

PORTSMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 14, 2023 (Wednesday)
BUDGET HEARING MINUTES

7:00 PM – Town Council Chambers, Portsmouth Town Hall, 2200 East Main Road

TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Kevin M. Aguiar, Leonard B. Katzman, David M. Gleason, Keith E. Hamilton, Charles J. Levesque, and J. Mark Ryan

TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Daniela T. Abbott

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Emily Copeland, Sondra Blank, Frederick Faerber III, and Karen McDaid

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Isabelle Kelly, Juan Carlos Payero, and Emily Skeehan

Time: 7:00 PM

EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SITTING AS THE PORTSMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

1. Roll Call

BUDGET HEARING – The Full Budget is Available for Review on the Town’s Website
[FY 24 Town Budget](#)

[Report to Taxpayers on the Current and Proposed Budget](#)

Mr. Rainer recapped the provisionally approved budget.

Mr. Levesque would like to see some additional funds go to the schools to help students reintegrated back to school after Covid, seeing as we are \$145,214 under the cap and that he’d be putting something on the next agenda with regards to possibly increasing the taxes slightly.

Larry Fitzmorris, 50 Kristen Ct., when assets were moved, he didn’t see the changes of the assessed value. He would also like to see more detailed information on any changes made to the budget and to have the changes show in a different color. Mr. Fitzmorris was questioning the withdrawals of the Special Revenue Funds and believed there was a lack of control with the accounts. Mr. Kirkpatrick stated that Special Revenue Funds are for specific uses only and are not in the fund balance.

Tom Grieb, 110 Thayer Dr., questioned why we paid debit service bond number 7 on page 72. It was explained that the maturity was FYE 2023. It was not shown on the page. Mr. Kirkpatrick stated that the page would be updated. He also requested the changes be made in a different color.

Mr. Gleason thanked Matt Helfand for the work he did regarding looking into changing the commercial tax rate and asked that staff investigate Homestead tax exemptions.

Dr. Ryan was also in favor of Homestead tax exemptions.

Mr. Hamilton mentioned that it looked like the General Assembly was going to increase the state aid to the cities and towns and that Portsmouth would be receiving approximately \$101,000 at first glance. He'd like to reduce the Town Appropriation to the School and place that amount into the Capital Reserve fund. He will put this forward at the next Council meeting.

Ms. Blank would like to see that amount of money stay with the schools to help the children.

ADJOURN – Motion to close the public budget hearing made by Mr. Levesque, seconded by Mr. Hamilton. Motion passed unanimously.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Jun 26 7:00 PM – Town Council Meeting

Jul 10 7:00 PM – Town Council Meeting

~~Jul 24 7:00 PM – Town Council Meeting~~ CANCELED

ADJOURN – Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Levesque, seconded by Mr. Hamilton. Motion passed unanimously.

Time: 7:59 PM

Jennifer M. West, CMC, Town Clerk