

PORTSMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
 JUNE 15, 2022(Wednesday)  
 BUDGET HEARING MINUTES

7:00 PM – Portsmouth Middle School Auditorium, 125 Jepson Lane

Time: 7:03 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kevin M. Aguiar, Linda L. Ujifusa, Daniela T. Abbott, Keith E. Hamilton, Leonard B. Katzman, Andrew V. Kelly and J. Mark Ryan

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Thomas Vadney, Juan Carlos Payero, Sondra Blank

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 23 Town Budget](#)

**Town of Portsmouth, Rhode Island  
 Budget Hearing  
 Report to Taxpayers on the Current and Proposed Budget**

**General Fund**

*General Fund Expenses*

Education	\$	39,167,388	\$	39,723,999
School Debt Service (funded by Town)		546,404		401,853
Town Council		10,866		13,916
Town Administrator		303,796		320,414
Administrative Services		4,935,893		5,070,240
Town Debt Service		1,556,747		1,536,321
Planning & Development		826,583		868,648
Public Safety		15,688,788		14,757,080
Public Works Department		4,202,079		4,287,064
Parks, Recreation & Community Services		1,278,946		1,247,182
Transfers out to other funds		557,085	\$	1,740,736
<i>General Fund Expenses Total</i>	\$	69,074,575		69,967,453

*General Fund Revenues*

Local Property Tax	\$	59,049,037	\$	61,180,675
Local Non-Property Tax		4,217,777		3,663,853
Federal		-		-
State		5,807,762		5,122,925
<i>General Fund Revenues Total</i>	\$	69,074,576	\$	69,967,453

**Transfer Station Fund**

*Transfer Station Expenses*

Operations	\$	711,197	\$	713,670
Bonds Debt Service		<u>22,101</u>	\$	<u>20,930</u>
<i>Transfer Station Expenses Total</i>	\$	733,298		734,600

*Transfer Station Income*

Income		<u>749,945</u>		<u>734,275</u>
<i>Transfer Station Income Total</i>	\$	749,945	\$	734,275

The Town of Portsmouth Education expenditure for the 2022-2023 budget year is \$39,723,999. This is an increase of \$556,611. Below is a Comparison Summary For Educational Expenditures With Prior Year Budget and Current Proposed Budget.

	Amounts Actually Budgeted for Current Year Operating/Capital FY2021-2022	Proposed Budget Year Operating/Capital FY2022-2023	Increase (Decrease)	
<b><u>Town of Portsmouth School Funding Summary</u></b>				
Local Appropriations	\$ 35,367,181	\$ 36,089,376		
Health Care Reduction	-	-		
<b>Total Town Appropriation</b>	\$ 35,367,181	\$ 36,089,376	\$ 722,195	2.04%
<b><u>State Aid</u></b>				
State Aid-General Funding	<u>3,800,207</u>	<u>3,634,623</u>	\$ (165,584)	-4.36%
<b>Total State Aid</b>	\$ 3,800,207	\$ 3,634,623		
<b>Total Appropriation Before Capital</b>	\$ 39,167,388	\$ 39,723,999		
School Capital	-	-	-	
<b>Total School Capital</b>	-	-		
<b>Total Town and State Funding</b>	<u>\$ 39,167,388</u>	<u>\$ 39,723,999</u>	\$ 556,611	1.42%

Larry Fitzmorris, 50 Kristen Court, thanked the staff for a more readable budget document and he appreciated the changes. He liked the notation of changes, the inclusion of a summary of the Town special funds and a clear listing of the bonds between the Town and the schools. Mr. Fitzmorris wanted to know why there is a \$684,837 decline in State aid. Mr. DiIuro explained that that number comes from the Governor’s budget and that they hope that it will not increase before the Governor signs the budget. He is concerned with the increase in taxes because of inflation and the recession that will most likely happen. In the past, Rhode Island has been the first to go into a recession and the last to come out of one. He is concerned with the projected revenues for next year between the Town Clerk’s Office, the Finance Office and Building Official’s Office, because he believes that construction will come to a standstill if a recession hits. Mr. Fitzmorris feels that the paving budget is being handled in a positive way and likes that the budget is increasing each year. He asked about the State Aid and the general funding formula and if it is flat funded. Why are defined benefits listed under Human Resources as well as other departments? It is because most of the Town Hall employees who participate in the defined benefit program are PMEA and work at Town Hall so that falls under the Human Resource department while the other departments are listed under their specific departments. It appears that the Town Solicitor’s salary increased 21%, why so much. Mr. Rainer explained that they took the base salary, which has not changed, and combined it with the additional services line to get that number. The average estimated additional services was calculated to come up with the number. In previous years’ it was on a separate line. Mr. Fitzmorris was happy to see that the Special Revenue Funds were back in the budget. He wanted to know why there were no numbers for FY 22-23. The Finance Director was uneasy with

putting unaudited numbers into the budget. The numbers shown are the audited numbers. Mr. Rainer said that he would ask the Finance Department to come up with the most accurate number they have prior to the final budget.

Tom Grieb, 110 Thayer Drive, was concerned with the pension contribution decreasing by \$1.3 million dollars and he thinks that it is underfunded and he thinks that it makes no sense. Mr. Aguiar mentioned that the Town Council is waiting on recommendations by the Pension Investment Committee and GovInvest to decide if an audit should be performed.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Jun 27 7:00 PM – Town Council Meeting  
Jul 11 7:00 PM – Town Council Meeting  
Jul 25 7:00 PM – Town Council Meeting – Canceled

ADJOURN – Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion passed 7-0.

Time: 7:46 PM

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Jennifer M. West, Town Clerk