

On 2020-05-06 17:40

Somewhat disturbing is the increased RHAM Budget.

No school and their budget is up

---our share up 6.9%.

On 2020-05-04 18:15

This will be the first time in probably 20 years or more that I will not be attending our yearly Budget meeting.

I was pleased to see that our mill rate increase is pretty small compared to the 8.48% spending increase we were originally looking at. Now with a million people out of work - especially the service Industry it is hardly the time to put additional tax burden on our Andover property owners. However I am deeply troubled by the publics inability to vote on the RHAM Budget which is filled with pork and athletic spending \$150k to fix the outfield for the Baseball field, \$50k for new furniture. I did see spending reductions but these two item alone are not affordable at this time. Plus the Rham people who were using the athletic services were contributing for many years and now they eliminated that & expect everyone to chip in so Joey can play baseball on the new \$150 outfield and Mary can get new uniforms for the basketball team AND WE DONT GET TO VOTE. NEVER WOULD HAVE THOUGHT IN THE USA MY RIGHT TO VOTE WOULD BE ELIMINATED. Please feel free to forward my sentiments to the Superintendant Law and her cronies . To our Ando BOF and BOS without scanning the budget document I can say thank you for the reductions thus far
Sincerely

On 2020-05-02 15:03

To whom it may concern,

I understand that this year's budget will be particularly difficult with the need to fund many deferred maintenance items from prior years. I imagine this has only been exasperated by the added difficulties resulting from the coronavirus emergency and associated reduction in state revenue. However, being a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission as well as Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission, I have seen how important the increased hours proposed for the Zoning Officer and Wetlands Agent are to efficiently and professionally serving our town's interest and the interests of those members of our community who work with the commissions in the business of developing their property. I strongly recommend continuing to fund the planned increase in hours for our Zoning Officer and Wetlands Agent. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide input.

On 2020-04-12 14:32

Dear administrators,

Residents of our town are struggling, many of whom have seen their businesses forced to close, and many of whom have seen their incomes disappear. The proposals and recommendations for increases in our town budget should not even be matters for consideration. These dire times call for equally dire responses and aggressively focused plans for frugality.

Your administration and handling of our town's budget and its ensuing expenses (outside of educational expenses) have been consistently outstanding for years. You have always met and exceeded my expectations, and have done a marvelous job in keeping our town running very well. At this extremely challenging time, increases to the budget cannot even be deemed possible.

The budget for educational expense increases being regarded as somehow sacrosanct is completely unreasonable and needs to be totally refuted. Basic town expenses need to be given priority as they serve everyone in our community and are essential. Educational expenses should be of secondary importance, as their requirements can be supplemented in many alternative fashions. On-line education, home schooling, and neighborhood cooperation can supplant many of the traditional means we have been utilizing and have long taken for granted. As necessity is the mother of invention, our imagination and ingenuity will find ways to adapt to and overcome shortfalls in the funding of traditional education.

But our town services, such as road maintenance and improvements in other vital infrastructure serving all of our residents, needs to take precedence and needs prioritized funding to secure their utility for everyone. I am already paying \$12K per year in property taxes, 85% of which goes to education, and have never had a child in the educational system. That remaining 15% needs to be protected, and perhaps even bolstered, to safeguard the well-being of all of our residents. I was in operations management for most of my career in a Fortune 100 Company, and constantly had my next year's budget funding reduced. I was not only able to accomplish functioning in that lower-funded environment, but was able to concurrently increase my staff's productivity while still providing a budget surplus at the end of the year. It's long past the time that Andover's BOE and RHAM are expected, and required, to do the same.

I am respectfully submitting this feedback in the firm expectation that you will all be capable of stepping up and meeting these extreme challenges we are all facing.

Sincerely respectful,