

Budgets from page 1

\$1,399,524. The total appropriation for 2011 was \$1,477,591.

In 2011 there were pass-through items with their own funding (offsetting funds for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) of \$17,000, and use of capital reserve funds for property revaluation of \$13,440) that reduced the 2011 net appropriation to \$1,460,591. The proposed 2012 budget is less than this 2011 net appropriation by \$61,067 (-4.2%).

One area that is budgeted higher this year than in the previous year is EMS. The appropriation voted for this new service in 2011 was \$42,625. This was offset by a cash transfer of \$17,000 from closing the accounts on the previous Andover Rescue Squad, reducing the net appropriation to \$25,625.

The recommended EMS budget for 2012 is \$31,125, plus a warrant article for \$25,000 to be placed in a capital reserve fund for future ambulance purchase, for a total budget of \$56,125. This is an increase over the net 2011 appropriation by \$30,500.

However, significant revenues are expected to come in to offset this appropriation. In 2011, some \$16,000 of revenue was received, and it is to be expected that a similar or larger amount will be received in 2012.

Other areas that see increased budgets are Town Office (including salaries and benefits) up \$24,850, and Police up \$15,854. These increased costs are more than offset by a reduction in funds budgeted for Highway Department Special Projects by \$147,760.

Andover School Budget

The recommended 2012 budget for the Andover School District, including a warrant article for new flooring, is \$4,351,026. This is higher than the voted appropriation for 2011 of \$4,317,578 by \$33,448 (0.8%).

Increases in Special Education trans-

portation costs and an increase in health and retirement benefits, in addition to salary steps included in the second year of the teachers' contract, were offset by cost savings associated with reductions in student population. Andover's assessment for SAU costs was also reduced..

Andover Fire Departments

Proposed Net Budgets for 2012			
Department	2011 appropriated	2012 proposed	Change
School	\$4,317,578	\$4,351,026	\$33,448
Town	\$1,460,591	\$1,399,524	-\$61,067
Fire			
Andover	\$68,928	\$68,926	-\$2
E. Andover	\$53,507	\$54,193	\$686
County	\$639,961	\$639,961	\$0
TOTAL	\$6,540,565	\$6,407,027	\$141,156

Net budgets exclude pass-through items that don't impact this year's tax rate. Two common examples: the State reimbursing the Town for part of a road project, or the Town buying equipment with funds appropriated in prior years.

The 2012 budget recommendation for the Andover Fire District is \$68,926, and for the East Andover Fire precinct is \$54,193, for a total of \$123,119. The total appropriation for the two fire departments for 2011 was nearly the same at \$122,435.

Estimated Tax Rates

Tax rates get set near the end of the year, in November, when good estimates are available of the amounts of revenues that will be available to help fund the appropriations voted at the annual March meetings. No meaningful estimates can be made of these revenues this early in the year. But the tax impact of an increase or decrease in appropriations can be estimated.

The proposed reduction in spending in 2012 of \$26,935 could result in a reduction in the total Andover tax rate of approximately \$0.10 per thousand dollars of valuation, for a reduction by about \$20 on the tax bill for a property valued at \$200,000.

This does not necessarily mean that the tax rate will go down 10 cents. The changes in revenue available to offset taxes also will contribute toward a rise or drop in the rate when it is calculated in the fall. Nevertheless, the 10 cent decrease produced by the budget cuts will still be there either way it goes.

Run For Town Office In 2012!

By Charlie Darling
Beacon staff

With Town Meeting coming up in March, it's time to think about who's going to fill all the positions in town government that keep the wheels turning smoothly.

The following is a run-down of what offices will be on the ballot in March and what the incumbents may be planning.

Town Officers

Moderator for two years – Edward C. Becker is the incumbent and does not intend to run this year.

Selectman for three years – Jacob B. Johnson is the incumbent and does not intend to run this year.

Town Clerk / Tax Collector for one year – This is to fill the vacancy created by Marj Roy resigning her Town Clerk / Tax Collector post to become Town Administrator. This position will appear again on next year's ballot to fill the position's normal three-year term. See the article on page 6 for details.

Road Agent for two years – Jon Champagne is the incumbent and intends to run this year.

Budget Committee for three years (two positions) – Sharon Darling and Carroll Gautreau are the incumbents. Sharon and Carroll do not intend to run this year.

Library Trustees for three years (two positions) – Diane Rice and Robin Boynton are the incumbents. Diane and Robin do not intend to run this year.

Trustee of the Trust Funds for three years – Janet Moore is the incumbent and does not intend to run this year.

Cemetery Trustees for three years

– Susan Schnare is the incumbent and intends to run this year.

Supervisors of the Checklist for six years – Arthur C. Urie is the incumbent.

Treasurer for two years – Shirley Currier is the incumbent and intends to run this year.

The Town paid positions up for election this year are:

- Selectman – \$1,500 / year
- Town Clerk / Tax Collector – hourly
- Treasurer – \$2,000 / year

School District Officers

School Board for three years (two positions) – Don Gould and Erik Anderson are the incumbents. Don intends to run this year while Erik does not.

Moderator for one year – There is no incumbent in this position

Clerk for one year – Christie Coll is the incumbent and intends to run this year.

Treasurer for one year – Shirley Currier is the incumbent and intends to run this year.

The School District paid positions up for election this year are:

- School Board – \$100 / year
- Moderator – \$60 / annual meeting
- Clerk – hourly
- Treasurer – \$1,000 / year

How To File

Filing to run for office is very easy. There is no longer a filing fee for any position.

The filing period for these positions is 10 days long. It begins on Wednesday, January 25, and ends on Friday, February 3. The filing form can be obtained at the Town Clerk's office in Town Hall during her normal business hours.

Workshop from page 1

help make homes and businesses in targeted New Hampshire cities more comfortable and less expensive to maintain through energy improvements.

Tortorice owns and operates Building Alternatives, Inc., a Franconia company that designs and builds "green" residences. He was named New Hampshire Home Builder of the Year in 2009.

Both are qualified home energy auditors who have worked together to lead Button Up workshops across the state.

The workshop has been arranged by Andover's ad hoc energy working group. For more information about the group or the program, call 735-5135.

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