**TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION**

 **March 28, 2016**

1. **ROLL CALL**

Town Council Members present:

Kristine S. Trocki, President

Mary E. Meagher, Vice President

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 Planer

Ken Gray, Tax Assessor

Chris Costa, Zoning Official

Cheryl A. Fernstrom, Town Clerk

Edward Mello, Police Chief

Andrew Wade, Recreation Director

Donna Fogarty, Library Director

Cathy Kaiser, School Committee Chair

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

President Trocki call the Town Council Operating Budget Work Session to order at 6:10 p.m. on Monday March 28, 2016 in the Rosamond A. Tefft Council Chambers of the Jamestown Town Hall at 93 Narragansett Avenue, Jamestown.

1. **TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION**

Town Administrator Andrew Nota presented the breakdown of the Town and School budgets. The estimated budget represents an increase of 2.1% or $485,146 of the proposed budget of $23,435,650. The Town budget is $10,626,025, an increase of 1.9% or $201,978. The school budget is $12,809,625 an increase of 2.1% or $283,168. The proposed estimated property tax rate is $8.67 down $.11 from last year’s rate of $8.78. The Tax Levy would increase from $18,686,186 to $19,059,601 and increase of $373,415 or 2%. Review of the town’s five-year tax rate history, the average residential property assessed at $500,000 would result in an estimated tax of $4,335 a decrease of $55.

The annual Capital Budget is $1,388,500, an increase of $105,000 or 8.18%. The unassigned fund balance at the end of FY 2015 was $4,159,484.

**Revenues.** Revenues by town departments were reviewed. Total town revenue for FY 2016 was budgeted at $1,738,550 and for FY 2017 $1,741,805. School Department revenue for FY 2016 was budgeted at $1,082,329 and for FY 2017 $1,132,820. Review of general revenue included interest on late tax payments, motor vehicle tax, and investment income. Total local revenue budgeted for FY 2016 is $3,445,879 and for FY 2017 $3,524,625 an increase of $78,746. Anticipated state revenues to town included various state aid, telephone tax, meal and beverage tax, and hotel tax.

**Expenditure Program.** Review of the General Fund distribution proceeded with a $133,454 increase or 1.61% in the Operating Program and a $448,104 increase or 2.04% for the Functional Distribution total.

**Review of Expenditures by Department.**

**Town Council.** The salary line item is $11,300 level funded, and fees, supplies and advertising are reduced, for a total of $14,050, a 3.44% reduction. Councilor Meagher proposed a salary increase for the Town council. President Trocki asked for a breakdown from other communities in Rhode Island. Mr. Nota said the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns has a breakdown and there is a large variation among the different towns. President Trocki suggested waiting for the background information and then talking about this at the next Town Council meeting.

**Town Administrator.** The total proposed is $185,974 a 0.05% decrease.

**Probate Court.** The total proposed is $6,781, a 0.73% decrease.

**Elections and Town Meetings.** A total of $17,084 is proposed, an increase of 52.75%, because this is a Presidential election year with two Primaries and one Election.

**Legal.** The proposed budget is $95,000, level funded.

**Clerk and Records.** A total of $191,030 is proposed, a decrease of 0.10%.

**Planning.** A total of $126,989 is proposed, a 0.12% decrease.

**Zoning.** The proposed budget is $8,700, an 18.69% decrease.

**Personnel.** A total of $1,643,215 is proposed, an increase of 3.46%.

**Finance.** A total of %239,086 an increase of 2.79%.

**Tax Assessor.** A total of $72,380 is proposed an increase of 7.86%.

**Professional Audit.** Proposed is $22,000 level funded

**Police Protection.** Proposed budget is $1,697,904 an increase of 2.36%. Emergency Management Agency a reduction of $5,000 was proposed.

**Protective Services.** A total of 279,078 is proposed a decrease of 0.14%.

**Public Welfare.** The budget was eliminated. The Town staff will direct people with questions or problems to the correct agencies.

**Animal Control.** This budget includes the Tick Task Force to support the education component. The proposed amount is $20,000.

**Library.** The proposed budget is $429,649, an increase of 1.77%.

**Parks and Recreation.** The proposed budget is $510,859, a decrease of 0.40%. Senior programming was moved to a separate account and the proposed budget is $72,000.

**Debt service** is $883,696.00 a reduction of 3.44%.

**Miscellaneous.**  This account will be continued to work session #2.

**Capital Improvement Fund, and School.** These have already been addressed at a previous work session.

Mr. Nota concluded with a recap of the Total School and the Town Bonds. He ended with a summary of the General Obligation and Anticipated Principal and Interest.

The next workshop will be April 11, 2016.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7:45 p.m.

Attest:

Karen Montoya

Deputy Town Clerk

Copies to: Town Council

 Town Administrator

 Town Solicitor

 Finance Director