

The Town Council and Board of Education have been reviewing available economic data, meeting with state representatives and local business leaders, working with their respective administrators, listening to feedback from constituents, and working collaboratively with one another to create a budget that works for our community. There is much more work to be done.

Both elected groups are committed to a civil, respectful, and collaborative budget process. These are difficult times for our community, and we will be stronger if we can work through this together. Be Assured that we are aware that many people are struggling with financial difficulties, and are doing our best to balance that awareness with our responsibility to budget appropriately to serve all members of our community.

Both the town and school staff have sought to calculate savings resulting from building closures and reductions in services as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic. On the school side, employees are being paid as obligated by contract, and hourly employees continue to be paid as required by the Governor's March 19, 2020, Executive Order. Savings in the FY20 (current) school budget are anticipated from transportation costs, athletics, facilities, and reductions in certain staff (i.e. substitute teachers). Likewise, the town administration identified about \$730,000 in cost savings through measures such as the use of staff furloughs to part time status and layoffs of some part time employees. The anticipated savings from both the school and the town will be available to apply to the FY21 budget.

Below is a timeline of the budget process thus far, and where we are headed next. All past meetings can be played back on the town's YouTube channel. Future meetings can be viewed using the links for Zoom and YouTube found on the Town Council and School Board calendars located on their website homepages: <http://www.scarboroughmaine.org/> and <http://www.scarboroughschools.org/>. We expect some challenges obtaining constituent feedback this year since we are not able to meet in person. We ask that you stay engaged and share your thoughts with us.

What has happened so far:

- April 8: Budget Presentation by Town Manager and School Superintendent
- Thursday April 9: School Board 1st reading of FY21 Budget, based on goals established in the fall of 2019 without knowing that COVID-19 would change our landscape so drastically.
- Tuesday April 14: Town and school joint Finance Committees agreed to look at various scenarios to arrive at a net budget resulting in no more than a 2% mil rate increase for the first reading of the budget.
- Wednesday April 15: Town Council Budget review: A decision was made to revise the budget timeline to accommodate the need for the town manager and superintendent to make adjustments based on the new target.
- Tuesday April 28: School Board Finance Committee meeting to review administration proposed revisions to achieve TC request of 2% mil rate increase. Four tiers of

proposed budget amendments were presented to provide context and specific examples of how the proposed changes could impact school spending.

- Tuesday April 28: Town Council Economic Indicators Workshop.
- Wednesday April 29: Town and school joint Finance Committee meeting to review updates and possible adjustments based on a 2% mil rate increase target for first reading of the budget. It is important to note that these proposals had not yet been thoroughly reviewed and signed off on by the Town Council or the School Board. It was confirmed that this was an ongoing exercise of refinement until further direction is given by the Town Council at their first reading of the budget.
- Tuesday May 5: Town Council Finance Committee - Consensus was sought in order to determine the best path forward towards understanding what a 0% mil rate would look like for the overall FY21 budget.
- Wednesday May 6: Town Council First Reading of FY21 Budget. A motion to amend the FY21 budget as presented on April 8th by a reduction of \$2,725,587 passed. A motion was made to act on the request to have the Town Manager, in cooperation with the Superintendent of Schools and the Board of Education, model the effect of a 0% mil rate for the FY21 Budget, allocation of possible budget adjustments to be based on the respective proportional share of the total operating budget, with results to be reviewed at a Budget Workshop on May 20, 2020. This motion also passed.
- Tuesday, May 11: Town Council Finance Committee review of municipal revenues.

What is coming up:

- Wednesday May 20: Town Council Budget Workshop
- Thursday May 21: School Board Public Hearing on FY21 Budget
- Wednesday June 3: Town Council Public Hearing on FY21 Budget
- Thursday June 4: School Board 2nd reading and vote on FY21 Budget
- Wednesday June 17: Town Council 2nd reading and vote on FY21 Budget
- Tuesday July 14: School Budget Validation Referendum

Ways for community members to communicate:

1. Email: towncouncil@scarboroughmaine.org and boe@scarboroughschools.org
2. Join meetings on Zoom and offer public comment live
3. Email public comments to be read at School Board meetings:
publiccomment@scarboroughschools.org
4. Email Council during meetings to be read: towncouncil@scarborough.org
5. Phone calls to Town Councilors and/or School Board members

Respectfully submitted,
Board of Education Communication Committee
Town Council Communication Committee