

Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Hearing Presentation

Zoom Video Conference Meeting

July 1, 2020

Committee on Appropriations Members

- Steve Primiano, Chair
- Lisa Daft, Vice Chair
- John Alessandro
- Cynthia Rosengard
- Richard Staples

Committee on Appropriations & Town Charter

7-2-1 Membership and Duties [Amended 11-2-2004; 11-4-2014]

Before adjournment of the Annual Financial Town Meeting, the meeting shall elect a committee of five (5) persons to hold a public meeting on the Wednesday two (2) weeks prior to the Annual Financial Town Meeting at 7:00pm for the purpose of hearing all registered voters of the Town interested in preparing a budget to be presented to the Financial Town Meeting and to submit a printed report of their recommendations for expenditures by the Financial Town Meeting, and the amount of tax which will be necessary to levy to pay such expenses.

[Barrington Town Charter](#)

Committee on Appropriations Process

Meetings

- Joint meeting with Budget Forecasting Committee, Town Council, and School Committee in January
- Weekly meetings February/March at Barrington Middle School, monthly meetings in April/May, weekly meetings in June
- Excellent attendance by all COA members
- Meeting schedule and topics provided in advance
- Digest and detailed minutes available for each meeting
- Process disrupted by COVID-19 pandemic to extend timeline of budget review and approval
- Public comment included in all meetings

Committee on Appropriations Guiding Principles

Guiding Principles

- Recognize need for austere budget
- Recognize need for responsible investment
- Encourage actions with high return on investment
- Identify sources of collaboration and cost-sharing
- Reference budget and planning best practices and strategies
- Consider uncertainty related to COVID-19 revenue and expenses

Significant COA Findings

Observations of Process

- Value of Budget Forecasting Committee process and report
- Operating on consensus model
- Collaborative deliberations – questions, answers, documentation – votes at the end of process
- Agenda focus on Municipal or Schools – focused, respectful of time commitments required
- Public input sought by encouraging feedback through public comment
- Documentation and discussion of questions and answers from COA and public

Significant COA Findings

Observations of Budgets

- Dedication of municipal and school administrators, preparing, outlining, presenting to educate COA
- Historically, operating budgets have included modest incremental increases, thoughtful and deliberative stewardship of resources, annual review of needs and past utilization
- Municipal department initiatives requested (addition of DPW positions; aligning salaries; combining positions; emergency communication capacities)
- School department initiatives requested (Instructional coaches; curriculum materials for 2023 update deadline; bringing contracted service offerings in-house)

Budgets Review & Recommendations

Town Capital Improvement Plan Budget: School and Municipal Requests Separated

Presented February 26, Discussed March 3, 10, 24, & 31, April 7, May 12, June 10

Planning Board Committee Recommendations: \$388,595 (+0.93%)

Town Council voted on March 4 to remove the School Capital Budget request from the Town Budget citing a lack of compliance with the Town Charter and recommended that COA consider the School Capital Budget alongside of the School Operating Budget. COA agreed to do so on March 13.

Capital Requests:

- School Technology: \$269,595
- Wireless Access Point Replacement: \$95,000
- Vehicle Replacement: \$24,000

COA Recommendation: School Capital = \$388,595 (+0.93%)

School Capital Request Context

Calculating 4% cap including both capital and operating budget requests

	FY20	FY21
Operating Budget	\$ 52,457,384	\$54,460,526
Capital Budget	\$385,000	\$388,595
Total School Appropriation	\$52,842,384	\$54,849,121
Cap, based on 104% of prior year		\$54,956,079
Actual Increase %		103.8%

Municipal Capital Improvement Plan Budget

Presented February 26, Discussed March 3, 10, 24, & 31, April 7, May 12, June 10

Planning Board Committee Recommendations: \$1,144,200 (+21.08%)

Modification Requests:

- Town Manager: Pavement Management from \$25K to \$0
- Town Manager: Land Conservation from \$10K to \$210K
- Town Manager: Harbormaster from \$20K to \$25K
- Town Manager: Energy Conservation from \$0 to \$10K
- Town Manager: Bay Spring Community Ctr. from \$0 to \$30K (COA: \$15K)

COA Recommendation: Municipal Capital = \$1,349,200 (+42.77%)

School Department Operating Budget

Presented March 3; Discussed March 10, 24, & 31, April 7, May 12, June 10

Original Budget Request: \$54,500,526 (+3.9%)

Notable Variances:

- Salaries +\$741,314 (+2.3%)
- Academic coaches (certified) +\$129,067 (+125.8%)
- Personnel benefits (health insurance) +\$576,025 (+13.0%)
- Transportation Contract (estimated) +\$226,695 (+14.5%)

Notable Modification:

- Health & Medical premiums (retirees) -\$265,061 (-80.2%)
- Special Education Tuition (in-state) - \$108,140 (-100%)

COA Recommendation: \$54,460,526 (+3.82%)

Municipal Operating Budget

Presented March 10, Discussed March 24, & 31, April 7, May 12, June 10

Original Budget Request: \$17,949,827 (+4.95%)

Notable Variances:

- Police Department: \$83,040 (+3.28%)
- Fire Department: \$196,530 (+8.17%)
- Public Works: \$163,053 (+6.96%) (COA removed \$101,138)
- Other variances offset by inter-department reallocations

Notable Modification (Revenue):

- Interest on Investments: -\$175,000 (-77.78%)
- Housing Aid: \$4,118,024 (+2,236.97%) (explained on next slide)

COA Recommendation: \$17,632,886 (+3.10%)

Town Debt Service

Original Budget Request : \$8,942,154 (+55.72%)

Notable Modification:

- Middle School Debt: Principal: \$4,400,000
Interest: +\$2,577,831
\$6,977,831
- State Housing Aid -\$4,302,113
- Net Annual Debt \$2,675,718

COA Recommendation: \$8,942,154 (+55.72%)

Total Impact of Fiscal Year 2021 Recommended Budgets

Budget	Amount	Percent Budget Increase
Municipal Operating	\$17,632,886	3.09%
School Operating	\$52,460,526	3.82%
Total Town Operating	\$72,093,412	3.64%
Municipal Capital	\$1,349,200	42.77%
School Capital	\$388,595	0.93%
Municipal Bond	\$8,942,154	55.72%
Total Capital & Bond	10,679,949	51.01%
Total Town (All)	82,773,361	8.01%

Fiscal Year 2021 Projected Revenues

Source	Amount	Percent
Municipal Department Receipts	\$1,166,090	1.4%
State Aid & Housing Aid	\$7,822,977	9.45%
School Aid	\$5,886,818	7.1%
Other Income	\$1,367,076	1.65%
Auto Tax Levy	\$3,221,463	3.9%
Tangible and Property Tax	\$63,308,937	76.5%
Total Revenues	\$82,773,361	100%

Fiscal Year 2021 Tax Rate (per \$1,000)

Fiscal Year	Ratable Base	Tax Levy	Tax Rate
FY 2019-2020	\$3,056,976,617	\$65,142,459	\$20.10
FY 2020 - 2021	\$3,042,557,489	\$66,530,400	\$20.81
Percent Change	-0.47%	+2.13%	+3.52%

Certified Tax Levy budgeted for 2021's percent increase = 2.01%

Town of Barrington



- COA Email Address: COA@barrington.ri.gov
- [Barrington Committee on Appropriations Meeting Minutes](#)
- [Barrington Budget Forecast Committee Meeting Minutes](#)