates and may revise the FY2022 forecast and FY2023 budget.

> Pg 19- Do we have any recourse against the state for not allowing us to charge multi-family units a higher fee when they would take more time to review?

For everyone's benefit, the following was passed in the 2021 legislative session. This is now law. The impact on Wilton is minimal. We don't charge different fees for 8-30(g) applications. The link to our current P&Z applications fees is here: <https://www.wiltonct.org/sites/g/files/vyhlf4046/f/uploads/feeschedule-july12015.pdf> *No municipality may adopt a schedule of fees in its fee ordinance for land use applications that results in higher fees for (1) development projects built using the provisions of section 8-30g, as amended by this act, or (2) residential buildings containing four or more dwelling units that are higher than other residential including, but not limited to, higher fees per dwelling unit, per square footage or per unit of construction cost.*

> Pg 21- Bioterrorism? New for 2022- what is the work that is going to be done. DPH grant to develop a bioterrorism response plan.

> Pg 23- Why were licenses so high in 2021?

Dog licenses are due by June 20th. Because of COVID, the state changed the due date in 2020 from June 2020 to July 2020.

> Pg 26- Senior center fees have dropped way down? Is this due to less activity because of covid? Yes

> Pg 42- Salaries are 135k and Group ins is 61k (50% of total). This seems unusual. What am I missing? The two registrars are paid wages of a part-time employee, but receive full medical benefits. Neither chose employee only.

> Pg 45- Printing, binding, publishing- almost 100% increase. Included cost of ballots. Assumes ATM, November election and a D and R State primary. Assumes a high rate of absentee ballots. The State previously provided a COVID grant to cover the increased cost associated with increased absentee ballots.

>

>

>

> Pg 288- Large increase in Main equip- agreement. As per the comment, the \$18,000 is for three years. Not in prior year's

>

> Pg 299- Uniform- replacement- Animal Control has 1 f/t and 1 p/t; \$1000 seems high for uniform and boots. In FY2021 one pair of boots cost \$335. These are specialized boots meant to protect these officers who are dealing with animals of all types.

>

> Pg 313- Rent- operating equip- note says this is for station 2- I believe we are waiting for a March meeting to

know our obligation for that station? The previous board of selectmen assigned \$200,000 of previous budget savings to fund repairs for fire station 2. Some of that work has been completed. Some is ongoing.

>

> Pg 258- Custodial services- Is this a f/t person or company? Company

>

> Pg 266- why large increase in telephone for 2023 over historical? Typically, Highway Supervisor and crew leaders have Town issued cell phones. In January 2021, we gave cell phones to all of the highway department drivers because Town vehicles radio system is not in-place yet and we need a way to communicate with all employees (during the work day and especially during a snow storms). The incremental increase is because all highway department employees have cell phones. Once the vehicle radio system is implemented, we will return to only have the highway supervisor and crew leaders with cell phones.

> Pg 267- large increase on Road Main- salt- seems like more than inflation. In October of 2021, we learned that the Salt price per ton was going to be \$83.04/ton for the 2021-22 winter season. The salt price during the winter 2020-21 was \$57.75/ton. Increase of \$25.29/ton. The price increase is driven by an increase in the cost of fuel and transportation, as most salt is imported from overseas. The cost in CT has been further impacted by the closing of port in New Haven, which has resulted in additional transportation costs. Wilton contracts directly with Morton salt. Recently, area municipalities were reporting higher tonnage costs, than our contract with Morton >

> Pg 269- why additional custodial services when there's a line for this already? The \$13,500 should have been removed from the budget, as it represented additional COVID cleaning, which isn't required. Tony will adjust the budget.

>

>

> Overall question- How are all the service contracts reviewed? Every department has many and I am just looking to understand that we have procedures in place to review all of them? Same question for all the copiers. All purchases over \$500 must have a purchase order, purchase orders have approval levels depending on the amounts. three bids or RFQs are required depending on the amount. Contracts over \$10,000 must be approved by the Board of Selectmen, if budgeted.

>

> Is there a way that annual physicals can be covered by the health insurance policies that we provide to town employees? No, either by contract or because we choose the doctor and the requirements. Plan physicals are limited to one per year, employees should be able to have a physical performed by their own personal doctor.

>