



TOWN OF OAKHAM
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE
FISCAL YEAR 2011 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23, 2010

Budget Overview:

The planning goal for the Fiscal 2011 budget was focused on maintaining services for the town with a level funded budget while struggling for a second year with the decrease in local aid, decrease in town growth, and the overall economy. Local aid to the Town Of Oakham is based on the Senate's budget of a 4% decrease, which results in \$6,761 less funding to the town. Several times throughout the budget process the Finance Committee, along with the Board of Selectman, met with the Departments to discuss their budgets in order to present a balanced budget at the annual town meeting. Consistent with past years, the Finance Committee, working closely with the Board of Selectmen, Department Heads and Committees, has prepared the following operating and Special Article budgets for this coming fiscal year. Throughout this process, all parties have made every effort through difficult decisions to assure that the Town receives significant value from the dollars spent.

Operating Budget:

The proposed Fiscal 2011 Operating Budget does not include any salary adjustments for any town employees for the second year though this is not reflective of the hard work and dedication our employees give to the town every day. It basically comes down to the bottom line. The operating budget totals \$2,767,723.84 a decrease of \$58,621.83 (2.2%) less than Fiscal 2010 budget. The Quabbin Regional School District has requested a 7.26% increase over the Fiscal 2010 budget. However, this year the Finance Committee is recommending a level funded assessment resulting in a decrease of \$98,050. The \$1,351,039 recommended in article 41 is 1.8% above the minimum local contribution required by the Department of Education for the town to pay; this amount is 4.07% more than last year. Understanding that the needs of our children are very important the Finance Committee is recommending a level funded budget. Our recommendation for level funding is in hopes that our children would receive a level service education relative to the budget as opposed to increases in salary to the Administrative and Unrepresented (non-union employees). Within the towns operating budget we have reviewed each line item of every department reducing cost where appropriate while maintaining level services.

This funding places the budget at 95.0% of the maximum allowable levy limit. Oakham's municipal appropriations have averaged 94.3% of the levy limit over the last six years. In 2010 we were operating at 99.1% of the levy limit. When the economy is struggling, as it is right now, this percentage is likely to increase out of necessity. However, appropriating at this level is never fiscally responsible.

Special Articles: Special Article requests total \$80,268.28 and include:

- Ambulance Lease Payment - \$22,287
- Ambulance Department – Lease 5 defibrillator units \$2,700
- Fire Department – Purchase 7 breathing apparatus air bottles \$7,224
- Police Department – New Cruiser 2 year lease – \$15,557.28
- Board of Assessors - Revaluation \$17,500
- Transfer from stabilization - \$15,000

The special articles were funded by utilizing available funds, stabilization, and free cash, which was certified by the Department of Revenue in the amount of \$111,521.

Tax Rate Impact:

Currently our 2010 property valuation is approximately \$198,842,380; town valuations are down compared to Fiscal Year 2009 by \$4,530,515. If operating budgets and special articles, as recommended by the Finance Committee, are approved at Town Meeting, the fiscal 2011 tax rate will be approximately \$10.51 per thousand-dollar valuation. If the requested QRSD assessment is approved by the District the fiscal 2011 tax rate will be approximately \$10.90. The Fiscal Year 2010 tax rate was \$10.32.

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Article 1: Accept Town Reports	No Objection
Article 2: Elect Field Drivers	No Objection
Article 3: Hear Election Results	No Objection
Article 4: Salaries of Elected Officials	Recommended
Moderator	156.00
Board of Selectmen	4,160.00
Treasurer	7,293.00
Town Collector	18,175.00
Assessors	2,140.00
Town Clerk	6,065.00
Library Trustees	50.00
Cemetery Committee	81.00
Board of Health	1,500.00
Article 5: Borrowing Authorization	Recommended
Article 6 - 23: Consent Calendar	Recommended
Article 24: Carryover Treasurer Foreclosures	Recommended
Article 25: West Brick Schoolhouse Report	Recommended
Article 26: Library Building Committee Report	Recommended
Article 27: Complete a Revaluation of all Taxable Real Property	Recommended
Article 28: Fire Department - Lease Payment for 5 Defibrilators	Recommended
Article 29: Transfer from Ambulance Receipts to Fire Department Stabilization Account	Recommended
Article 30: Transfer from Free Cash to pay the Ambulance Lease Payment	Recommended
Article 31: General Town Services Appropriations	Recommended

DEPARTMENT	FY2010 BUDGET	FY2011 PROPOSED BUDGET	FY2011 FINCOM RECOMMENDED
Ambulance			
Salaries, Partime	26,370.00	26,370.00	26,370.00
Expense	25,980.00	25,980.00	25,980.00
Sub-Total	52,350.00	52,350.00	52,350.00
Animal Inspector			
Salaries, Partime	600.00	600.00	600.00
Expense	25.00	25.00	25.00
Sub-Total	625.00	625.00	625.00
Annual Town Reports			
Expense	1,000.00	1,100.00	1,100.00
Sub-Total	1,000.00	1,100.00	1,100.00
Board of Assessors			
Salaries, Elected	1,800.00	3,000.00	1,800.00
Salaries, Part-Time	15,000.00	15,600.00	15,000.00
Expense	5,660.00	6,200.00	5,660.00
Sub-Total	22,460.00	24,800.00	22,460.00

DEPARTMENT	FY2010 BUDGET	FY2011 PROPOSED BUDGET	FY2011 FINCOM RECOMMENDED
Board of Health			
Salaries, Elected	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Expense	500.00	500.00	500.00
Recycling Coordinator	-	-	-
Sub-Total	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Board of Selectmen			
Salaries, Elected	4,160.00	4,160.00	4,160.00
Salaries, Part-Time	21,481.20	22,281.00	22,281.00
Expense (includes blanket insurance)	61,785.00	59,585.00	54,585.00
Sub-Total	87,426.20	86,026.00	81,026.00
Cemeteries			
Salaries, Elected	81.00	81.00	81.00
Expense	6,200.00	6,200.00	6,200.00
Sub-Total	6,281.00	6,281.00	6,281.00
Council on Aging			
Expense	5,179.00	5,179.00	5,179.00
Sub-Total	5,179.00	5,179.00	5,179.00
Cultural Council	-	600.00	-
Sub-Total	-	600.00	-
Dispatch			
Expense	39,464.00	39,464.00	39,464.00
Sub-Total	39,464.00	39,464.00	39,464.00
Dog Officer			
Salary	-	-	-
Supplies	-	-	2,500.00
Sub-Total	-	-	2,500.00
Emergency Management			
Salary	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Expense	500.00	500.00	500.00
Sub-Total	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Finance Committee			
Expense	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Sub-Total	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Reserve Fund	15,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00
Fire Department			
Chief Salary	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00
Asst Chief	3,437.40	3,437.40	3,437.40
Wages, Part-Time	29,760.56	29,760.56	29,760.56
Expense	29,730.00	29,730.00	29,730.00
Sub-Total	77,927.96	77,927.96	77,927.96
Home Health Aide Expenses	1,279.00	1,279.00	1,279.00

DEPARTMENT	FY2010 BUDGET	FY2011 PROPOSED BUDGET	FY2011 FINCOM RECOMMENDED
Highway			
Superintendent Salary	54,100.80	54,101.00	54,101.00
Salaries and Wages	74,442.66	74,443.00	74,443.00
Overtime Wages	-	-	-
Expense	52,165.00	52,165.00	45,165.00
Snow and Ice	77,999.00	77,999.00	81,499.00
Sub-Total	258,707.46	258,708.00	255,208.00
Historical Commission			
Expense	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
250th Town Anniversary	-	-	2,000.00
Sub-Total	2,000.00	2,000.00	4,000.00
Legal			
Town Counsel	12,000.00	11,000.00	11,000.00
Treasurer Foreclosure	-	-	2,000.00
Sub-Total	12,000.00	11,000.00	13,000.00
Library			
Salaries, Elected	50.00	50.00	50.00
Salaries, Part-Time	28,519.00	28,883.00	28,883.00
Expense	21,472.00	21,108.00	21,108.00
Sub-Total	50,041.00	50,041.00	50,041.00
Land Use			
CMRP Assessment	404.00	420.00	420.00
Conservation Commission Expense	375.00	375.00	375.00
Planning Board Expense	-	660.00	-
Building Inspector	2,150.00	2,150.00	2,150.00
Zoning/Appeals Board Expense	75.00	75.00	75.00
Sub-Total	3,004.00	3,680.00	3,020.00
Moderator Salary	156.00	156.00	156.00
Municipal Buildings Utilities	35,000.00	35,000.00	32,000.00
Parks and Recreation			
Expense	3,750.00	3,750.00	3,750.00
Sub-Total	3,750.00	3,750.00	3,750.00
Police Department			
Chief Salary	61,753.00	63,606.00	61,753.00
Wages, Part Time, OT & Holidays	99,755.00	94,355.00	94,355.00
Expense	42,901.00	46,448.00	43,448.00
Sub-Total	204,409.00	204,409.00	199,556.00
Street Lights	-	-	1,500.00
Town Accountant			
Salary	12,835.68	12,835.68	12,835.68
Expense	2,200.00	2,200.00	2,200.00
Sub-Total	15,035.68	15,035.68	15,035.68

DEPARTMENT	FY2010 BUDGET	FY2011 PROPOSED BUDGET	FY2011 FINCOM RECOMMENDED
Town Clerk			
Salary, Elected	4,590.00	4,590.00	6,065.00
Expense	875.00	875.00	875.00
Sub-Total	5,465.00	5,465.00	6,940.00
Town Elections			
Salary, Registrar	300.00	300.00	300.00
Wages, Part-Time	2,700.00	2,700.00	2,700.00
Expense	1,845.00	1,845.00	1,845.00
Sub-Total	4,845.00	4,845.00	4,845.00
Census			
Salaries, Part-Time	794.58	795.00	795.00
Expense	1,250.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Sub-Total	2,044.58	1,795.00	1,795.00
Tax Collector			
Salary, Elected	11,000.00	11,000.00	17,175.00
Certification Incentive	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Expense	8,275.00	8,350.00	8,350.00
Sub-Total	20,275.00	20,350.00	26,525.00
Town Hall			
Salaries, Part-Time	-	-	-
Web Site	3,525.00	3,400.00	3,400.00
Expense	38,550.00	36,625.00	36,625.00
Cable Access	-	200.00	-
Misc. Water Treatment Expense	500.00	500.00	500.00
Sub-Total	42,575.00	40,725.00	40,525.00
Town School House Committee			
School House Repairs	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Sub-Total	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Treasurer			
Salary, Elected	6,630.00	6,630.00	6,630.00
Certification Incentive	663.00	663.00	663.00
Expense	1,780.00	1,780.00	1,780.00
Sub-Total	9,073.00	9,073.00	9,073.00
Treasurer - Debt Service			
Municipal Building - Principal	18,125.00	18,125.00	18,125.00
Municipal Building - Interest	25,828.13	24,967.19	24,967.19
Equipment - Principal	-	-	-
Equipment - Interest	-	-	-
Short Term Interest	8,000.00	8,000.00	5,000.00
Borrowing Cost	300.00	300.00	300.00
Sub-Total	52,253.13	51,392.19	48,392.19
Treasurer Employee Benefits	113,564.00	125,505.00	128,300.00

DEPARTMENT	FY2010 BUDGET	FY2011 PROPOSED BUDGET	FY2011 FINCOM RECOMMENDED
Tree Warden			
Salary	225.00	225.00	225.00
Expense	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Sub-Total	2,225.00	2,225.00	2,225.00
Veterans Agent			
Salary	1,607.00	1,607.00	1,607.00
Expense	2,300.00	2,300.00	2,300.00
Sub-Total	3,907.00	3,907.00	3,907.00
Grand Total Article 31:	1,154,822.01	1,175,193.83	1,170,485.83
Article 32: Transfer from Free Cash & Stabilization to Balance Budget		Recommended	
Article 33: Transfer from Free Cash Fire Dept (7) Self Contained Breathing Apparatus Air Bottles		Recommended	
Article 34: Authorize the Highway Superintendent to apply for & accept funds through the Small Town Road Assistance Program (Strap Grant)		Recommended	
Article 35: Tree Warden duties and responsibilities assumed by the Highway Superintendent		No Objection	
Article 36: Combining the office of the Town Collector & Treasurer into a single appointed position.		Recommended	
Article 37: Vote to accept MGL Chpt 41, Sec 97A - Chief of Police Powers & Duties		Recommended	
Article 38: Transfer from Free Cash to Lease Police Cruiser		Recommended	
Article 39: Transfer from Stabilization for the Oakham Center School Roof		Recommended	
Article 40: Authorize borrowing by QRSD for the replacement of the cafeteria atrium skylight and metal panel system.		Not Recommended	
Article 41: General Education Appropriations		Recommended	
	FY2010 BUDGET	FY2011 PROPOSED BUDGET	FY2011 FINCOM RECOMMENDED
Education			
Quabbin Regional School Assessment	1,351,038.00	1,449,089.00	1,351,038.00
Quabbin Regional School Bond Payment	50,318.66	50,206.25	50,206.25
Oakham Center School Roof Bond Payment	-	23,793.76	23,793.76
Vocational School Assessment / Transp.	270,167.00	172,200.00	172,200.00
Sub-Total Education	1,671,523.66	1,695,289.01	1,597,238.01
Grand Total School Article 41:	1,671,523.66	1,695,289.01	1,597,238.01

~ NOTES ~

