

The Town of
GLEN ECHO

Chartered 1904

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TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
March 6, 2023

CALL TO ORDER: MAYOR DIA COSTELLO. 7:30 PM

PRESENT

Mayor: Dia Costello.

Councilmembers: (CM) Mona Kishore (via Zoom), Dan Spealman, Matt Stiglitz and Julia Wilson.

Town Manager: (TM) Beth Stickler.

DISCUSSION OF DRAFT FY 2024 TOWN BUDGET

The Mayor and Council discussed the proposed FY24 Town budget, and sources and projected level of revenue. The budget ordinance and tax resolution will be introduced at the March 13, 2023 Council Meeting. A public hearing on the budget will be held at the April 10 Council Meeting. A vote on adoption will then be held at the May 8, 2023 Council Meeting.

Proposed Council Action resulting from a review of the FY 2024 budget:

- Revenue projections:
- 02.1 Corporate Tax: The Council asked TM Stickler to research with the state Comptroller which companies are incorporated in Glen Echo and what they paid in taxes. The proposed budget is \$1500, decreasing from last year (\$2000) based on the trend of the past several years.
- 03. State Income Tax: Based on the past several years, the Council decided to increase this to \$150,000 from the previous FY amount of \$130,000.
- 04. Highway User Revenue: Since the Town released Street A to NPS, the Council proposed \$18,000 rather than the projected amount from state of \$21,778. Street A is .14 miles and the total mileage in Town was 1.71 miles (including Street A). HUR is usually delayed in distributions to the Town.
- 06.2 Town Hall Rental: Since the Town has been receiving consistent rental income, the Council decided to budget \$8000 which is an increase from FY23 (\$6000).

- 07. Interest: As interest rates are increasing the Council decided to budget \$1250 which is an increase over FY23 (\$300). The Town has already received \$1663 in FY23.
- 12.1 American Rescue Plan Funds: The Council decided to put the actual amount of remaining ARPA funds of \$204,106. The total amount the Town received is \$267,488.
- 12.2 Chesapeake Bay Trust Grant: The Town applied for \$108,800 and will hear in June if the proposal is funded.
- Expenses:
- 21.21 Town Attorney: Budgeted \$5,000 for FY24 down from FY23 of \$10,000 because the Town is not using the attorney very much.
- 21.22 Specialized Legal Services: The Town may need advice on the trestle bridge demolition. Have not used these funds in the past.
- 21.4 Additional Professional Services: The Town uses these funds for help with QuickBooks and for assistance with an RFP and grant proposal to the Chesapeake Bay Trust.
- 21.9 Town Engineer: The Council decided to budget \$8000 (decrease from \$10000 FY23). The engineer may be helpful with an upcoming tear down and rebuild, ARPA fund uses, and the trestle bridge demolition.
- 22.13 Telephone/Internet: The Council asked TM Stickler to look into negotiating a lower rate for the land line, and possibly getting a town cell phone.
- 22.94 Elevator Maintenance: FY23 the elevator needed repairs to pass inspection. \$3000 should be sufficient in FY24.
- 23.4 Stormwater Small Projects: Reduce from \$10,000 to \$5000 as have not used in past couple years and have ARPA Funds for these projects.
- 23.5 Street Repairs: Evaluate every couple years with the Town engineers and do projects as needed.
- 23.4B American Rescue Plan Funds: \$204,106 is current remaining balance of funds to be obligated by the end of 2024.
- 24.24 Gardening: New category, will try Level Green (Town landscaper) and are waiting for a quote for this.
- 23.2 Street Sweeping: will have this done in March and maybe again in the summer.
- 24.5 Town Trees: \$3000 each for Town tree pruning and tree removal/planting.
- 24.7 Community Events: food prices are increasing. Leave at \$5,500.
- 24.71 Livable Town Committee: Keep at \$500. Funds for Winterlude. Do not plan to host Founder's Day.

- 24.9 Community Contributions: Keep at \$3000; \$2000 for GEPPAC and \$1000 for Glen Echo Fire Department.

Tax Rates

The Town has kept the property tax rate at \$0.15/\$100 for several years. The Council discussed lowering it to \$0.14/\$100 for FY24. The state Constant Yield Tax Rate is set at \$0.1454/\$100 for FY24. It would be a \$9400 difference (\$95/household). The Council does not want to move it up and down every year. The Council will introduce it at \$0.15/\$100 at the March 13 Council Meeting but will continue to consider changing it.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting Adjourned 9:25 pm

Minutes Prepared by: Beth Stickler, Town Manager

Approved: *Dia Costello* Date: *3-27-2023*

Mayor, Dia Costello