

Finance Committee Minutes - 5/15/17

Present: John Dale (for Zach Rich), Porter Little, Jim Hamtil, Kiyle Osgood, George Fisher, Hal Shute, Dave Beaumont

Absent: Gary Hoyer

Other:

2017 Budget: Now adopted. 1 cent raise in the local tax rate to \$.28.

Property Tax Breakdown and Charts: Dave distributed a draft version of the insert for the tax bills. Lengthy discussion of the approach ensued. Decision to get away from customized insert for each property and instead bracket the effect for various property value ranges.

2017-2018 School Tax: Dave reviewed the adopted school budget and estimates the average school tax will decline by about \$30 per household in West Amwell.

2018 Budget Savings (\$200K goal):

Hal distributed the outline below of targeted budget reductions in order to bring the 2018 budget into balance.

Emergency Appropriation Legal Costs \$60K

Open Space Tax Reduction \$50K

Open Space Maintenance Costs \$20K

Reduction in Legal Costs \$50K

Employee Health Insurance \$30K

Shared Service tax Assessor \$20K

Police \$100K

Trash/Recycling \$10K-\$25K

Vehicle Maintenance \$10K

DPW Roads Program \$30K

After discussing each item the consensus was that most of the targets were optimistic. Some are probably dead ends. The police goal seemed achievable but the police contract will have a dampening effect. More research and discussion is needed.

Recommendations to TC:

Next meeting: 6/5/17