

Town of Somers

Proposed Annual Budget 2018-2019

To: Somers Residents,

March 28, 2018

The 2018-2019 fiscal years' proposed budget is \$32,258,577 which represents an overall increase of 0.08% from last year's adopted budget of \$32,232,993. Both the Boards of Selectmen and Education have strived to maintain essential service levels while dealing with significant reductions in town and education aid from the State. These cuts will negatively impact the current level of educational instruction, programs and services to our residents. We are fully experiencing the effects of the State's deep cuts in municipal aid which have shifted their difficult financial burden to the cities and towns. We have demonstrated our resolve to hold the line on our budget growth, but cannot escape the negative effects of these cuts. Even with this essentially flat budget, we find the need to seek a modest tax increase of 0.90 mills. This, in turn, would raise our current mill rate of 26.47 to 27.37 mills. While other towns are also experiencing mill rate increases, Somers still maintains its place among its peers as the town with the lowest mill rate and taxes. It is our desire to maintain a balance between sound fiscal health without negatively impacting our community needs. It is in this light that we feel the proposed 0.90 mill increase is necessary.

With regard to revenues, the Town's Grand List increased by 1.13%, resulting in a slight increase in projected tax revenues. The General Government budget of \$7,469,645 represents a (3.70%) decrease from last year. Overall, Debt Service expenditures have increased by 2.91% and the General Fund contribution to the Capital Improvement Projects fund has not increased. The Board of Education approved a \$22,822,511 budget for a 1.17% increase.

ANNUAL BUDGET

	FY 2017/2018 Adopted Budget	FY 2018/2019 Proposed Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)	% Change
Town Government	\$7,756,421	\$7,469,645	\$(286,776)	(3.70%)
Board of Education	\$22,558,627	\$22,822,511	\$263,884	1.17%
Capital Improvements - Town Funded	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$0	0.00%
Debt Service	\$1,667,945	\$1,716,421	\$48,476	2.91%
TOTAL	\$32,232,993	\$32,258,577	\$25,584	0.08%

REVENUES

	FY 2017/2018 Adopted Budget	FY 2018/2019 Proposed Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)	% Change
Property Taxes	\$21,453,004	\$23,530,333	\$2,077,329	9.68%
State Aid	\$9,180,900	\$7,696,138	\$(1,484,762)	(16.17%)
Use of Fund Balance	\$803,174	\$0	(\$803,174)	(100.00%)
Other Financing Sources	\$795,915	\$1,032,106	\$236,191	29.67%
TOTAL	\$32,232,993	\$32,258,577	\$25,584	0.08%

Somers Board of Finance: James Persano-Chairman, Timothy Geib-Vice Chairman, Thomas Mazzoli, Michael Parker, Joseph Tolisano, and William Salka

See www.somersct.gov for additional Town proposed budget information
 See www.somers.k12.ct.us for additional Board of Education proposed budget information
 Budget is also available at the Town Hall, Library and Senior Center

PLEASE PLAN ON ATTENDING THESE MEETINGS

* * * CAST YOUR VOTE ON THE 2018-2019 BUDGET * * *

- **April 17, 2018 - Public Hearing** **7:00pm** ◀
Somers Elementary School Auditorium
*To Discuss the 2018-2019 Annual Budget and
 Receive Your Comments*
- **May 1, 2018 - Annual Town Meeting** **7:00pm** ◀
Somers Town Hall Auditorium
To Adopt the Annual Budget and Set a Referendum Date
- **May 8, 2018 – Referendum** ◀
Somers Town Hall Auditorium

VOTE on the Annual Budget

**CAST
YOUR VOTE!**