

City Finance Committee Minutes

May 21, 2018

City Council Chambers – 5:30 PM

Present: Mayor Bouley, Councilors Todd, Herschlag, Kretovic, Werner, Grady Sexton, Coen, Nyhan, Matson, Keach, and St. Hilaire.

Excused: Councilors Champlin, Shurtleff, Kenison and White-Bouchard.

The Mayor opened the meeting at 5:30 PM and turned the meeting over to City Manager Tom Aspell for his presentation of the FY 2019 proposed budget.

City Manager Aspell delivered his [Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Presentation](#), which provided a broad overview of the proposed budget.

Following the presentation, the Manager proposed the structure for the public hearings going forward and there was consensus from the Mayor and the City Council. The Manager then went on to discuss the Budget Summaries and the General Fund Revenue.

Manager Aspell noted that the total proposed FY 2019 budget for all funds, including Capital, is \$104,272,847.

Manager Aspell indicated that the FY 2019 budget proposes a total of 473.95 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees, which is up from 462.08 FTE's in FY 2018. He noted that this is a net increase of 11.87 FTE's.

Manager Aspell noted that the total General Fund budget is \$65.1 million, an increase of 5.3% or \$3.3 million over the adopted FY 2018 budget.

War service credits are down by \$400 and overlay remains the same for FY 2019, for a total of \$65.6 million. Besides property taxes, all other revenues total \$24.2 million.

The proposed amount to raise in taxes is \$41.5 million, an increase of \$1.9 million over FY 2018.

The anticipated assessed value before any market changes is \$4.055 billion. This includes an estimated \$25 million in new real growth. This results in an estimated City portion of the tax rate of \$10.23, an increase of \$.39 or 3.96% over the current rate.

FY 2019 insurance costs include an increase of 6% or \$593,000 for Beneflex and retiree health costs; a decrease in workers compensation costs of 2.9% or \$15,000; a decrease in property, liability and auto insurance costs of 4.3% or \$22,000; and a decrease in unemployment insurance costs of 33.2% or \$9,000.

General Fund revenues total \$65,074,862. Manager Aspell gave a brief overview of the major revenue drivers.

Property taxes account for \$40,917,610 or 62.9% of all General Fund revenues.

This concluded the City Manager's presentation and the Mayor opened the meeting up for questions.

The Mayor asked the City Manager about ambulance service charges, specifically how much money the City bills and brings in for ambulance services, and who pays for ambulance services when Concord provides those services to other neighboring communities. The City Manager responded that, generally, ambulance service charges are paid for by the patient or their insurance company. However, there are instances where patients cannot afford to pay the bill and the City writes those off. Other communities are billed when Concord provides a paramedic intercept, which is when one of Concord's paramedics assists another community on a call and rides in the other community's ambulance. However, other communities are not billed and do not pay the City for ambulance services Concord provides to them.

The Mayor asked Fire Administration to research and report back with detailed information about ambulance service costs, specifically to quantify the costs Concord incurs in providing ambulance services to other towns; how much is written off each year; and how much is written off for residents of other towns. Fire Administration will bring this information to the next Finance Committee Meeting on Thursday, 5/24, for further discussion.

With no other discussion, the Mayor noted that the next meeting would be on Thursday, May 24th, at 5:30 PM, at which time the General Government, Police, Fire, and General Services budgets would be discussed.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 6:49 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Stevens, Executive Assistant