

2021 Proposed Budget Highlights

Operating Budget:

- Non-Union COLA of 1.75% applied to each department applicable. Union contracts are under their own warrant articles this year since new contracts have been negotiated.
- Health Insurance premiums carry an increase of 1.4% effective July 1st

Executive

- Increase in Computer System & Support to cover annual document management system cost. This allows us to begin storing and easily manage (and retrieve) municipal documents that we are required to retain.

Elections

- All line items have decreased due to only having one election in 2021 (Town).
- Money has been budgeted to purchase two laptops for the Supervisors since they currently only have one.

Revaluation

- Budget was reduced due to the fact that the statistical update was completed in 2020.

Insurance

- The increase in our Property Liability line is partially due to the fact that the Town received a credit during 2020 which is not available in 2021.
- The decrease in the Workers Compensation Insurance is mostly due to a credit issued which has been applied against this line.

Police Department

- Increase in NH Retirement effective July 1st is due to the rate increased imposed by the Retirement System. Although the State of NH Legislature has approved bringing back a portion of the retirement funds that they used to pay for police in the past, they have yet to any revenues for this, to Towns and Cities. This continues to place the burden on the Town to budget and pay into the System, the full amount.

Fire Department

- Contracted Services has increased due to the updated Capital Area Fire figures.
- Wage line increases is to cover estimated call volume for the year.

Youth Services

- Although there are various large reductions within the budget (ie: wages, computer system), the overall increase albeit only 1%, stems from benefits (change in an insurance plan and budgeting for retirement which was not previously used).

Highway Department

- Roadside mowing costs have increased due to a change in the contractor who does the work (our previous contractor retired).
- Payroll increase allows for estimated accrual payout during the year due to a scheduled retirement.
- Vehicle VR #705 Int. DT will receive a new body to replace the current rusted one (thus the increase of \$18,000 in this line). This vehicle's engine is in very good shape and the Town should be able to get an additional 5-6 years out of the vehicle.

- Sand & Gravel has decreased by \$10,000 since the department completed the crushing project in 2020.
- The road projects which are scheduled to be done in 2021 (covered with the funds from Warrant Article #14) are the hill on Jones Road, Shim/Overlay a mile of Jefferson (Colonial Heights), Overlay Bear Hill between Mill Street up to Prospect Street.
- We will be replacing a 16-year old 1-Ton plow truck w/wing but will be able to purchase it through the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund (CRF). The cost is estimated to be \$120,000 and this marks the first large piece of equipment we are able to purchase without financing!

Street Lighting

- The Miscellaneous lighting line has been increased in order to do some maintenance work on the decorative street lights downtown.
- There is a separate Warrant Article is requesting approval to convert our regular street lights to LED lighting which carries a cost of approximately \$70,000. Based on the current cost of running these lights, it is estimated that the payback for the conversion will be realized within two years.

Transfer Station

- Hauling costs and tipping fees have continued to increase and you will notice that the budget has been adjusted accordingly.
- Hazardous Waste Day, although not held in 2020, is well attended and because of that we have had to increase the line item in order to allow the disposal of the waste brought in on that day as well as for any items which are generated at the facility.
- We are researching and considering the purchase of a larger cardboard baler which will be purchased out of the Transfer Station Equipment Capital Reserve Fund.

General Assistance (Direct)

- Rental Assistance continues to be necessary and the budget has been adjusted to cover that need.

Parks Department

- Although the Parks Department Operating Budget has held steady this year, these are projects which are being planned although it's not known at this time if we will be able to do them all in 2021:
 1. Manahan Park – Siding, windows and paint for the Main Bathhouse. Estimated cost of \$25 – 30,000. These funds will come from the Manahan Trust Fund.
 2. Grimes Field – We have received costs to both resurface and rebuild the tennis courts (\$21,400 & \$107,000) and the basketball court needs work including fence repairs. We also have the playground equipment on our radar and will make various repairs this summer although we may be looking at replacing some items over the next couple of years. Capital Reserve Funds will be used when these projects are done and will more than likely dictate the timeline.
 3. Butler Park – The benches in the Park need various repairs although we haven't been able to find information on the company these were originally purchased from and due to the extent of the work needed, we are planning on replacing them.

Fireworks & Patriotic Purposes

- A line item has been added to this section in the amount of \$10,000 for the purpose of preparation (supplies, decorations, etc.) for Hillsborough's 250th Celebration which will take place in 2022.

Conservation Commission

- Contracted Services line has been zeroed out this year due to it not being spent in 2020. Those unspent 2020 funds have been transferred to the Conservation Fund and will be used for the surveying projects that were planned on for 2020. The projects which the Commission plans to cover with those funds are:
 1. Confluence Trail Work
 2. Mark boundary of Confluence Trail Lot
 3. Mark PSNH Easement

Capital Reserve Fund Warrant Article:

As we have each year, there is a warrant article for the purpose of adding funds to various Capital Reserve Funds (CRF's). These funds enable us to continue to do work on an ongoing basis to the many buildings we own or purchase equipment for various departments while keeping the budget as level as possible each year. This year we are funding this article with the unassigned fund balance with the bulk of the money coming from the money which will be added to that fund from the 2020 budget surplus. This surplus is the result of funds not being spent mostly due to a year of COVID changes such as Summer Camp not taking place, Project Genesis closing for a majority of the year, etc.

Employee Union Contract Warrant Article:

The three year negotiated contract includes changes to the following items:

- COLA for years one through three are: 1.75%; 2.5%; 2.5%
- Longevity payments (one per year) have changed as follows:
 1. 10 years of service from \$500 to \$650
 2. 15 years of service from \$750 to \$900
 3. 20 years of service from \$1,000 to \$1,250

Police Union Contract Warrant Article:

The three year negotiated contract includes changes to the following items:

- COLA for years one through three are: 2%; 2%; 2%
- Longevity payments (one per year) have changed as follows:
 1. 10 years of service from \$500 to \$750
 2. 20 years of service from \$750 to \$1,000
- A physical fitness standard was added to the contract which follows the Cooper Standards for Law Enforcement which has been broken down in levels for those who wish to participate. The award for completing the levels (no one under 50% receives an award) are additional days off which must be used during the year they are earned or they will be lost.