



Town of Adams Massachusetts 01220-2087

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

TOWN HALL BUILDING
8 PARK STREET

Thursday, March 9, 2023, 6:00 p.m.

TOWN HALL, 8 PARK STREET, ADAMS, MA 01220
1st Floor, Sun Room

CALL TO ORDER: On the above date, the Board of Selectmen held a workshop at 6:00 PM at the Adams Town Hall. Chair John Duval opened the workshop. Present: Chair John Duval, Vice-Chair Christine Hoyt, Members Richard Blanchard and Joseph Nowak. *Member Howard Rosenberg was absent.* Also present were Jay Green, Town Administrator; Crystal Wojcik, Town Finance Director; Bri Hantman, Recording Secretary; Sarah Kline, Finance Committee Member; Jay Nocher, Finance Committee Member

BUDGET WORKSHOP:

Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Overview: Jay Green, Town Administrator and Crystal Wojcik, Town Finance Director provided a copy of the budget to the Board of Selectmen. Jay Green introduced the budget by summarizing his cover letter.

The one portion of the budget that we do not have yet is capital. We do not yet know what Fiscal Year 23 free cash will be certified at yet.

Adams does not tax to the maximum (2.5% over the previous year) which means that the Town of Adams is working within the confines of Proposition 2.5

Property taxes continue to account for about 74% of revenue, which provides a stable base for the town. Motor vehicle Excise Tax is the third largest source of tax revenue for the Town.

The target amount to have in the Town Stabilization fund is roughly 10% of the Town's overall budget. The Town of Adams is well on their way to that.

Notable impacts: .9% increase in assessment from Hoosac Valley Regional School District. Berkshire Health Group costs will increase by 1% this year as opposed to 8% last year.

The Waste Water Treatment Plant continues to be funded by property tax that results in about \$2.12 on the tax rate.

Natural gas rates are stabilized.

Collective bargaining agreements expire June 30th. The Clerical union is waiting for ratification on the union side. The Police contract is rough 75% sorted out. Wages have been settled and they

are included in this budget.

A new budget department has been created to include the Greylock glen. Two critical positions have been created. The Executive Director being the first who will be taking over the work of starting a foundation for the Outdoor center as well as looking after the events and scheduling. The second position is Superintendent of building and grounds. Hopefully, the Greylock Glen will begin generating revenue and an enterprise budget that will allow it to self-sustain and not put any burden on the tax base.

The Town is capable of maintaining our services, but we can't really engage in capital projects at this time.

Member Nowak asked about credits generated by the Solar Field. *Jay Green* stated that it generates roughly \$20,000 which applied back to expenses associated with the wastewater treatment plant as they are one of the top Energy uses for the town. *Member Nowak* also asked if there were any cost overruns on the building. Jay stated that at this time, there are no overruns but there have been escalated costs of supplies. We are very happy with the team that we have up there.

Crystal Wojcik Provided an overview of personal services, operating expenses, and capital outlay.

For two years in a row now, we have been funding the library in a way that meets the state standards and as such, the library is eligible for state funding without extra requests by the town of Adams.

Member Nowak asked if the Town would be increasing the stipend for the Selectmen. Jay clarified that that is for the Board of Selectmen to vote on.

We are conservatively estimating the funds that we will bring in.

Sarah Kline asked about income generated from the rental of the rectory attached to the Parish. At this point there is not a revenue stream generated from it at this point, however there is an ongoing conversation.

The "New Growth" estimate should be done conservatively, so the Town of Adams uses the amount of \$25,000. State best practices state that a Town should be conservative based on the variability of growth.

The Levy Limit excludes the HVRSD Capital override for FY24

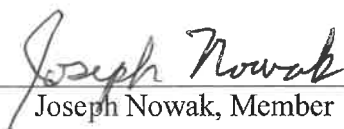
We have an obligation to maintain the infrastructure, but it's hard to do without significant increases to infrastructure.

The Board discussed the history of repairs on the schools in the Town of Adams.


ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:36 Member Blanchard made the motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Hoyt. The meeting adjourned at 7:36pm.


Respectfully Submitted by Bri Hantman, Recording Secretary.


Joseph Nowak, Member


Richard Blanchard, Member


Christine Hoyt, Vice Chairman


Howard Rosenberg, Member


John Duval, Chairman