
TO: FINANCE COMMITTEE

FROM: HEATHER MUNROE, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

SUBJECT: FY25 BUDGET UPDATES – MARCH 5TH 2024

CC: SELECT BOARD

In order to provide the most up-to-date information for the Finance Committee's review, we have re-reviewed our revenue projections and double-checked our fixed expense costs to calculate the most accurate budget deficit to-date. To date, with a few uncertainties left in the air (Town Liability Insurance figures) we are looking at an estimated **expense of \$16,652,971** and an estimated **revenue of \$15,883,203**, leaving a **current deficit of \$769,768** with the Police CBA figure still pending.

Part I - Revenues

Property Tax Levy – The WRSD Debt Exclusion amount assessed went down for the \$220k number to \$88,287 for FY25. This reduces the total amount in the property tax levy and also decreases the total revenue figure, but it is also a wash on the WRSD Debt Assessment line, so that figure is reduced as well.

State Aid – No change.

Local Receipts Revenue – No Change.

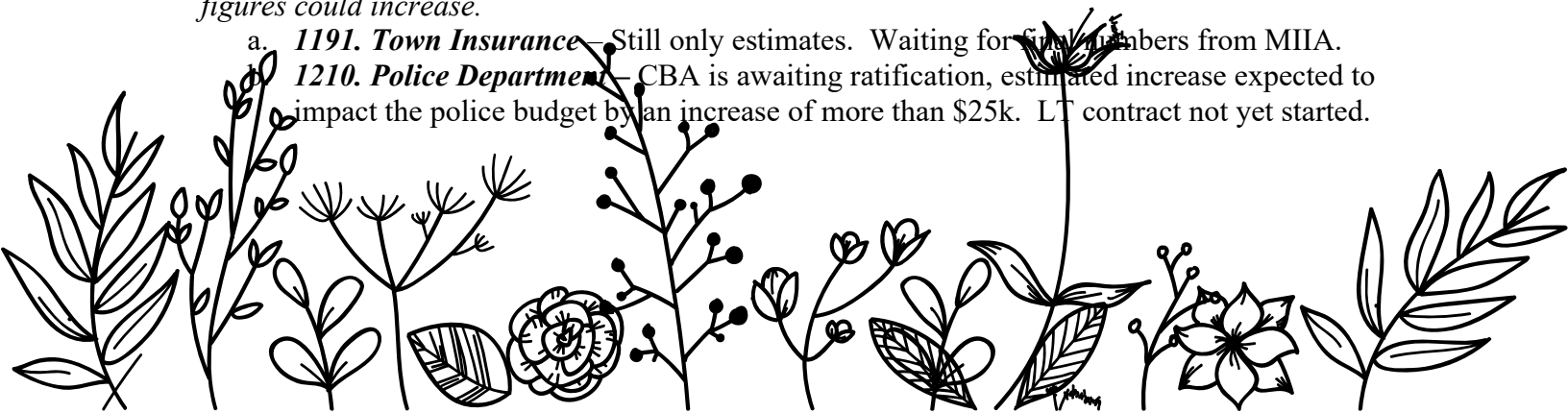
Part II – Expenses

A. Changes from 02.29.2024

- a. **WRSD** – Current assessments showing a total of 5.03% increase for FY25 from FY24 assessed figure. This results in less than an actual 5% increase for the Town from the voted approved budget for FY24, as the figure was originally higher until post town meeting when the school assessment was reduced. As noted above, the debt amount decreased and it is off set by the WRSD Debt Exclusion.
- b. **IT** – Per Charlie's recommendation, additional funds added to IT Network line to replace outdated infrastructure, increase \$10,800.

B. Continued Uncertainties – These two items are still only estimates as nothing is yet finalized and the figures could increase.

- a. **1191. Town Insurance** – Still only estimates. Waiting for final numbers from MIIA.
- 1210. Police Department** – CBA is awaiting ratification, estimated increase expected to impact the police budget by an increase of more than \$25k. LT contract not yet started.



C. Tuesday's Budgets – Summary and Changes from December

a. **Fire Department - \$1,255,287**

- i. Total amount decreased by \$19,410 since December based on adjusted figures.
- ii. Purchased services. EMS and Fire lines are combined now into one and total reduction is \$6,600.
- iii. Supplies – increased by \$2k change since December.
- iv. Equipment – reduced by \$3k change since December.
- v. Wages – Fire and EMS now combined into one line. Reduced by \$7,810 since December.

b. **Public Building Maintenance - \$80,581** No Change.

c. **DPW -\$963,685**

- i. Amount increased from Decembers budget estimate by \$48,786.
- ii. Equipment Lease was zeroed out from \$9,524 as the lease has been paid off and employee wages were adjusted with current staff reflections and reduced by \$1,370.
- iii. MS4 was increased by \$59,680 (consultant required design and general stormwater costs increased from \$20,320).

d. **Snow & Ice – \$202,000.** No Change. There has been no changes since Dec 2023. The amount must be at least equal to, if not higher than the prior year in order for the Town to remain its ability to deficit spend.¹

e. **Cemetery Commission - \$9,004.** No Change.

¹ SECTION 31D: SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL; EMERGENCY EXPENDITURES; REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Section 31D. Any city or town may incur liability and make expenditures in any fiscal year in excess of available appropriations for snow and ice removal, provided that such expenditures are approved by the chief administrative officer; provided, however, that the appropriation for such purposes in said fiscal year equaled or exceeded the appropriation for said purposes in the prior fiscal year. Expenditures made under authority of this section shall be certified to the board of assessors and included in the next annual tax rate.

Every city or town shall annually, not later than September fifteenth, report to the division of local services of the department of revenue the total amounts appropriated and expended, including any funding or reimbursements received from the commonwealth, for snow and ice removal in the fiscal year ending on the preceding June thirtieth.