

Town of Milton
Finance Committee
June 26, 2014

The Finance Committee met on June 26, 2014 and reviewed the Draft of the 2015 Town budget.

Budget line items were discussed as well as adherence to the budget including Town Charter limitations on Property tax revenue allowed to be collected. Changes were suggested to the draft Budget and recommendations to enhance adherence to the budget.

After lengthy discussion, the following changes were suggested to the Town Clerk for inclusion in the budget draft to be submitted to Town Council:

- Remove a webcam for use in Milton Memorial Park;
- Remove solar speed sign;
- Retire the PD K9;
- Lower PD Salaries to reflect rate while 2 officers may be in the Police Academy;
- Reduce street repairs expenditures;
- Reduce Snow removal Supplies;
- Reduce Snow removal overtime;
- Increase building permit revenues;
- Include expenditure for phased in street sign replacement.

These items including an approximately, 11% tax increase will provide a balanced budget with \$0 remaining for Capital Expenditures in the General Fund.

The Proprietary Fund Draft Budget stands as presented.

In discussions of compliance with the budget the following recommendations are submitted:

- ALL Purchase Orders should be approved by the Town Clerk;
- Purchase Orders should be used for all purchases over \$50.

Further suggestions include:

In light of the needs of the Town coming up against a Town Charter limitation on Property Tax revenue, a suggested Charter revision include the Town being empowered to raise funds from Property taxes be capped at a % of the total assessed value of taxable property in the Town allowing for growth of the Town tax base and the ability to fund General Fund expenditures.

- Negotiation with Cell service provider(s) for a franchise fee payable to the Town.
- A tiered rate for Park rental fees based on services/space used and/or the number of persons.

The following studies should be undertaken:

The cost effectiveness of "Take home" vehicles vs "hot seating" the PD vehicles as well as take home vehicles for other departments:

The cost effectiveness of the K-9 program for the benefit of Milton.

The Finance Committee will meet to develop an overall purchasing policy to be recommended to Town Council. (Meeting date and time to be determined.)