

## 06-02-2021 Town Council Meeting Responses to Council Questions

### **ITEM #1: Final Update on the Development of the FY 2021-22 Budget**

**Council Question:**

Assuming approval of the additional \$100,000 for Human Services, will the money be disbursed only to those who have already applied or will additional applications be considered?

**Staff Response:**

*Staff would propose having the Human Services Advisory Board review applications already received for next fiscal year. We received over \$1 Million in requests for next fiscal year, and a majority of applicants were not fully funded. We also recommend having public conversations about the proposed funding plan for the additional \$100,000, consistent with the established Human Services funding process, that would come to the Council for final approval.*

**Council Question:**

Can the staff provide an initial view of how/where Federal COVID funds can/will be used to make up for some of our unfunded priorities?

**Staff Response:**

*At the June 23 Council Meeting, an item will be brought forward to recognize the American Rescue Plan funding and allocate a portion of the funding toward the implementation of the ReVive recovery plan pending the results of the discussion on June 9. This action would allocate \$650K toward the ReVive plan and hold the remainder in reserve. We would return to Council in the Fall with further discussions about the use of this funding.*

**Council Question:**

Given that the proposed new tax rate is less than originally proposed due, at least in part, to the difficulties faced by our businesses and residents, what can be expected for next year's tax rate?

**Staff Response:**

*Staff will return to the Council in the Fall to continue our conversations about the 5-year Budget Strategy. Developing the Strategy will include discussion about funding our community's needs. Considering that property tax is our largest single revenue source, this would be an important part of the conversation at that time.*

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**Council Question:**

Is there sufficient flexibility in the budget to allow for providing some relief for residents who appear to have been unduly affected by the revaluation?

**Staff Response:**

*The General Statutes address the ability in which a local government can provide any tax relief to taxpayers. The Town Attorney is currently looking into what options are at our disposal and will be providing her findings to Council.*