

Mayor's Report

3-11-26

Budget submitted on 3/2 per Charter. Exclusive of Healthcare and Capital:

+2.35% General Government

+3.63% Board of Education

+13.5% Healthcare expenses (Combined BoE and Gen Gov)

+0.89 mill increase to 26.67, including 1 mill from Mill Rate Stabilization Fund. We budgeted use from this non-tax fund for each of the past four years but have not required its use, primarily because revenues came in higher than projected each of those fiscal years. Some State revenues are difficult to project, while some local revenues can be too (permit revenues). Interest income is directly dependent upon the Federal Funds Rate, which may be subject to change as many as eight times per year, based on the national economic picture. For that reason, we always err on the side of caution with interest income.

This year, Healthcare is presented as a separate line as the Town has little to no control over this necessary expense. Ledyard is part of a smaller pool of 12 towns that have better than average experience ratings, but insurance is still extremely expensive.

Next year, Capital will also be presented as a separate budget for fairness and transparency. As it is this year, Capital is on a town-wide scope.

Public Works O/T expenses were impacted again with 7 crew in overnight hours on 3/4, due to flash freezing, post rain. We treated in advance but rain negated much of the treatment. PWD Masalin has updated spending chart and trajectory which I will share with the Council. We are tracking close to FY15, our most expensive winter in the last 10 fiscal years. We did get salt from the Providence port as we neared depletion, but that salt was "dirty" and we aren't inclined to purchase again (numerous scraps of tarp in the loads clogged our spreaders).

Attended meeting w/ Mohegan Tribe, adjacent communities on 3/4 working towards long-term solution for Mohegan Pequot Bridge. It is inadequate for the redevelopment of the former Norwich State Hospital as well as the influx of EB employees.

Submitted written testimony in support of SB 388- which effectively returns the Mashantucket Pequot- Mohegan Fund to its original formulation of distributing 85% of the funds received. The municipal allocation has eroded over time and eventually flipped to about 20% distributed, with the State retaining 80%. That was not the intent of the fund when it was established.

