**TOWN COUNCIL FY 2016-2017 BUDGET ADOPTION**

**April 14, 2016**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Council President Trocki called the meeting of the Jamestown Town Council to order at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Jamestown Town Hall at 93 Narragansett Avenue, Jamestown.

1. **ROLL CALL**

Town Council Members Present:

Kristine Trocki, President

Mary E. Meagher

Blake A. Dickinson

Michael G. White

Thomas P. Tighe

Also in attendance:

Andrew E. Nota, Town Administrator

Christina D. Collins, Finance Director

Lisa Bryer, Town Planner

Cheryl A. Fernstrom, Town Clerk

Michael Glier, IT Consultant

Michael Gray, Public Works Supervisor

Andrew Wade, Recreation Director

Edward Mello, Chief of Police

Donna Fogarty, Library Director

James Bryer, Fire Chief

Steve Texiera, Fire Department

Howard Tighe, Fire Department

Denise Gamon, Clerk

1. **TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET WORK SESSION**

Council President Trocki opened the meeting thanking Town Administrator Andrew Nota and Finance Director Christina Collins for all of their hard work on the Town Operating and Capital Budget.

1. Town Administrator Andrew Nota shared with the Town Council a recent conversation with Moody’s Investors Services:

Moody’s Investors Service has assigned a Aa1 to Jamestown, RI’s $4.9 million General Obligation Refunding Bonds, 2016 Series A. Concurrently, we have upgraded the rating to Aa1 from Aa2 for the town’s approximately $8 million of general obligation debt.

The upgrade reflects the town’s solid financial position resulting from its multi-year trend of growing reserves. The Aa1 also reflects the town’s affluent residential tax base, low debt burden and manageable pension and OPEB obligations.

The Aa1 rating means better rates on borrowing for the community as we move forward, will help with refinancing and slip lining project. This will save tens of thousands if not hundreds of thousands dollars during the life of borrowing over the long term.

1. Significant adjustments to the Town Budget were presented to the Town Council by

Town Administrator Andrew Nota, the cumulative total, a reduction in the overall budget of $254.365.00.

Town Reductions Blue Cross -$10,932.00

Blue Cross – Retiree -$3,732.00

Debt Service -$64,701.00

Capital Bike Path -$35,000.00

Road Improvements -$50,000.00

Ambulance ½ -$100,000.00

-$264,365.00

Addition Sidewalk - $10,000.00

Capital $0.00

**Town Total -$254,365.00**

School $0.00

**School Total**  **$0.00**

**Town and School Operating Budget change -$254,365.00**

reduction from original budget submission

With this reduction, the proposed tax rate would decrease from $8.78 to $8.58.

1. Conversation ensued between the Town Administrator and Council members with regard to accommodating funding requests made by other agencies. Town Administrator Nota recommended to the Council members they could in this fiscal year 2015-2016, fund those requests, due to the surplus in the budget. It would be approached as one time and then reconsidered the next year.

Town Administrator Nota asked the Council how they would like to handle the Jamestown Rotary in terms of their request for the Rotary bike race event, were they comfortable paying for police officers from outside the Town.

Council Member Meagher stated the Rotary should not be a line item in the budget. Let the agency request, then the Council could respond ‘in kind’.

Council Member Tighe feels and always has, that regardless of what the group is, they should pay.

Council President Trocki is comfortable with ‘in kind’ services of the pavilion and Jamestown Police officers. She also stated that it does get hard to fund outside police agencies.

Council Member Dickinson suggested there might be enough retired officers living here in Jamestown that would be available for the race.

All Council Members agreed the Town would provide ‘all of this’, (wave the pavilion fees, administration fees, the cars and local officers and barricades) and beyond that is up to the agency and how they want to manage their funds.

Council members are in agreement that a new line item be added with regard to what the ‘in kind’ services are.

Council Member Mary Meagher recommended raising the Town Councilor salaries by $500.00 per councilor.

The Town Council President’s present stipend is $2,500 and the Council Members’ is $2,200.00.

Council Member Tighe had requested from the Town Administrator, the hours the Council had met in the in the previous year.

Town Administrator Nota responded, just under 80 hours of core meetings, 2 Town Council meetings a month, Financial Town Meeting, budget sessions and work sessions,

not including Committee and Commission commitments. The level of activity and participation of this particular Council is far greater.

All agreed to the increase of $500.00 to the Town Council’s stipend.

Council President Trocki is pleased to see some money going out of the Bike Path and with the allocations going towards the road project and sidewalk project.

Public Works Supervisor, Mike Gray stated an average of $300,000.00 per year has been spent on the roads. In next year’s budget the Town Administrator will be requesting $100,000.00 with the reallocation of $50,000.00 from the Bay View Drive project which has been trending very well and will be finishing up this spring. The budget will still be at the $150,000.00 for road improvements in addition to the $290,000.00 for the paving of phase I and drainage of phase II on North Road. The Council has already approved in this year’s budget drainage of phase I.

Council Member Dickinson, liason for the Conservation Commission, stated the Commission realized they had run out of time on the grant for the raised deck at Hull Cove. The Commission is now proposing a boardwalk. Town Administrator Nota feels comfortable with the simplicity of the proposed boardwalk. With $7,500.00 left over from the High Street Right of Way, $5,000.00 request in the next capital budget and the Recreational Department having additional capital money, we have enough funding to purchase materials and then to build it out from Beavertail Road and continue in phases over the next year or two as a Conservation Commission initiative, using town staff and community volunteers.

Mary Lou Sanborne, Chair of the Library Board of Trustees, brought before the Council, closing the library on Sundays, increasing the pay of non-union employees at the library. Council President Trocki stated these are not Council decisions, but those of the Administration.

1. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Denise Gamon, Assistant Clerk

Copies to: Town Council

Town Administrator

Finance Director