

355 East Central Street Franklin, Massachusetts 02038-1352



Phone: (508) 520-4949 www.franklinma.gov

## **Joint Budget Subcommittee Meeting**

(Town Council, School Committee, Finance Committee)

May 11, 2020 5:30 PM Meeting Hosted on the "Zoom" Platform

- Link to access the meeting: Click here then click "Open Zoom"
- Direct Link to Zoom meeting: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84748701152">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84748701152</a>
- Call-in Phone Number: 1-929-205-6099 Meeting ID: 847-4870-1152 then press #

# <u>Agenda</u>

1. FY21 Budget Discussion

This is a meeting of the Franklin Town Council Sub-Committee; under the Open Meeting Law, this subcommittee is a separate "public body" from the Town Council. Therefore, unless the Town Council has separately noticed and posted its own meeting, Councilors who are not members of this subcommittee will not be permitted to speak or otherwise actively participate @ this meeting, although they may attend and observe. This prohibition is necessary to avoid the potential for an Open Meeting Law Violation.



355 East Central Street Franklin, Massachusetts 02038-1352



Phone: (508) 520-4949 www.franklinma.gov

**DATE:** May 1, 2020

**TO:** Town Council Budget subcommittee

FROM: Jamie Hellen, Town Administrator

RE: FY21 BUDGET UPDATE

The purpose of tonight's discussion and memo is to give the subcommittee an update on where the Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) budget process stands and what the numbers generally look like to date. Since we last had a budget discussion on March 4th at the Town Council meeting, the assumptions I was making going into budget deliberations have been dramatically altered due to the ripple effects from the COVID-19 pandemic. I have included my memo and packet from that meeting as a background. I have also attached a revised budget model (5/1/20).

### A few points as we move forward:

- The staff will continue to update the budget model as new information becomes available. We have a <u>Town Budget page</u> and people should consult the website for the latest info.
- We will unquestionably have to revise the budget this fall and/or winter at least once after a state budget is finalized and we have better trends on local revenues and the economy.
- I will draft spending restriction policies over the course of the spring and summer as the situation evolves. Just because funding is approved in a budget does not mean we will spend the money.

# **The FY21 Budget & Assumptions**

Here are the new assumptions being incorporated into the FY21 budget.

### **Revenues Highlights**

• The **Property Tax Levy** will be reduced \$450,000 from \$3,028,452 to \$2,578,452 in new property tax revenue due to a reduction in new growth estimates. While our property tax base is set by statute and therefore fixed, we anticipate an unknown economy in

construction and therefore in new growth. I base this assumption off of the crisis in 2009 (see attached history).

• State Aid is an unknown. As of today, I do not know when the FY21 state budget will be completed. The staff have maintained the Governor's House 1 Budget from late January in this budget model. It's our only baseline at this point. As it currently stands, a \$121,082 decrease in local aid from FY20 is the net result. This number predates COVID-19.

At a revenue hearing in mid April, the <u>Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation released a report</u> estimating a near 15% decline in revenue for the state, or \$4.4 billion short of what the state agreed upon in December as a basis for the FY21 state budget deliberations. I cannot see how a portion of this deficit is not passed along to cities and towns through cuts to local aid. As a result, I anticipate any mid-year budget cuts will be due to a reduction in state aid.

- The Town's Local Receipts source of revenue will be one of the largest reductions in the budget. Overall, we are estimating a \$1.4 million drop in local receipts from FY20. In March, I was anticipating increasing this revenue source. A detailed breakdown of the assumptions is attached.
- The **Budget Stabilization Fund** is completely empty as the remaining amount was used to balance the FY20 budget.
- The recommendation for the **Host Community Agreement** funds remains the same \$275,000 will go to the School Department and \$25,000 to the SAFE Coalition. A line item has now been created to budget for these. There is the likelihood of additional revenue in this category coming in FY22.

### **Expenditures Highlights**

- The Franklin Public School District will see an increase of \$500,000 over FY20 in the operating budget and an additional \$300,000 from the Host Community Agreement (HCA) to address the mental health and substance abuse issues that have grown over time in our school district. Note: \$25,000 of the HCA is earmarked for the SAFE Coalition.
- Employee health care and pension costs will absorb \$956,011 in new revenue for the municipal departments and some non-teacher employees right off the bat. These numbers do not include the school department portion of health insurance.
- I am proposing to maintain our commitment to CBA's and municipal staff at this point with a 2% COLA for FY21. If there was ever one year to support our employees who have worked so tirelessly to keep our ship afloat the last two months, it would be now.
   Additionally, the CBA's have departmental reforms that are helping reallocate or shift costs to address present and future needs and trends. Our departments are constantly changing the way we do business in order to stabilize costs to preserve core services.

- I anticipate a merger of the Mendon-Millville regional dispatch center into the Metacomet Emergency Communications Center (MECC) on January 1, 2021, which gives the special district access to state development grants. A few points:
  - This move will save \$670,553 in operating capacity on the municipal side versus if this merger did not happen.
  - I have budgeted a half year assessment. The merger takes effect mid fiscal year.
  - I expect a presentation from the MECC staff at the May 20th Council meeting.
- Debt is low. The Town needs to prepare to increase these line items in FY22 and FY23. Borrowing Authorization legislation is coming soon before the Council for facilities, infrastructure and technology. This will also help free up "Free Cash" requests in the fall when we have a massive drop in Free Cash.
- I am proposing no reduction to the Library budget. The budgeted number will still maintain the Town's Minimum Appropriation required ("MAR") status and will not have to seek a state waiver at this point in time.
- I have also proposed no reductions to the Senior Center, Veterans Department, Town Clerk, Finance Departments, Human Resources, Planning, Inspections, Technology, Police and Fire.
- The Board of Health and Public Health Services (septic inspections) line items are being merged. I am also adding an additional \$15,000 to assist the Board of Health in their work, which has been largely dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The additional assistance is for additional septic and inspector services, which will free up both Cathy and Ginny's time to continue to monitor COVID-19 in FY21. State assistance may also be coming and we will adjust as we move forward.
- Recreation Department will be reduced by 25% as it's anticipated that programs will likely
  be prohibited or participants in programs may be slow to return. The positive outlook is
  the Recreation Department is a self supporting department. If programs ramp up again, we
  will accommodate that demand with higher revenues. I am proposing to continue \$12,000
  in funding for Concerts on the Common. The Town agreed to take over this program and I
  believe it is important to honor that commitment.
- The Department of Public Works will see approximately \$250,000 worth of expense reductions.
- The Public Facilities will see approximately \$500,000 in expense reductions.
- Town Administration will take a 10% expense reduction.

Detailed lists on expense reductions will be forthcoming in the weeks ahead.

## **FY21 Midway**

It's my anticipation that by the end of the calendar year and/or early 2021, we will have approved a local tax rate, a state budget will have been passed, we will know more of where we stand from a public health standpoint, certified free cash and much more. It is likely that there will be additional reductions once the fiscal year comes into a clearer picture.

If additional reductions need to be made in Winter, the next level of services to be cut could be be:

- Municipal staff reductions and/or deeper department expense cuts.
- Additional school department reductions.
- Library reductions, we will likely not be able to maintain our MAR status.
- Additional staff and expenses at DPW and Facilities (largest municipal budgets).
- Potential setbacks of major advancement we have made to public safety.
- Suspension of public infrastructure projects.

As I suggest above, the Town will be monitoring the FY21 budget on a daily basis. We will need to return to revise the budget in some form come fall and/or winter.

## **FY22 and Beyond**

This is the paragraph I wrote on March 4th, 2020:

"The final takeaway message is that given the current economic conditions in Massachusetts, we expect the above trends to continue on a rinse and repeat basis for the next two fiscal years, barring any unforeseen circumstance in the economy, or another major unforeseen global or national event. The Municipal and School Administrations continue our daily resolve to look at every dollar spent and how we can change the way we do business to alleviate any need for additional property tax increases from citizens. That said, any deviation from the trends written in this memo will require a deeper community wide discussion on solutions to the trends outlined above."

I can safely say that FY22 and FY23 will see many challenges. But those times are so far in the distance, it is impossible to model out what those years will look like. I recognize I am required to present a five year fiscal forecast, but in my professional opinion, it is much too early to think about FY22 in any type of modelling.

## **FY21 OPERATING BUDGET MODEL TO DATE (5/1/20)**

REVENUE PROJECTIONS	PROPOSED FY21
TAX LEVY	
Prior Year Levy Limit plus 2 1/2%	\$79,066,528
New Growth	\$650,000
	\$79,716,528
DEBT EXCLUSIONS	
Horace Mann Issue #1	\$106,180
Lincoln Street	\$423,695
Horace Mann Issue #2	\$315,400
High School Issue #1	\$2,876,663
High School Issue #2	\$149,438
	\$3,871,375
TOTAL POTENTIAL TAX LEVY	\$83,587,903
STATE REVENUE	
Chapter 70 School Aid	\$28,581,491
Charter School Reimbursements	\$938,542
Unrestricted Aid	\$2,697,306
All Other Net of Offsets	\$360,767
	\$32,578,106
OTHER REVENUES	
Local Receipts - General Fund	8,361,711
Host Community Agreement	\$300,000
	\$8,661,711
OTHER AVAILABLE FUNDS	
Net Budget Stabilization / Other Transfers	\$0
Enterprise Fund (Indirects)	\$1,173,000
	\$1,173,000
TOTAL REVENUES & OTHER FUNDS	\$126,000,720
ASSESSMENTS & OTHER VOTES	
School Choice	\$320,388
State Assessments	\$472,623
County Assessment	\$235,073
Charter School Assessment	\$5,379,974
Provision for Abatements & Exemptions	\$650,000
Subsequent Votes	\$0
	\$7,058,058
TOTAL NET REVENUE	\$118,942,662
UNUSED LEVY (SURPLUS/DEFICIT)	\$349

# **FY21 OPERATING BUDGET MODEL TO DATE (5/1/20)**

111 Town Council	
expenses	4,000
•	4,000
123 Town Administration	
salaries	373,279
expenses	33,700
	406,979
131 Finance Committee	
expenses	1,500
	1,500
135 Comptroller	
salaries	467,998
expenses	70,150
	538,148
141 Assessors	
salaries	368,803
expenses	94,350
	463,153
147 Treasurer-Collector	
salaries	328,995
expenses	91,105
tax title expenses	
	420,100
151 Legal	
salaries	107,584
expenses	60,000
	167,584
152 Human Resources	
salaries	170,845
expenses	28,630
	199,475
155 Information Technology	
expenses	293,693
	293,693
161 Town Clerk	
elected official salary	86,536
salaries	103,314
expenses	16,746
101 51 11 10 5 5 11 11	206,596
164 Elections & Registration	
salaries	29,621

	expenses	23,000
		52,621
176	Appeals Board	
	expenses	6,000
		6,000
177	Planning & Growth Management	
	salaries	323,279
	expenses	32,300
104	A : 11 10 · ·	355,579
184	Agricultural Commission	1 000
	expenses	1,000
102	Public Property & Buildings	1,000
192	salaries	2,930,726
	expenses	4,109,949
	одролюве	7,040,675
196	Central Services	.,,
	expenses	123,000
		123,000
General Gov.	Subtotal, General Government	10,280,103
240	Dalias	
210	Police	E 439 000
210	salaries	5,438,989 302,485
210		302,485
	salaries expenses	
	salaries expenses Fire	302,485 5,741,474
	salaries expenses  Fire salaries	302,485 5,741,474 5,507,400
	salaries expenses Fire	302,485 5,741,474 5,507,400 492,500
220	salaries expenses  Fire salaries	302,485 5,741,474 5,507,400
220	salaries expenses  Fire salaries expenses	302,485 5,741,474 5,507,400 492,500
220	salaries expenses  Fire salaries expenses  Regional Dispatch	302,485 5,741,474 5,507,400 492,500 5,999,900
220 225	salaries expenses  Fire salaries expenses  Regional Dispatch	302,485 5,741,474 5,507,400 492,500 5,999,900 447,355
220 225	salaries expenses  Fire salaries expenses  Regional Dispatch expenses	302,485 5,741,474 5,507,400 492,500 5,999,900 447,355
220 225	salaries expenses  Fire salaries expenses  Regional Dispatch expenses  Inspection	302,485 5,741,474 5,507,400 492,500 5,999,900 447,355 447,355
220 225 240	salaries expenses  Fire salaries expenses  Regional Dispatch expenses  Inspection salaries expenses	302,485 5,741,474 5,507,400 492,500 5,999,900 447,355 447,355 384,392
220 225 240	salaries expenses  Fire salaries expenses  Regional Dispatch expenses  Inspection salaries expenses  Animal Control	302,485 5,741,474 5,507,400 492,500 5,999,900 447,355 447,355 447,355 384,392 23,820 408,212
220 225 240	salaries expenses  Fire salaries expenses  Regional Dispatch expenses  Inspection salaries expenses	302,485 5,741,474 5,507,400 492,500 5,999,900 447,355 447,355 384,392 23,820 408,212 76,700
220 225 240	salaries expenses  Fire salaries expenses  Regional Dispatch expenses  Inspection salaries expenses  Animal Control	302,485 5,741,474 5,507,400 492,500 5,999,900 447,355 447,355 447,355 384,392 23,820 408,212

300 Town Schools 65,658 390 Tri-County Regional School 2,504 395 Norfolk Aggie 47	
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SSS NOTOR ADDR	
in the state of th	,250
Education Subtotal, Education 68,210	,293
422 DPW-Highway Dept	
salaries 1,964	1,759
expenses 3,048	
5,013	
424 Street Lighting	
	0,000
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	,000
DPW TOTAL DPW - Hwy 5,113	,149
510 Health	
	),484
	1,000
·	,484
525 Public Health Services	
expenses	-
	-
541 Council on Aging	
	),780
salaries 260	),780 ,100
salaries 260 expenses 6	
salaries 260 expenses 6	,100
salaries 260 expenses 6 266 543 Veterans Services	,100
salaries       260         expenses       6         266       266         543 Veterans Services       67         expenses (department)       67	,100 ,880
salaries       260         expenses       6         266       266         543 Veterans Services       67         expenses (department)       67         expenses (veterans benefits)       185	,100 ,880 ,840
salaries         260           expenses         6           543 Veterans Services         543           expenses (department)         67           expenses (veterans benefits)         185           4         252           3         4           4         4           5         4           6         5           6         6           6         6           6         6           6         6           6         6	,100 ,880 ,840 ,000 ,840
salaries         260           expenses         6           543 Veterans Services         67           expenses (department)         67           expenses (veterans benefits)         185           Human         252	,100 ,880 ,840 ,000
salaries         260           expenses         6           543 Veterans Services         67           expenses (department)         67           expenses (veterans benefits)         185           Human         252	,100 ,880 ,840 ,000 ,840
salaries       260         expenses       6         543 Veterans Services       67         expenses (department)       67         expenses (veterans benefits)       185         252         Human       Services       Subtotal, Human Services       754         610 Library	,100 ,880 ,840 ,000 ,840
salaries       260         expenses       6         543 Veterans Services       67         expenses (department)       67         expenses (veterans benefits)       185         252         Human       Services         Subtotal, Human Services       754         610 Library       salaries	,100 ,880 ,840 ,000 ,840 ,204
salaries       260         expenses       6         543 Veterans Services       543         expenses (department)       67         expenses (veterans benefits)       185         252         Human       Services         Subtotal, Human Services       754         610 Library       646         expenses       379         1,025	,100 ,880 ,840 ,000 ,840 , <b>204</b> ,345
salaries       260         expenses       6         543 Veterans Services       266         expenses (department)       67         expenses (veterans benefits)       185         252         Human       Services       754         610 Library       50         salaries       646         expenses       379         1,025       1,025         630 Recreation       10	,100 ,880 ,840 ,000 ,840 , <b>204</b> ,345
salaries       260         expenses       6         543 Veterans Services       266         expenses (department)       67         expenses (veterans benefits)       185         252         Human       Services       Subtotal, Human Services       754         610 Library       salaries       646         expenses       379         1,025       630 Recreation	,100 ,880 ,840 ,000 ,840 , <b>204</b> ,345
salaries       260         expenses       6         543 Veterans Services       67         expenses (department)       67         expenses (veterans benefits)       185         252         Human Services       754         610 Library salaries       646         expenses       379         1,025         630 Recreation salaries       231         expenses       231         expenses       205	,100 ,880 ,840 ,000 ,840 , <b>204</b> ,345 9,000 ,345

690	Historical Museum	
	salaries	29,125
	expenses	1,000
		30,125
691	Historical Commission	
	salaries	-
	expenses	4,000
		4,000
<del>692</del>	Memorial Day	
	expenses	-
695	Cultural Council	
	expenses	15,000
		15,000
696	Cultural District Committee	
	expenses	1,000
	•	1,000
Culture &		
Recreation	Subtotal, Culture & Recreation	1,512,266
710	Retirement of Debt	
	non-excluded	2,098,000
	excluded	2,066,000
		4,164,000
750	Interest	
	non-excluded	692,365
	excluded	1,805,375
	new ban's	-
	new ban's excluded	-
	short term interest general fund	-
		2,497,740
<b>Debt Service</b>	Subtotal, Debt Service	6,661,740
	Benefits:	
910	Retirement & Pension	6,174,365
	Health/Life Insurance Benefits	3,315,000
	Retired Teacher Health Insurance	872,000
	Non-GIC School Retirees	1,050,000
	Workers Compensation	525,000
	Unemployment Compensation	110,000
	Medicare	341,250
		·

	OPEB	650,000
	Compensation Reserve	125,000
		13,162,615
945	Liabilty Insurance	575,000
		575,000
Benefits &		
Insurance	Subtotal, Benefits & Insurance	13,737,615
	TOTAL ALL BUDGETS	118.943.011
	Surplus/(Deficit)	(349)
	TOTAL ALL BUDGETS	118,943,011

# LOCAL RECEIPTS

	<b>Estimated</b>	<b>Estimated</b>	%
Account	FY20	FY21	Reduction
Motor Vehicle Excise Tax	4,619,680.00	4,157,712.00	10%
Meals Tax	478,345.00	239,173.00	50%
Penalties and Interest	261,027.00	250,000.00	4%
Payment in Lieu of Taxes	34,000.00	34,000.00	0%
Fees	1,740,564.00	1,740,564.00	0%
Rentals	264,742.00	264,742.00	0%
Departmental Revenue Libraries	17,000.00	12,750.00	25%
Departmental Revenue Recreation	465,613.00	349,210.00	25%
Cannabis Impact Fee	300,000.00	300,000.00	0%
Licenses and Permits	1,162,044.00	871,533.00	25%
Special Assessments	2,140.00	2,140.00	0%
Fines and Forfeits	110,516.00	82,887.00	25%
Investment Income	350,185.00	151,000.00	57%
Medicaid Reimbursement	259,273.00	200,000.00	23%
Micellaneous Recurring	6,000.00	6,000.00	0%
Micellaneous Non-Recurring		-	
	10,071,129.00	8,661,711.00	14%

Town of Franklin		
New Growth History		
Fiscal Years 2000 Through 2020		
Voor	Amount	
<u>Year</u> 2000	<u>Amount</u>	
2000	1,284,820	
	921,208	
2002	1,142,829	
2003	693,183	
2004	1,115,054	
2005	893,209	
2006	764,906	
2007	1,176,527	
2008	713,346	
2009	806,561	
2010	687,763	
2011	513,322	
2012	854,509	
2013	844,102	
2014	1,047,493	
2015	716,096	
2016	820,004	
2017	1,185,535	
2018	1,479,902	
2019	1,515,478	
2020 (Est)	1,770,000	



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DATE: February 28, 2020

**TO:** Town Council

FROM: Jamie Hellen, Town Administrator

RE: FY21 BUDGET UPDATE

The purpose of tonight's discussion and memo is to give the community an update on where the Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) budget process stands and what the numbers generally look like. This document is not to replace the required fiscal forecast or budget narrative that will come out later with my recommended budget.

### **Process**

The staff Finance Team has met with all municipal departments regarding their FY21 budget requests. I have also received preliminary numbers from non-municipal department line items, such as the MECC, Animal Control, health insurance and benefits, Tri-County, P&C insurance and so forth. What is before you tonight reflects our department heads' optimum budget for FY21 and the most up to date numbers we have as of this evening.

After tonight's meeting, we will work for the next 4-8 weeks to get as accurate numbers as possible for final consideration in May. The budget is a fluid document that will continue to take shape through the Spring. The House of Representatives' budget will be debated in Mid-April. The Senate budget will be debated in mid-to-late May. Numbers will continue to take shape as more accurate information becomes available, notably state aid, town revenue projections, employee/retiree health insurance and benefits, collective bargaining and town insurance.

### **The Budget & Assumptions**

As you can see in red at the bottom of the attached operating budget model, the FY21 budget is currently \$3.484 million in deficit. The deficit reflects a set of assumptions into the model, on both the revenue and expenditures side. In short, a balanced budget is within reach, but this memo will articulate the driving forces behind this deficit number. These are the same cost drivers my predecessor and I have been discussing for the past several years.

The current deficit reflects the following assumptions and policy decisions to date:

#### Revenues

- An increase in our tax levy of \$3,028,452 in new property tax revenue.
- An increase in our new growth estimate. FY20 had an assumption of \$900,000, which has been increased to \$1.1 million to reflect the accurate 10-year average.
- Local receipts revenue assumptions have an increase of \$300,00 from FY20. I expect to add an additional amount of revenue to reflect the adjusted ALS/BLS rates recently approved by the Council. A final figure will be in the final budget proposal in April/May.
- Includes Governor Baker's budget calculations, which provided a net decrease of \$121,082 in state aid compared to the approved FY20 state budget. The primary reason for this is due to the increase in charter school assessment of \$336,324, with minimal increase in total local aid. As usual, we expect the House and Senate to perform better than the Governor's budget. We will know more in April and May when those respective branches approve their budget. Final state numbers will be completed later this summer.
- The Budget Stabilization fund is completely empty as the remaining amount was used to balance the FY20 budget.
- \$300,000 in Host Community Agreement money from one marijuana operator, which will be appropriated to the School Department and the SAFE Coalition for mental health and substance abuse education and prevention. The \$300,000 will be proposed to be used for:
  - \$275,000 for Detention Diversion Program in the School Department; secondary counselor(s) with substance abuse expertise; additional wellness instruction.
  - \$25,000 for the SAFE Coalition.

Please note funds from HCA's cannot be used for general fund expenditures and will be shown as a separate revenue line item. The state has yet to promulgate regulations on these agreements, but are restricted to the impacts pertaining from a facility in a community.

• It is worth noting, the strong economy is *the* reason why the deficit is not larger. Due to consistent revenues and a record-breaking year of new growth, the Town is able to maintain more core services. Any deviation from this trend will require a much deeper policy debate.

#### Expenditures

• The Superintendent's full recommended budget at an increase of \$3.9 million, or a 6.03% increase from FY20.

- \$750,000 for roads and infrastructure, which has never been in the Town's operating budget.
- "Maintenance", or "level service" operating budgets from municipal departments, including all contractual requirements. The model includes all signed collective bargaining agreements and does not include ones not settled yet.
- 5% increase in employee and retiree health insurance, which will be a challenge to achieve, but a realistic goal. Market is trending at 8%, which is not included in this model as we will need to make some decisions if we cannot get lower than 8%.
- The pension assessment to Norfolk County went up over \$400,000.
- Maintains Minimum Annual Requirement (MAR) for minimal spending at the Public Library.
- Includes no reductions in staff for municipal departments.
- Budgets for Memorial Day flags and Public Health septic services have been funded and merged with the Veterans and Health Departments, respectively.
- The Budget also includes small expense budgets for two new town committees:
   Agricultural Commission and Cultural District Committee.

## <u>Trends & Challenges Moving Forward</u>

- Staff retention and recruitment. This is an issue in all of the Town's major municipal departments, as well as the Franklin Public School District due to the good economy and rising wages in Massachusetts. For example, school employees, teachers and administrators, custodians, DPW laborers, administrative staff and more are becoming difficult to recruit and retain due to wages relative to responsibility. Additionally, some of our staff are underpaid relative to market conditions, including a rising minimum wage. This issue will continue to be a challenge across all of our departments.
- Roads and infrastructure. Investments will continue to be modest through our usual
  funding appropriations each year from free cash and hotel revenue. However, the Town is
  still millions short of the backlog we have with a high demand from the public to do better.
  The Town still does not have a dedicated operating revenue source for roads. The Town
  has a \$40 million backlog in roadwork, in addition to maintaining our parking lots, school
  parking lots, sidewalks and infrastructure.
- **General cost of doing business.** A great economy like this means prices on most general goods and services are more expensive.
- **Superintendent's Recommended FY21 Budget.** The schools require a 5.2% increase (approximately \$3.3 million) to maintain level service given the pressure of meeting staff

recruitment and retention goals, rising tuition costs, and health insurance rate increases. In order to meet the increased demand for services, modest additions to the school department budget are being recommended by the Superintendent to support the expansion of in-district programs designed to provide services within students' home communities and preventing costly out of district tuitions. Many critical needs remain unmet across the district including digital integration specialists, adequate technology replenishment, and curriculum leadership. The recently passed Student Opportunity Act has provided additional funding to support schools but will be phased in over seven years.

• **Debt.** The positive news is that over the next few years our debt line item will begin to lighten. However, it's been town policy for decades to have 3.5% of our overall operating budget be for debt and interest to ensure our facilities and schools are well maintained, reduce capital costs and to maintain our strong bond rating (which keeps interest down). The Superintendent and I will be seeking a new round of borrowing authorization from the Town Council soon in order to achieve these goals and ensure at least a 3% debt schedule. Please note, if any open space becomes available for purchase, the Town will need to borrow the vast majority of the money to purchase it and will significantly inflate the Town's debt line item in the budget.

#### FY21 Key Dates

- March 4th Town Council-Administrator Budget Update & Discussion
- March 24 School Committee Budget Hearing
- April 7, 8, 13 and 29 Finance Committee Budget hearing meetings
- April 14th Final School Committee Budget approval
- May 21 and 22 Town Council Budget Hearings

The Town has two sites for budget materials, one for the municipal budgets and one for the School Department:

https://www.franklinma.gov/town-budget

https://www.franklinps.net/district/school-district-budget

### The Future (FY22 and Beyond)

The final takeaway message is that given the current economic conditions in Massachusetts, we expect the above trends to continue on a rinse and repeat basis for the next two fiscal years, barring any unforeseen circumstance in the economy, or another major unforeseen global or national event. The Municipal and School Administrations continue our daily resolve to look at every dollar spent and how we can change the way we do business to alleviate any need for additional property tax increases from citizens. That said, any deviation from the trends written in this memo will require a deeper community wide discussion on solutions to the trends outlined above.

REVENUE PROJECTIONS	PROPOSED FY21
TAX LEVY	
Prior Year Levy Limit plus 2 1/2%	\$79,066,528
New Growth	\$1,100,000
·	\$80,166,528
DEBT EXCLUSIONS	
Horace Mann Issue #1	\$106,180
Lincoln Street	\$423,695
Horace Mann Issue #2	\$315,400
High School Issue #1	\$2,876,663
High School Issue #2	\$149,438
	\$3,871,375
TOTAL POTENTIAL TAX LEVY	\$84,037,903
STATE REVENUE	
Chapter 70 School Aid	\$28,581,491
Charter School Reimbursements	\$938,542
Unrestricted Aid	\$2,697,306
All Other Net of Offsets	\$360,767
	\$32,578,106
OTHER REVENUES	
Local Receipts - General Fund	\$10,042,246
Host Community Agreement	\$300,000
	\$10,342,246
OTHER AVAILABLE FUNDS	
Net Budget Stabilization / Other Transfers	\$0
Enterprise Fund (Indirects)	\$1,173,000
	\$1,173,000
TOTAL REVENUES & OTHER FUNDS	\$128,131,255
ASSESSMENTS & OTHER VOTES	
School Choice	\$320,388
State Assessments	\$472,623
County Assessment	\$235,073
Charter School Assessment	\$5,379,974
Provision for Abatements & Exemptions	\$650,000
Subsequent Votes	\$0
	\$7,058,058
TOTAL NET REVENUE	\$121,073,197
LESS: TOTAL GENERAL FUND BUDGET (expenditures)	\$124,557,405
UNUSED LEVY (SURPLUS/DEFICIT)	\$3,484,208

TE (2/28/20)	ATING BUDGET MODEL TO D	FY21 OPER
	Taura Carrail	444
1.000	Town Council	111
4,000	expenses	
4,000	<del>-</del>	400
070.044	Town Administration	123
373,240	salaries	
37,450	expenses	
410,690	E: 0 ::	101
4.500	Finance Committee	131
1,500	expenses	
1,500		105
	Comptroller	135
458,401	salaries	
70,150	expenses	
528,551	. ,	
	Assessors	141
361,599	salaries	
94,350	expenses	
455,949		
	Treasurer-Collector	147
322,544	salaries	
91,105	expenses	
	tax title expenses	
413,649		
	Legal	151
107,412	salaries	
81,500	expenses ·	
188,912		
	Human Resources	152
167,495	salaries	
28,630	expenses	
196,125		
	Information Technology	155
293,693	expenses	
293,693		
	Town Clerk	161
84,840	elected official salary	
101,288	salaries	
16,746	expenses	
202,874	in an Armanian and a second and	
	Elections & Registration	164
29,607	salaries	

Public Safety	Subtotal, Public Safety	13,094,211
	2	10,100
	expenses	76,700
292		76,700
	Animal Control	401,220
	expenses	23,820 401,228
	salaries	377,408
240	Inspection	277 400
0.10	1	1,118,613
	expenses	1,118,613
225	Regional Dispatch	4 440 040
`	D. J. ID. J.	5,952,264
	expenses	492,500
	salaries	5,459,764
220	Fire	E 450 30
		5,545,406
	expenses	301,685
	salaries	5,243,721
210	Police	
General Gov.	Subtotal, General Government	10,755,731
		123,000
Y	expenses	123,000
196	Central Services	
		7,526,457
	expenses	4,651,525
	salaries	2,874,932
192	Public Property & Buildings	
		2,500
	expenses	2,500
184	Agricultural Commission	0.0,==.
	ехрепаса	349,224
	expenses	32,300
177	Planning & Growth Management salaries	316,924
177	Diaming & Crowth Management	0,000
	expenses	6,000 6,000
1/6	Appeals Board	6 000
		52,607
	expenses	23,000

300	Town Schools	68,767,873
390	Tri-County Regional School	2,504,543
395	Norfolk Aggie	47,250
Education	Subtotal, Education	71,319,666
244541511	1	
422	DPW-Highway Dept	
	salaries	1,879,203
	expenses	4,101,740
		5,980,943
424	Street Lighting	
	expenses	125,000
		125,000
DPW	TOTAL DPW - Hwy	6,105,943
510	Health	
	salaries	167,141
	expenses	49,750
		216,891
<del>525</del>	Public Health Services	
	expenses	, -
		-
541	Council on Aging	
	salaries	243,461
	expenses	6,100
		249,561
543	Veterans Services	
	expenses (department)	67,840
	expenses (veterans benefits)	185,000
		252,840
Human Services	Subtotal, Human Services	719,292
610	Library	
5,10	salaries	646,345
	expenses	382,000
	•	1,028,345
630	Recreation	
	salaries	305,710
	expenses	273,400
		579,110

690	Historical Museum	
	salaries	27,752
	expenses	1,000
	, expenses	28,752
691	Historical Commission	,
	salaries	-
	expenses	4,000
		4,000
602	Memorial Day	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,
	expenses	-
	одрешее	<del></del>
695	Cultural Council	
000	expenses	16,500
	охроносс	16,500
696	Cultural District Committee	10,000
030	expenses	2,500
	ехрепаез	2,500
		2,000
Culture & Recreation	Subtotal, Culture & Recreation	1,659,207
	,	,
710	Retirement of Debt	
	non-excluded	2,098,000
	excluded	2,066,000
		4,164,000
750	Interest	
	non-excluded	692,365
	excluded	1,805,375
	new ban's	
	new ban's excluded	
	short term interest general fund	-
	g	2,497,740
Debt Service	Subtotal, Debt Service	6,661,740
3000 001 1100		
	Benefits:	
910	Retirement & Pension	6,174,365
	Health/Life Insurance Benefits	3,201,000
	Retired Teacher Health Insurance	870,000
	Non-GIC School Retirees	1,045,000
	HOLL-OLO OCHOOL LOCUICOS	
		550.000
	Workers Compensation Unemployment Compensation	550,000 110,000

	OPEB	650,000
	Compensation Reserve	675,000
		13,616,615
945	Liabilty Insurance	625,000
		625,000
Benefits & Insurance	Subtotal, Benefits & Insurance	14,241,615
	TOTAL ALL BUDGETS	124,557,405
	Surplus/(Deficit)	3,484,208