

Town of Westford

Informational Meeting on
2010-2011 Proposed Budget
January 7, 2010

Presented by Westford Selectboard



2009 Highlights, Accomplishments, Changes:

Grants secured:

- Better Back Roads*, VT Agency of Transportation - \$10,000
- Climate Change Grant/Energy Efficiency Lighting Program - \$6,000
- Salt Shed Site Planning Grant - \$15,000
- Trees for Streams, WNRCD/Essex Center for Technology - \$340 + Labor
- Municipal Education Grant for Affordable Housing Seminar

Energy Efficiency Upgrades to the Town Office

Adoption of Revised Zoning & Subdivision Regulations

Established a Town Energy Committee

Completed Town Wide Reappraisal

Conversion of Common Rd. & 128 Intersection to a “T” design

2009 Highlights, Accomplishments, Changes (cont'd):

Enrollment in the Regular National Flood Insurance Program

Adoption of Town Trails Ordinance

Working to make FAHC Westford's primary hospital destination for EMS

Working to reduce/eliminate St. Albans dispatching costs

Extended the service life of a Town Dump Truck by 4 years

Added On-call Road Crew Member

Expanded use of the Town's web site

2010 Goals:

Potential Grants :

- Huntley Rd Culvert, VTrans - \$90,000
- Woods Hollow Rd Reconstruction, VTrans - \$56,000
- Town Library Energy Efficiency Grant - \$13,588
- Energy Efficiency Grants to be announced

Northern Rte 128 repaving by VTrans

Continue to work with the state on southern Rte 128 reconstruction plan

Adopt a formal Capital Budget for capital asset funding management

Revise the Town's zoning fee schedule

2010 Goals (cont'd):

Adopt a revised Town Plan

Adopt a Town Emergency Operations Plan

Implement ACS electronic municipal records system

Property appraisals to be done by Listers

Complete Ancient Roads Committee work

Strive to achieve 100% high speed internet access to all of Westford

Work to further improve energy efficiency of town buildings

The Budget Includes :

- ✓ Road maintenance services
- ✓ Grant-funded work on Huntley Road culvert
- ✓ Solid waste and recycling services
- ✓ Library programs
- ✓ Town administrative and planning functions
- ✓ Emergency services
- ✓ Law enforcement

Overall Amount to be Raised in Taxes

**Proposed to Increase
by approx. \$5,535 from 2009-2010**

2009-2010	2010-2011 (proposed)
\$1,044,345	\$1,049,880

Examples of where additional funds would be allocated:

- \$17K – Legal Fees
- \$10K – Matching Funds for Huntley Rd Culvert Grant
- \$10K – Salaries & 2010 Elections Administration Expenses
- \$ 8K – Increase Road Dept. Equipment Reserve from \$7K to \$15K
- \$ 8K – Trash & Recycling Services
- \$ 4K – On-call Road Crew Position

**Increase may be offset by receipt of \$56,000 Grant for
Woods Hollow Rd Reconstruction**

Estimated Tax Rate:

	<u>Rate</u>	<u>\$ Based on \$100K in Home Value</u>
Estimated Tax Rate 10-11:	.4715	\$471.50
Current Tax Rate 09-10:	<u>.4668</u>	<u>\$466.80</u>
Increase:	.0047	\$ 4.70

For a home valued at **\$100,000** this would be a **\$4.70** increase in the annual tax bill.

IF the Town is awarded the \$56K grant for Woods Hollow Road....then the amount needed to be raised by taxes declines from last year **by \$50,465**

	<u>Tax</u>	<u>\$ Based on</u>
	<u>Rate</u>	<u>\$100K in</u>
		<u>Home Value</u>
Estimated Tax Rate 10-11:	.4464	\$446.40
Current Tax Rate 09-10:	<u>.4668</u>	<u>\$466.80</u>
Decrease:	(.0204)	(\$ 20.40)

For a home valued at **\$100,000** this would be a **\$20.40 decrease** in the annual tax bill.

Proposed Australian Ballot Articles:

- ❑ Town Road Dept. Equipment Reserve Fund
(increase reserve by an additional \$15,000)

- ❑ Town Emergency Shelter Generator Grant Reserve Fund
(requested funding of \$10,000 for 3 consecutive years)
(will ultimately need \$30,000 for 50% grant match)

Proposed Australian Ballot Articles (cont'd)

- Approval to create a Municipal Records Reserve Fund
(A portion of recording fee deposited into fund)
(Funds to be used for preservation, restoration, conservation and computerization of municipal records)
- Approval to create a Fire Equipment Capital Reserve Fund
(No tax funding at this time)
- Approval to create a Huntley Road Culvert Reserve Fund
(If grant denied, \$10,000 in matching funds deposited)

\$ Impact of Proposed Articles on Taxes:

	<u>Tax</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>\$ Based on</u> <u>\$100K in</u> <u>Home Value</u>
-Town Road Equipment Reserve \$15,000		.0068	\$6.80
-Town Evacuation Center Generator Grant Reserve Fund \$10,000		.0045	\$4.50
-Municipal Records Reserve Fund		.0000	\$0
-Fire Equipment Reserve Fund		.0000	\$0
-Huntley Rd Culvert Reserve Fund		.0000	\$0

Capital Budget Illustration:

Sample 5 Year Capital Budget Planning Needs

Project/Item	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15
<u>Road Department</u>					
91 Grader Replacement		\$210K			
96 Dump Truck Replacement				\$140K	
08 Ford F350 Replacement					\$65K

Total principal capital funding needed for these sample items:
\$415,000

Road Dept. Reserve Funding Matrix

Reserve Fund Balance	Annual Funding	Total Reserve	%	\$ Debt to be Financed
\$31,600	\$76,680	\$415,000	100	\$0
\$31,600	\$55,930	\$311,250	75	\$103,750
\$31,600	\$35,180	\$207,500	50	\$207,500
\$31,600	\$14,430	\$103,750	25	\$311,250

Capital Budget Illustration (cont'd):

Debt Servicing Comparison

<u>Project/Item</u>	<u>Interest Expense on Debt</u>
<u>Road Department</u>	<u>\$0 Down</u> <u>50% Down</u>
Grader with 10yr note @ 6%	\$ 37,661
Dump Truck with 10yr note @ 6%	\$ 25,107
Ford F350 with 5yr note @ 6%	\$ <u>6,077</u>
Total Interest Expense:	\$ 68,845

Notes:

- Interest expense in this scenario could be more or less severe depending upon the borrowing rate environment we find ourselves in 3, 4 & 5 years from now.
- Prudent funding of capital budget reserves for equipment purchases directly impacts the level of debt servicing burdens imposed.

Bottom Line on Tax Rate:

Tax Rate \$ Based on \$100K in Home Value

.4668 \$466.80

Additional Amount to be raised in Taxes for Town Budget

.0047 \$ 4.70

If All Articles Approved

.0113 \$ 11.30

Sub Total Increases

.0160 \$ 16.00

Total with All Articles

.4828 \$482.80

Bottom Line on Tax Rate:

\$ Based on
\$100K in
Home Value

Tax
Rate

IF \$56K Woods Hollow Rd grant awarded>>

Current Tax Rate

.4668

\$466.80

Additional Amount to be raised in
Taxes for Town Budget

(.0204)

(\$20.40)

If All Articles Approved

.0113

\$ 11.30

Sub Total Increases

(.0091)

(\$ 9.10)

Total with All Articles

.4577

\$457.70

THANK YOU!

To the following people and committees who helped the Selectboard members draft the 2010-2011 Budget

Charlotte Vincent, Treasurer

Nanette Rogers, Town Clerk/Selectboard Administrative Assistant

Gary Estus, Highway Foreman

Melissa Manka, Planning Coordinator

Brick Meeting House Society

Cemetery Commissions

Conservation Commission

Development Review Board

Energy Committee

Fire Department

Library Trustees

Listers

Planning Commission