

IPSWICH SELECT BOARD
Meeting of Monday, January 18, 2022

The Select Board participated in this meeting remotely utilizing Zoom in accordance with the Governor's March 12, 2020 Order suspending provisions of Open Meeting Law and to promote public health and social distancing.

Board Members present: Dr. Tammy Jones, Chair; William, Whitmore, Vice Chair; Linda Alexson; Kerry Mackin; Sarah Player

Also present: Finance Committee; School Committee; Anthony Marino, Town Manager; Eileen Page, Recording Secretary

With a quorum present, Dr. Jones called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Welcome/Announcements

The Select Board will conduct all January meetings remotely, and will decide at the end of the month whether to return to in-person meetings.

The Council on Aging will sponsor an art show and silent auction from February 1 through February 14 in the Town Hall lobby. Seven (7) paintings will be available for purchase via silent auction, with final bids due by 2 PM on February 14, and one (1) painting will be available via raffle. Raffle tickets can be purchased for \$10 each at the Senior Center.

Ms. Mackin stated that a request is forthcoming for the Select Board to adopt the Property Assessed Clean Energy Program (PACE Program.)

Citizen Queries

None.

FY23 Budget Overview Presentation

Mr. Marino presented the General Fund revenue estimates and expenses as they currently stand for FY23.

The FY22 maximum levy, including an override, was \$44,182,441. The FY23 maximum levy, including overrides, will be \$45,804,598.

In FY22, Additional Revenues totaled \$11,911,376. In FY23, they are expected to total \$10,466,001.

Mr. Marino presented the Major Fund and Reserve balances:

- Certified Free Cash: TBD
- Stabilization Fund: \$2.2 million
- Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB): \$8,071,626
- Water Retained Earnings: TBD
- Open Space: \$224,577
- Capital Stabilization: TBD
- Education Stabilization: \$2,633,550
- Special Education Reserve: \$629,044

The objectives of the FY23 budget are to maintain existing service levels, meet mandated and contractual costs, fund a 5.91% increase in solid waste and recycling costs, and use conservative revenue estimates that do not rely on any potential increase in State Aid from FY22 levels.

Chapter 70 and UGGA are expected to be level-funded from FY22. FY22 local receipts were \$112,179 lower than the average year due to a reduction in motor vehicle excise taxes, as residents have not been purchasing new vehicles.

Mr. Marino presented the Town General Fund appropriations:

- General Government: \$1,955,189 (9.35% of the budget)
- Planning: \$651,295 (3.11% of the budget)
- Public Safety: \$5,752,139 (27.5% of the budget)
- Public Works: \$4,986,404 (23.84% of the budget)
- Community & Cultural: \$1,648,577 (7.88% of the budget)
- Benefits & Other Misc.: \$5,920,456 (23.31% of the budget)

Mr. Marino presented the major budget highlights:

- A \$10,000 increase in legal spending to cover special legal counsel for 40B projects
- A 7% increase to health insurance costs
- One (1) additional part-time (19 hours per week, non-benefited) position in the Building Department to help digitize files, and provide administrative support during staff absences
- A one-time salary adjustment to bring COA staff in line with market salary rates
- A \$20,000 increase in the Consultant line item to contract a Climate Resiliency Manager position, at the request of the Climate Resiliency Committee
- A 2% increase to Union salaries
- A 2% increase to non-union salaries
- Expenses for twenty-eight (28) students to attend Whittier, and thirteen (13) students to attend Essex Tech
- \$190,000 to be transferred from the Stabilization fund to the FY23 budget.

Budget challenges include increase to insurance, retirements, and trash removal services, funding for an additional police officer and an increase in staffing for the fire department.

Ms. Mackin suggested offering discounts on composting services.

Ms. Alexson asked what opportunities are available to share services between the Town and School. Mr. Marino responded that opportunities are constantly being surveyed, but Facilities and HR services are currently a shared asset.

FY23 Capital Budget

Town expenses in the FY23 Capital Budget include:

- Roofing repairs
- Front facade upgrades
- \$15,000 for LED lighting conversions
- \$22,000 to repair the iron fence at the Library
- \$15,000 for gazebo and playground upkeep at Bialek Park
- \$50,000 set aside for a new ladder truck in preparation for future grant matching
- Replacement of 10-year-old PPE for firefighters
- Replacement of two (2) hybrid police cruisers
- \$18,000 towards harbor boat repairs

School expenses in the FY23 Capital Budget include:

- \$20,000 to upgrade the wind turbine
- \$150,000 for IT upgrades and maintenance

- \$20,000 for carpeting and flooring
- \$35,000 for roof repairs
- \$25,000 for LED lighting conversions
- \$35,000 for painting
- \$40,000 for rekeying the building systems at Doyon and Winthrop
- \$7,000 for new drinking fountains
- \$75,000 for floor replacements at the High School
- \$50,000 per year for HVAC cleaning

Ms. Player asked what is done with vehicles that are replaced. Mr. Marino responded that most often, vehicles recycled out of the police fleet are repurposed for other departments. The current Fire Command SUV is a former cruiser. Once vehicles have served their useful purpose, they are auctioned off, and typically bring in about \$2,000-\$4,000.

New Business

None.

Old Business

None.

Miscellaneous and Correspondence

None.

The Select Board will meet again on January 24 and 25.

➤ *Vote: Ms. Mackin moved to adjourn. Ms. Alexson seconded. The motion carried unanimously via roll call.*

The Select Board adjourned at 8:36 PM.

*Respectfully submitted by Eileen G. Page
01.28.2022*