

2019 Tentative Budget Overview

Attached is the "final" 2019 Tentative Budget. I have incorporated a variety of minor changes to the previous drafts of the Tentative Budget that you have previously seen. Please discard the previous versions, and use this one.

For 2019 the key financial targets are: 1) tax decrease of about 1%; 2) contingent account of about \$130,000 to fund capital spending needs in Highway and provide a buffer against any sudden changes in sales & mortgage tax revenues and State funding for CHIPS; 3) year end 2019 fund balance of about \$800,000, about 2 years of non-property tax revenue.

The Tentative Budget indicates a 1.5% tax decrease, a contingent account of \$140,000 and a year end fund balance of about \$825,000, all slightly better than our targets.

Except as noted below, GF and Highway spending and revenues are budgeted to be flat to 2018.

1-Sales tax is budgeted at \$300,000, \$30,000 over the 2018 budget and at the 2017 actual level...2018 actual sales taxes are on track to come in at about \$320,000, up 7% over 2017.

2-GF interest is budgeted at \$17,500, up from \$5000 in the 2018 budget...this is due to the 1.6% rate we are getting from TD Bank on our fund balance.

3-Central data is budgeted to be up \$3000 to \$10,200 due to an expectation that we will publish more newsletters.

4-Property and liability insurance is budgeted up \$2,500 to \$27,500 to reflect 2018 experience (the new grader) & normal price increases.

5-Kids camp .4 is budgeted up \$4000 to reflect our decision to make camp really free by paying for trips, & pizza.

6-Salaries and related social security is up 2.5%. Salary increases averaging 2.5% are budgeted for all staff except Supervisor, TB and Judges. Town Court has requested that Judges' salaries be increased 10% to \$5500 each, that the Court Clerk be paid \$20 per hour and the Deputy Court Clerk be paid \$18 per hour. All clerks are currently budgeted at \$17.60/hr. ZBA/PB Clerk is budgeted up \$3000 to \$8500, partially offset by a \$1000 decrease in ZBA/PB .4. Both adjustments reflect actual 2018 activity.

7-Retirement up \$2000...an estimate which will change when we get the State numbers later in the fall

8-Health insurance up \$6000...CDPHP has requested a 9.8% increase

We will discuss the Tentative Budget at the 8/16 TB meeting and incorporate any changes that the TB agrees to make. We will also have opportunities to make additional changes to the 2019 Budget after the public hearings for Tentative, Preliminary and Final budgets in September, October and November.