

Budget and Finance Committee

8/31/23 6:00 PM

Meeting Post: <https://www.cityofnewburyport.com/budget-finance/events/339411>

Roll:

B/F: Zeid, Wright, Khan (Remote)

Other Members: None

Staff: Manning

Agenda: (green = coming out of cmte, pink = coming out of cmte amended, yellow = staying in cmte)

• **COMM00499_08_28_2023 FY2023 Year End Financial Report (B&F)**

- Ethan gave presentation
- Slides available on meeting post
- Overall pretty good year in terms of revenue
- 98.3% was spent @ year end
- Turn back was \$1.5m, 938k of that was general fund
- Debt service was largest turn back. Not a surprise. We had budgeted some extra but didn't use it. Unissued debt.
- Staff vacancies were the other big story
- 10.3% is the higher than usual actual from prior year. But it is in line
- Other income has gone up quite a bit largely from meals. Inflation has increased cost of meals and that has increased associated meals tax
- Lic and permits down by almost 23% mostly on building permits
- Boston Way was a big deal
- Medicaid fluctuates depends on school and when they submit and what they have to submit
- Building permits down 37.6% with boston way, 18.6 without. Notable drop
- Big check for the boat. Because > 150k, must appropriate through COuncil. Since Council did not act by June 30th, it closed to free cash.
- State aid came in higher than expected
- Water +16% in revenue. 2.4% for sewer because of rates
- Harbormaster down 11% but higher than estimated
- MW – fire boat, we don't have one right now. Harbormaster boat was replaced
- AK – where do balances go for staff vacancies
- EM – that is what contributes to free cash
- AK – Where does not it get assigned? Local assigned?
- EM – By law it is considered gen fund revenue.
- SZ – Positions just permanently open?
- EM – Stil in FY24 budget but looking at it
- SZ - -10.3%

- EM – Commercial properties 411. It's what they have that drives the amount, 2 directives came out from DOR that changed the way assessments are done for personal prop.
- SZ – circuit breaker line?
- EM – Get reimbursement next year
- Greg Earls – point of view
- Assessment total personal property
- EM – 50/50
- Motion to receive/file, MW/AK
- MW – Page 12 of the report, how can it start negative and stay negative
- EM – this usually happens reimbursable like Ch 90. Start negative and stay negative
- **Motion to receive & file (MW/AK) – 3-0**

• **TRAN00166_08_28_2023 Police Station Locker Rooms \$59,079.38 to SRT Body-Worn Camera Grant \$29,539.69 and Body-Worn Cameras \$29,539.69 (B&F)**

- This is a \$59k transfer
- City received grant when implemented of about \$20k
- Of which there was a gap of \$3k, that was then appropriated. Explained that we would be committed to this going forward. Annual request in budget
- Additional grant was then received from \$55k SRT camera program which comes from US DOJ
- When received, we don't need to budget
- Fast forward to this past June. Went to submit reimbursement for \$29,539 and the agency that approves determined that since body cameras were procured before award they were not eligible under grant. Went back and forth and they would not listen. All they could get was 5 more cameras for \$12k they agreed to reimburse for \$10k.
- So first cost is FY23 that needs to be backfilled. Second part FY24 needs to be funded.
- Going forward, will be in FY25.
- Patrol contract is up.
- **Motion to approve (AK/MW) 3-0**

• **ODNC00129_11_01_2022 Defining Conflict Rule for Dept. Heads (COTW)**

- Rekindle conversation
- Will docket for 2 weeks
- Chair circulated updated version by paper. Will post and circulate digitally

Unlikely to discuss at all or in-depth:

• **ORDR00472_06_26_2023 Streets Sidewalks Loan Order \$6,000,000 (COTW)**

- AK - Realities during construction season

- AK – total spent over the past years, what was accomplished. Asphalt waiver
- Jane Snow – 9 Coffin St. Could we also consider the sidewalks in the downtown area. 1/3/5, 2/4/6. Pleasant is heaving and lots of problems downtown.
- Andrew Levine – spot fixes could come out of operating budget. Loose bricks, etc.
- AK – How much is meals tax to sidewalks?
- EM - \$390k, sidewalks
- **ORDR00336_03_28_2022 ARPA Amesbury 250K (COTW)**
 - Andrew Levine – technical memo no longer the hold up. Project team is ready to move forward.
 - Andrew Levine – quick estimate to see if pricing is still valid
 - Andrew Levine – working on IMA
- **TRAN00153_05_08_2023 Mayor: Multiple \$3,483,773 to Multiple \$3,483,773 revised 6/15/2023 (Atkinson Common Request only all other matters adjudicated)**
 - Needs ConCom and PB approval
 - Likely to be continued again

Public Comment:

See above, if any

Adjourn:

MW/AK, 7:01pm, 3-0

Recording:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/SvbMt8YBuLZqXP61y8hhv4sGPV4pDc-47iWstyCAcRYGXWogp93JdBpV_DVbf-MN.8RsCG27YHAg1Fpny