

3/24/22

Called to Order at 6:00 PM
Pledge of Allegiance
-School District

RECEIVED

2022 MAY -4 PM 5:20

TOWNSHIP CLERK
DIGHTON MA

- About 2.2 million expected back to the district
- FY21 is not certified yet-required to complete the audit before certified, vs other years when the state would certify, and then the audit would be completed. Auditors are coming out the week of April 4th.
- Business Analyst(Rob) walked us through the budget:
 - Curriculum Planning needs-have to purchase in 3 areas and have several that are less important
 - Looking to add extracurriculars to the high school
 - Instructional supplies need to be restocked this year, have been carrying over supplies the last couple of years
 - Subscription renewals
 - Title 1-Palmer River may not qualify as Title 1
 - Added Special education coordinators(one for Rehoboth, one for Dighton, one for the high school)
 - DES under 1% change
 - DMS increase of 16%
 - Palmer River Decrease
 - Beckwith 7% increase
 - High School 11% increase(mainly due to expected fuel costs)
 - CTE at High School 14% increase
 - 2 new programs
 - Central office-slight decrease
 - 70K of capital assessment is for a curtain for the stage, the rest is debt we owe
 - Dighton is up \$338,000 dollars from last year
- DMS Partial program is the main reason for the large increase in salary, and then the special ed coordinator being there. One district wide position was directed to DMS as well. And a medical paraprofessional for the nurses for Rehoboth, Dighton, and the High School. The rest is a roughly budgeted 2% salary increase.
- Class size at the high school have to be small because of a decrease in students attending. Large 9 and 10th grade classes, small honors and AP classes. More than 70% of teachers are on the top pay step. Have laid off some staff, but not much. To maintain programs, the staff has to be there.
- Most of the budget increase is due to salary and contractual agreements
- Efficiencies on equipment-issues on the wood burning boiler. Solar has helped with the electrical payments

-Potential Board Members

- David Carpenter
 - Accountant and tax prepper for 30 years now
 - Worked for a variety of companies
 - Working at a CPA firm and has a small tax practice
 - Has lived in Dighton for ~20 years and is from Dighton
 - Wants to help Dighton and give back
 - What role should Finance Committee play in town? Oversee budgets-thinks things need oversight and that the finance committee does that.
 - How do you think you can contribute to that? Budget analysis, asking pertinent questions that need to be asked.

- Sue Lorenz
 - Been in Dighton for years
 - PTO experience, school council, and school committee, helped with sports programs, wants to get involved again
 - What can you contribute? School committee experience would be an asset
 - What is the perception of the finance committee to the townspeople? Overview, not pushing an agenda, trying to keep townspeople safe financially and watched over.
- Ron Smith
 - Has been active on other committees in past and wants to get back into town things.
 - Does not want to be considered for the board

-Overview of Budget

- Building licenses and permits are expected to be lower in FY23 than in previous years
- New revenue from increase in trash bags
- Had to downgrade ambulance receipts based on actuals in FY22
- 3 year lease for an ambulance at \$120k each year from ambulance fund
- Less calls so less revenue from the ambulances as well as a reduced medicare/medicaid contract price.

-Budget Schedule: changing the 21st to the 14th and keeping the rest the same

-Capital Outlay Committee Update

- Have a meeting on Tuesday to formulate an update and budget for Finance Committee
- School, library, highway, and fire station feasibility study
- Need to start planning for future years projects, not wait until they are upon us
- Possibly dedicate PILOT agreement funds for projects and marijuana funds as well.

-Minutes:

- Send list to Mike for all of them and send all minutes to the members

-Act on

- Sue and Ron approved for board

-Adjourned at 7:51 pm