

01-25-08

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John Murray

From: John Murray
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2008 1:07 PM
To: Paulina Knibbe (comcast)
Cc: Board of Selectmen
Subject: RE: Budget Questions

From: Paulina Knibbe (comcast)
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2008 12:05 PM
To: John Murray
Cc: Board of Selectmen
Subject: Re: Budget Questions

John Murray wrote:

To facilitate tomorrow morning's agenda in the allocated time period. I would appreciate any questions that a Board Member may have today.

Thank you for your consideration.

John

Thank-you, John. I am working off the update that you sent yesterday. I will cross check in a little bit to see if you made any changes in the info you sent out today.

I do have a couple of questions for tomorrow

1) The street light conversation project seems like a natural fit for the ESCO initiative. Why did you fund it seperately? The basis for an ENSCO contract is: The energy monies saved by the ESCO improvement flow to the ESCO entity. The Town in fact does not accrue the savings or only a small percentage. I think it makes sense to use ESCO where the energy savings are volatile and/or uncertain.

The street light retro-fit project is one where the energy savings are well documented, therefore I believe the savings should flow to the Town. By claiming the savings we add to our ability to sustain operations in a down turned economy.

2) The Master Plan Supplement includes some money (20K ??) for the Community Health Assessment. These don't seem a natural fit to me. Why did you put them together?

Everything is in the title. While in the budget I call it a Master Plan Supplement, we know the purpose of the extra monies is to transform the Master Plan into a Comprehensive Community Plan, which includes a significant public outreach program. the Community Health Assessment was included (1) because I believe insuring good community health is central to any comprehensive planning function and (2) the assessment plan of action is an outreach function. As such I did not feel it was appropriate to engage a new consultant or to put forth a questionnaire without expert advice as to the formation of questions, questionnaire design and expert analysis of the returning data.

3) I don't quite understand where the compensation reserve money is allocated. As I understand it, you have allocated \$100,000 for a delta for the HR position plus a compensation reserve to be used at the discretion of the Town Manager. How does this impact the amount of money for 'capital and initiatives' in the priority list? I would like to see it at the top of the revised priority chart (or elsewhere on the chart if you feel that is a better spot for it).

As I read your document, there is 727,506 available for initiatives plus capital. And you are proposing that we draw down the NESWC funds by an additional 1.7 million. Does the 100K for the compensation reserve lower the amount for capital and initiatives to 627,506??

On page 1 of Funding Source workbook, the Compensation Reserve decreases the "Available Recurring Revenue" amount from \$852,506 to \$752,506. Therefore, it is subtracted prior to the revised priority listing and acts as the top priority.

Thanks for the questions

John.