

**BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
APRIL 26, 2021**

*NOTE: Due to COVID-19, this meeting was held virtually (via ZOOM),
and was live streamed on the City's website*

Mayor Casavant called the Budget Committee to order at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call: William Emhiser, John McCurry, Jr., Stephen St. Cyr, Robert Quattrone, Jr. (arrived at 5:43 p.m.), Norman Belanger, Michael Ready, Doris Ortiz, Marc Lessard

Amy Clearwater was excused.

Discussion of FY22 Proposed City Government & School Department Budgets:

Discussion of School Department Budget with Superintendent of Schools:

Superintendent of Schools Jeremy Ray gave an update on the proposed School Department budget and the overall impact on the tax rate.

The School Department has released their back to school plan for next Fall, which includes all students back to full-time, in-person instruction. This alone increases the education budget. Health insurance rates have come back at a 0% increase, and so that savings will be applied to a capital project that has been added, which is converting the Intermediate School to LED lighting.

The impact of the Pre-K to 12 grade budget is a \$552,991 assessment on the overall budget. the Adult Education budget has come in with a \$58,000 decrease. The total ask to go towards education is \$494,265. Jeremy is looking at two different relief fund programs and working to align the use of the funds in order to have the most economic impact and have the ability to use less local funds to support education now and in the next couple years.

Jeremy expressed his concern about the rising property values in Biddeford, which could cause a loss of State subsidies to the School Department, and if this trend continues, it will surely pose bigger challenges to the City for funding education over the next few years.

Councilor Lessard would like to know those things that affect State subsidies coming to the City, and what the Council can do to help ensure subsidies are not continuously lost.

Jeremy noted that property valuation effects State aid, as does student counts. Jeremy feels that the Council has done well with sheltering property valuations, but the challenge is the lack of “second homes” in Biddeford, where folks who are looking to move on from their “starter homes” to a bigger home.

Discussion of City Government Budget:

Motion by Councilor Lessard, seconded by Councilor McCurry to reduce the FY21 General Fund Operational Surplus by removing the following:

	Original Submittal	Revised Recommendations
<i>Replacement Wages</i>	\$15,000	\$0
<i>IT Equipment</i>	\$200,000	\$200,000
<i>Assessing</i>	\$50,000	\$50,000
<i>Biddeford Pool Study</i>	\$30,000	\$30,000
<i>Recreation Financial Aid</i>	\$35,000	\$35,000
<i>Engagement Position</i>	\$57,500	\$57,500
<i>Earned Pay @ Separation</i>	\$125,000	\$75,000
<i>Engineering Consulting</i>	\$55,000	\$55,000
<i>Senior & Rec Program*</i>	\$30,000	\$0
<i>Street Light Replacement*</i>	\$125,000	\$125,000
<i>SCBA Fire</i>	\$150,000	\$150,000
<i>Grant Matches*</i>	\$85,000	\$85,000
<i>Reserve for Police grant positions</i>	\$0	\$60,000
<i>Total</i>	\$957,500	\$922,500 \$670,000

The motion was withdrawn.

Motion by Councilor St. Cyr, seconded by Councilor McCurry to carry \$500,000 of the \$2,500,000 FY21 General Fund Operational Surplus into the FY22 budget, to be used to reduce the FY22 tax rate.

Vote: 4/4; Councilors McCurry, Quattrone, Ortiz and St. Cyr in favor.

Councilors Emhiser, Belanger, Ready and Lessard opposed.

Mayor Casavant voted in opposition to break the tie.

Motion fails.

Motion by Councilor Belanger, seconded by Councilor Emhiser to reduce the amount of money allocated for the purchase of vehicles in the FY21 General Fund Operational Surplus from \$680,000 to \$380,000, with the remaining \$300,000 to be financed; and to apply that \$300,000 to the FY22 budget to pay down the tax rate.

Vote: 4/4; Councilors Belanger, Emhiser, St. Cyr and Lessard in favor.

Councilors McCurry, Ready, Quattrone and Ortiz opposed.

Mayor Casavant voted in favor to break the tie.

Motion carries.

{ Councilor St. Cyr left the meeting at 6:54 p.m. }

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Quattrone to reduce the Contingency by \$300,000.

Vote: 2/5; Councilors McCurry and Quattrone in favor.

Councilors Emhiser, Belanger, Ready, Ortiz and Lessard opposed.

Motion fails.

Motion by Councilor McCurry, seconded by Councilor Lessard to reduce the two additional firefighter/paramedic positions in the Fire Department budget.

Vote: 2/5; Councilors Lessard and Quattrone in favor.

Councilors Emhiser, McCurry, Belanger, Ready and Ortiz opposed.

Motion fails.

Motion by Councilor Belanger, seconded by Councilor Ready to increase the interest payment on vehicle purchases by \$58,000. (This motion coincides with Councilor Belanger's previous motion).

Vote: 5/2; Councilors McCurry and Quattrone opposed.

Councilors Emhiser, Belanger, Ready, Ortiz and Lessard in favor.

Motion carries.

Motion by Councilor Belanger, seconded by Councilor Ready to remove the cable franchise funds from the General Fund and put into a dedicated reserve account in order to keep in compliance with City ordinances.

Vote: 5/2; Councilors McCurry and Lessard opposed.

Councilors Emhiser, Quattrone, Belanger, Ready and Ortiz in favor.

Motion carries.

Motion by Councilor Belanger, seconded by Councilor Ready to approve the recommended General Fund Adjustments (listed on pages 6 & 7 of Jim's budget memo); minus the revenue sharing, excise tax and reduction in IPP impact in WWTP budget, since these items have already been voted on. Further, this motion excludes the increase in capital and the increase in contingency.

<i>Item</i>	<i>Reason</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Impact on Tax Commitment +/-</i>
<i>Revenue Sharing</i>	Increase forecast	\$2,750,000	(\$350,000)
<i>Excise Tax</i>	Increase forecast	\$3,750,000	(\$250,000)
<i>Reserve for grant police positions</i>	<i>Available resources</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>(\$60,000)</i>
<i>Reduce IPP impact in WWTP budget</i>	Council concern	\$63,101	\$14,941
<i>Cemetery Stipend</i>	<i>Market Adj</i>	<i>\$4,000</i>	<i>\$750</i>

Non-union market adjustment	Market Adj	\$100,000	\$100,000
Climate Task Force	New request	\$0	\$3,000
CDBG Adjustment	Fed guidelines		\$12,633
Verizon Rental	39 Alfred St	\$15,870	(\$2,381)
Parking enforcement (on street)	Return from parking fund	\$77,118	\$49,118
Additional on street & beach (FT vs PT)	Meet needs	\$48,383	\$4,383
Parking Enforcement	Handheld SVC	\$9,861	\$9,861
Reduce PS Radio payment	Use ½ for decrease in tax commitment; ½ to capital	\$0	(\$550,808)
	Increase capital (see above)	\$1,975,000	\$275,000
Increase contingency	Available funds	\$800,000	\$300,000
Total Impact on Tax			(\$443,503)

Vote: 5/2; Councilors McCurry and Quattrone opposed.
Councilors Emhiser, Belanger, Ready, Ortiz and Lessard in favor.
Motion carries.

Motion by Councilor Emhiser, seconded by Councilor Lessard to increase the Contingency by \$300,000 for a total of \$800,000.

Vote: 5/2; Councilors McCurry and Quattrone opposed.
Councilors Emhiser, Belanger, Ready, Ortiz and Lessard in favor.
Motion carries.

Motion by Councilor Belanger, seconded by Councilor Ready to approve the Non-general Fund Budgets as proposed:

<u>Budget</u>	<u>FY21 Budget</u>	<u>Dept. Req.</u>	<u>CM Rec</u>
31102 - Mooring Fees	46,359.00	57,360.00	57,360.00
31106 - Pool Beaches Ops/Improves	177,966.00	170,643.91	170,643.91
31117 - CDBG Grant Administration	472,537.00	433,347.31	433,347.31
31132 - Airport Operations	241,999.00	252,118.64	252,118.64
31179 - Rte. 111-Mill Redev TIF Projec	295,000.00	1,180,220.00	1,180,220.00
31180 - Rte. 111-Mill Redev MERC Purch	200,000.00	200,000.04	200,000.04

31201 - Recreation General Programs	58,500.00	34,500.00	34,500.00
31202 - Recreation Teen Center	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
31204 - Recreation Safari Camp	220,639.00	177,628.50	177,628.50
31206 - Rec Cub Care-Vacation Camps	411,672.00	430,697.36	430,697.36
31209 - Recreation Youth Enrichment	11,810.00	11,760.00	11,760.00
31211 - Rec Youth Sports Program	25,900.00	28,605.00	28,605.00
31214 - Rec Adult Sports Program	31,805.00	29,685.00	29,685.00
31220 - Recreation Ross Center	65,612.00	52,697.12	52,697.12
31225 - Rec Outdoor Adventure Program	7,905.00	9,020.00	9,020.00
31228 - Recreation Field Usage	12,836.00	14,436.00	14,436.00
31230 - Rec Community Center Rents	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
31240 - Airport Reimburseable Improve.	320,000.00	50,000.00	50,000.00
32491 - Ambulance	1,550,000.00	1,671,726.00	1,671,726.00
32551 - MDEA	266,431.00	270,767.04	270,767.04
35102 - Sewer Operations	3,025,926.00	3,145,330.40	2,972,581.87
35103 - Sewer Ind Pretreat Program	69,504.00	40,924.59	40,924.59
35104 - P.W. Wastewater Maintenance	1,002,682.00	1,017,072.92	1,017,072.92
35105 - New Sewer Operations Exp	1,506,082.00	1,531,623.55	1,531,623.55

Vote: 6/1; Councilor McCurry opposed.

Councilors Emhiser, Quattrone, Belanger, Ready, Ortiz and Lessard in favor.

Motion carries.

Motion by Councilor Belanger, seconded by Councilor Ready to adjourn.

Vote: Unanimous.

Time: 7:43 p.m.