

Town of Somers - Proposed Budget FY 2020-2021

To: Somers Residents,

April 6, 2020

The Fiscal 2020-2021 annual proposed budget is \$34,954,488 which represents an overall increase of 3.56% from last year's adopted budget of \$33,751,417. The budget has been developed by both the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Education with the further review, scrutiny, and approval of the Board of Finance. Estimates for both revenues and expenditures are based on the most current information available. Our goals have always been to keep the Town on sound financial footing; ensure our community is safe; support our schools; maintain our existing facilities and services; and improve the quality of life for all of our residents. We are aware of the difficulties many of us are currently facing and in this light, have chosen to use the General Fund reserves to balance the budget. This, in turn, will result in avoiding any tax increase and keep our current mill rate at 27.37. As always, it has been our desire to continue to maintain a balance between sound fiscal health without negatively impacting our community needs.

With regard to projected revenues, the Town's Grand List increased by 1.16%, resulting in a slight increase in estimated tax revenues. The Town Government portion of the budget of \$8,315,689 represents a 4.36% increase over last year. The Board of Education approved a \$24,689,970 budget for a 3.37% increase. The General Fund contribution to the Capital Projects fund has increased by 20.00% while Debt Service expenditures have not increased. Below is the proposed Annual Budget:

EXPENDITURES

	FY 2019/2020 Adopted Budget	FY 2020/2021 Proposed Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)	% Change
Town Government	\$7,968,451	\$8,315,689	\$347,238	4.36%
Board of Education	\$23,884,137	\$24,689,970	\$805,833	3.37%
Capital Improvements	\$250,000	\$300,000	\$50,000	20.00%
Debt Service	\$1,648,829	\$1,648,829	\$0	0.00%
TOTAL	\$33,751,417	\$34,954,488	\$1,203,071	3.56%

REVENUES

	FY 2019/2020 Adopted Budget	FY 2020/2021 Proposed Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)	% Change
Property Taxes	\$23,827,069	\$24,028,034	\$200,965	0.84%
State Aid	\$8,198,847	\$8,306,768	\$107,921	1.32%
Use of Fund Balance	\$561,381	\$1,185,836	\$624,455	111.24%
Other Financing Sources	\$1,164,120	\$1,433,850	\$269,730	23.17%
TOTAL	\$33,751,417	\$34,954,488	\$1,203,071	3.56%

Board of Finance: James Persano-Chairman, Kathleen Devlin, William Meier III, Michael Parker, William Salka, and Joseph Tolisano

See www.somersct.gov for additional Town proposed budget information and viewing budget meetings
See www.somers.k12.ct.us for additional Board of Education proposed budget information

Please note that Governor Lamont's Executive Order No. 71 suspends the usual budget adoption procedure in town's where the budget is adopted by the Town Meeting. This action does not eliminate the need to hold public hearings. However, it does empower the Board of Selectmen, without holding voting by referendum, to authorize the Board of Finance to adopt a budget for the July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021 fiscal year and to set a mill rate.

On **April 21, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.**, a virtual Public Hearing will be held. There will be a presentation of the budget and you will be able to provide your comments. Details on how to access the Public Hearing from your computer or mobile device will be published in advance. All comments will be considered by both the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen prior to any final actions or votes on the adoption of the annual budget.

May 5, 2020 – The Selectmen vote to authorize the Board of Finance to adopt the annual budget and set a mill rate
May 12, 2020 – The Board of Finance votes to adopt the annual budget for the FY 2021 and sets the mill rate