

TOWN OF TEMPLETON, MASSACHUSETTS

FY '21 Budget & Legislative Package

NOTICE, ADDENDUM & ERRATA #3 – March 18, 2020

THE WORKSHOP OF SATURDAY IS STILL ON

**TOWN HALL WILL BE SANITIZED USING THE FOGGING SYSTEM THE NRSD
USES FOR ALL VIRUSES**

THE MEETING IS NOT OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

WE WILL PROVIDE CONFERENCING INFORMATION BY COB FRIDAY

**PLEASE SUBMIT ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS YOU HAVE THAT WE MIGHT
MAXIMIZE THE TIME WITH THE DEPARTMENT HEADS FOR DEEPER
PHILOSOPHICAL DISCUSSIONS**

Here are the latest questions or information:

Q. What is the \$500 for “Tailings Advert” in the Treasurer/Collector’s #5700 Sub-Account?

A. We annually have checks which do not clear; At present, we have a back-log that went back to 2002. Those uncleared checks are called “Tailings”. Before we can declare them the property of the Town, we must publish a notice in the newspaper of those which are about to escheat to the benefit of the Town and those which have escheated to the benefit of the Town. The initial advertisement cost us \$650+/- . We anticipate we will have to make at least three more such annual advertisements. While the costs will come down as the number of outstanding checks is reduced, there is a considerable amount of “boiler plate” that is the same whether we are publishing 1 or 100 names.

Q. What is the \$100 (2 @ \$50) in the Accountant’s #5110 Sub-Account for “Commonwealth Municipal Law” when these are available on-line?

A. This is for attendance at the annual session conducted by the DOR which reviews the most recent legislative changes and their impacts upon municipalities. While the statutes themselves are on-line, as oft is a compendium of all such changes, there is truly no substitute for this full day in-person briefing on all of the changes and an opportunity to ask questions and present hypotheticals which come to mind while the review is being presented.

Q. Will the current disarray in the finance markets impact our debt projections?

A. No. Except for one Bond Anticipation Note, all of our debt is at fixed long term rates. That BAN also has a fixed rate until it must be refinanced in February of 2020. We anticipate the

bond markets will have settled at their new limits; whatever they might be by then. However, our anticipation that the MSBA reimbursement would be settled on or about January 1 will now – most likely – not prove to come true given the disruption in service levels at the MSBA, our contractors performing warranty work, and our OPM and consultants.

Q. Is the PILOT "contribution" by the Light Dept." for the Fire/EMS SCBA request (Pg 25 in reference to Page 34) approved?

A. Not as of yet. We have submitted a request for a multi-year commitment to fully fund this program but have not yet received a formal response.

Q. On page 25, what do you mean when you say there is no "tax levy" support.

A. We use that phrase to mean there are no new monies being raised from taxation. In this instance we are using, free cash (previously raised from taxation or unanticipated revenues, overlay surplus, grants and the TMLWP PILOT.

Q. Do we need to vote to get Westfield State back?

A. No. They completed their uncompensated class-room project for us and are done.

Q. When did the Royalston Road project start (Page 35)? I am particularly interested if we are doing work to the road and want to open Hicks GP it could be counterproductive?

A. The contract for design was signed in July of 2016. This \$5.3M+/- reconstitution project is being paid for by the feds and state. You may [Click Here](#) for a number of materials on the project. We were scheduled to have a neighborhood briefing on the 75% design in the next few weeks but have had to defer that in the current environment. I will

Q. Can you move to the conference room for sensitive conversations instead of expending monies on trying to soundproof the offices?

A. No. In addition to periodic one on one conversations and telephone calls on our side of the wall are the one on one conversations and telephone calls of the Veteran's Services Officer with her clients. Trying to get each of us to move throughout the course of the day – in my opinion – is not practical.

Q. I think we should add one washer/one dryer for the PPE to the fire capital budget. I think it is very prudent to get these asap due to what we have right now.

A. We agree these are important items but they were not at the top of the Chief's capital list as he need so many things. The washer is 15 years old and could use to be replaced, but at this time it is working. He believes a dryer is more important. That said, we believe we have set forth a reasonable capital budget that meets our needs while preserving our cash resources. Further, we do not believe it is prudent to make such purchases when we will be eligible to apply for SAFER

grants *and* we anticipate there will be a major infusion of public safety and public health grants coming out of this pandemic.

Q. Is there any reason the money from the FY '20 capital budget for the vehicle exhaust has not been expended?

A. This contract was recently signed. It is likely it will by 75+/- days you see it expended.

Q. Is there any reason the money from the FY '20 capital budget for the radar unit has not been expended?

A. Those monies were paid out on January 3, 2020 in their entirety.

Q. Is there any reason the money from the FY '20 OPEX for the rear door handicap unit has not been expended?

A. During the NRSD budget process all such items were frozen until we could get a sense of what might happen. By then it was winter, and we were dealing with both frozen ground and a desire to not have the door open during the installation process. Those monies have now been committed and will be expended within this fiscal year. We may be making minor changes in the grading in the near future.

Q. Can you expand upon the 6 wheel dump truck with plow & sander? Which truck are we getting rid of?

A. The truck is being acquired with what is best described as an all season body which can be used as a standard dump truck or a sander for winter operations. It replaces a 1995 10 wheeler from which we may salvage the dump body, hubs and some other items before disposing of the remainder.

Comment: We should seriously consider hiring a grant writer, some how, some way, graduate student, intern, off the street so to speak; I think it could pay off, one year salary out of free cash.

Response: This team has acquired approximately \$1.1M over the past 2 years. Two of the grants open the door for future competitive applications. We do not believe such a person would be well positioned to write competitive grants nor a worthwhile investment given the track record of the current team.

Comment: We should give thought to increasing reserves by free cash, rather than letting free cash roll into next year, keep control of all of our money and put it to use.

Response: We believe the current financial management policy was thoughtfully crafted and should remain in place for the coming fiscal year. We further recommend that any such changes in policy should be considered and acted upon during the course of the year and not in the midst of the pressure of the budget season.