



MEMORANDUM

Date: March 8, 2021

To: Barrington Committee on Appropriations
Barrington Town Council

From: James J. Cunha, Barrington Town Manager

Subject: FISCAL YEAR 2021 – 2022 TOWN BUDGET PROPOSAL

The 2021 – 2022 (FY-22) proposed budget is submitted in accordance with Sections 6-4-2 and 6-4-3 of the Town Charter. The proposed budget identifies anticipated revenues and expenditures. I have continued the application of prudent budgetary “stress” to provide reduced increases and savings where appropriate. Unfortunately, after the three (3) previous years of budgetary “haircuts”, the opportunities for savings have been diminished. As in the past, the Finance Director, individual Department Heads and I reviewed all inputs using:

- (1) Five (5) year average.
- (2) 2021 - 2022 expenditures.
- (3) Current year spending to date to assess budget requirements.

Also included is the proposed Barrington Public Schools budget as submitted to the Committee on Appropriations pursuant to Section 6-4-4 of the Town Charter. Please note that the Town Charter requires the Town Council and the Town Manager to accept the School Department budget as submitted by the School Committee.

Listed below are the proposed budget funding levels, percent of the total budget, and the percent change for each of the four portions of the Town’s budget:

Budgetary Summary and Impact

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Proposed Funding</u>	<u>% of total budget</u>	<u>% change</u>
Municipal	\$18,614,050 \$18,636,550	22.4% 22.2%	4.38% 4.51%
Capital (M)	\$ 1,285,000 \$ 1,810,000	1.5% 2.2%	-4.76% 34.15%
Schools	\$57,130,483	68.6% 68.2%	4.90%
Capital (S)	\$ 388,595	0.5%	0.00%
Debt	\$ 5,805,385	7.0% 6.9%	-35.08%
Total	\$83,223,513 83,771,013	100.0%	0.30% 0.96%

If accepted, the total tax levy would be ~~\$66,813,794~~ **\$67,366,954**, an ~~decrease~~ **increase** of ~~0.57%~~ **0.25%**.

Status of Labor Contracts

All four labor contracts were renewed for the period of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2022. Annual salary increases were as follows:

IAFF, Local 1774 (firefighters)	2.5%*
IBPO, Local 351 (police officers)	2.0%
IBPO, Local 555 (dispatch)	2.0%
USW, Local 14845 (DPW)	2.0%

* IAFF increase of 2.5% is due to the agreement to enroll in Health Savings Account (HSA) medical coverage.

Municipal Budget Highlights

Salaries

Salaries increased for non-union municipal employees 2% with no exceptions.

Bonding

There are no bond requests in the FY 2021 – 2022 budget.

Town Council

Add line item for Composting Pilot Program in the amount of \$5,000.

Board of Canvassers

Budget request increased by 46.67% (\$15,623) due to a \$19,025 for contractual services for the required 10-year redistricting following the 2020 census.

Computer Operations

Budget request increased by 11.86% (\$20,196) due to outsourcing payroll to Paychex. This is offset with staffing changes due to the integration of the Finance and Tax Assessor departments.

Tax Assessor

Budget request decreased by 25.39% (\$39,768) primarily in salaries due to integration of the Finance and Tax Assessor clerks and a new Tax Assessor hired at a lower salary with no longevity pay.

Recreation Department

The proposed budget increase is 17.04% (\$25,921) due to increased hourly rates for summer help to stay competitive with neighboring communities and increased beach staffing for COVID cleaning. Additionally, hours were increased from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM due to increased beach utilization, controlled access for Barrington residents, and security.

Harbor Control

The proposed budget is increased by 9.56% (\$4,500) due to moderate increases in temporary help (\$1,000), boat operations (\$2,000), mooring inspections (\$500), and equipment (\$1,000).

Public Works

The proposed budget increased by ~~8.48% (\$204,734)~~ **8.80% (\$220,234)**. Most significant is the initiative to increase the Public Works staff by a total of six (6) positions over the next three (3) years. The two additional positions being requested this year will add up to approximately \$143,000 in salary and benefits. Other significant increases are \$35,000 in general maintenance for landfill monitoring that was moved from the Capital Improvement Program to operational costs and \$39,500 in refuse disposal due to increases in the tipping fees (\$47 to \$50.50 per ton) and over the cap tipping fees (\$80 to \$90 per ton). **Increase Tree Maintenance from \$15,000 to \$22,000 and Tree Planting from \$8,500 to \$17,000.**

Refuse & Recycling Expense

Contract increased by 3.00% (\$29,324).

Employee Benefits

The required budget is increased by 5.80% (\$265,000) primarily due to a 14% rate increase in medical insurance premiums.

Insurance

The required budget increase is expected to be 3.59% (\$15,861) primarily due to a 5.26% (\$14,000) increase in Property & Liability Insurance.

Bonded Debt

Decrease is -48.70% (\$2,902,000) due to the elimination of FY21's one-time increase of \$3,870,000 in principal for the Barrington Middle School (BMS) bond. There is also a decrease of \$315,000 for completion of a FY 06-07 Building and Recreation bond.

Interest on Debt

Reduced by 7.87% (\$234,769) primarily due to a \$220,000 reduction in interest on the BMS bond.

Municipal Capital Requests

The Municipal Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget request for FY 2021 – 2022 is ~~\$1,285,000~~ **\$1,810,000**, an ~~reduction~~ **increase** of ~~4.76%~~ **34.15%**.

- Fire Equipment Replacement – increased 14.29% (\$20,000).
- DPW Equipment Replacement – decreased 3.90% (\$15,000).
- DPW Pavement Management – added \$30,000 to extend pavement life through crack sealing.
- Town Hall Computer Technology – added \$15,000 for phased replacement of servers and computers.

- Tax Assessor Revaluation – reduced 50% (\$70,000). This will adequately fund the revaluation program.
- Comprehensive Plan Rewrite – increased 150% (\$30,000) for scheduled 10-year rewrite and a comprehensive economic market study.
- Harbormaster equipment – reduced 16% (\$4,000).
- Energy Planning / Conservation – increased 100% (\$10,000).
- Public Safety Building Improvements – reduced 58% (\$14,500).
- Park & Trail Improvements – increased by 40% (\$10,000) to have adequate funding to meet RIDEM grant matches.
- Bay Spring Community Center – increased 166.67% (\$25,000) to fully fund the exterior siding project.
- Climate Mitigation – increased 33.33% (\$25,000) to ensure funding for expanding list of necessary mitigation projects.
- Conservation Land Acquisition – reduced 90.48% (\$190,000) after purchase of Sowams Conservation property (Harold Nelson Gibbs Woods) in FY21.
- Building Official vehicle replacement – increased 66.67% (\$4,000) to ensure adequate funds are available when replacement is required.
- Town Hall paint exterior trim – new item for \$65,000 to paint and replace rotting trim.
- Affordable Housing Fund - \$500,000. To create a capital reserve account in the Capital Budget to be known as the “Affordable Housing Fund” to be used for purposes recommended by the Housing Board of Trustee’s and approved by the Town Council.
- Town Hall Well - \$25,000. One year funding with ~3-year return on investment. (At the request of the Town Manager.)

Utilities

<u>Building</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Increase</u>
Town Hall	24.71%	\$21,000
Peck Center	8.33%	\$ 8,000
Public Safety	<u>3.83%</u>	<u>\$ 5,500</u>
Total	36.87%	\$34,500

Summary

The Town of Barrington is blessed with exceptional departmental leadership and a dedicated workforce. Their cooperative spirit that has allowed us to provide exceptional services while demonstrating fiscal constraint.

This is a difficult budget year for many reasons, much of it due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has had varying impacts on the budget. The Fire Department has been exceptionally busy with rescue calls. The Police Department has

seen a dramatic increase in domestic violence and mental health calls. Recreation had increased requirements for manning and hours at the beach and the cost of COVID impacted summer programs. The Library and Senior Center have restricted use but have used funding for innovative programming and upgrades. Additional costs for Zoom meetings, vaccination clinics, and increased trash collection have been absorbed through innovative cost cuts in other areas.

As we move into FY 21-22, we are living with many uncertainties. The budget presented represents an austere proposal for the consistent services while providing increases in necessary services and billings.

The Town Operating Expenditures is proposed to be ~~\$18,614,050~~ **\$18,636,550** an increase of ~~\$781,164~~ **\$803,664** (4.38% **4.51%**). Total Municipal Expenditures (Operating, Capital, Debt) is ~~\$25,704,435~~ **25,251,935**, a decrease of ~~\$2,419,805~~ **1,872,305** (-8.60% **-6.66%**). The proposed municipal budget, excluding the school appropriation, would ~~decrease~~ **increase** the tax rate by approximately ~~\$0.04~~ **\$0.17**.

The budget as presented will provide for the retention of highly valued personnel, a much-needed increase in DPW capacity and provide sustained and level services for our community.

J.J. CUNHA