

OFFICE OF THE SELECT BOARD

MEMORANDUM

TO: Melvin A. Kleckner, Town Administrator
FROM: Melissa Goff, Deputy Town Administrator
RE: FY2021 Budget Amendments
DATE: 10/16/20

Article 1 of the Warrant for the Second 2020 Fall Town Meeting proposes amendments to the FY2021 budget. The article is required to address four outstanding items:

- the final State budget contained higher state aid allocations for Brookline than assumed in the budget approved by Town Meeting;
- Appropriating revenue from the assessment on transportation network companies (TNCs) to fund transportation projects;
- Adjustment to cap on Recreation Revolving Fund due to decreased revenue.
- Adjustment to the Golf Enterprise budget.

ADDITIONAL NET STATE AID

The revised Governor's budget was presented on 10/14/202 and resulted in an additional \$2,931,546 of Net State Aid (without Offsets¹), bringing the total FY2020 Net State Aid (without Offsets) figure to \$15,070,717, an increase of \$33,733 (.2%) over FY2020. The table on the following page shows how the final State budget results in \$76,789 more in Net State Aid (without Offsets):

¹ Offset Aid consists of Library aid which goes directly to the Library, without appropriation. The Library will have \$3,043 less available than in FY20.

	FY20 FINAL CHERRY SHEET	Governor's Budget	June 23 Town Meeting	10/14/2020	10/14/20 vs TM	% CHANGE FROM TM	VARIANCE FROM FY20	% CHANGE FROM FY20
RECEIPTS								
Ch. 70	15,006,787	15,236,227	12,949,515	15,006,787	2,057,272	15.9%	0	0.0%
Unrestricted General Gov't Aid	6,741,760	6,930,529	5,881,015	6,741,760	860,745	14.6%	0	0.0%
Vets Benefits	83,618	66,228	66,228	66,228	0	0.0%	(17,390)	-20.8%
Exemptions	29,174	30,028	30,028	30,028	0	0.0%	854	2.9%
Charter School Reimbursements	1,876	8,519	8,519	5,591	(2,928)	-34.4%	3,715	198.0%
TOTAL RECEIPTS	21,863,215	22,271,531	18,935,305	21,850,394	2,915,089	15.4%	(12,821)	-0.1%
CHARGES								
County	1,042,646	1,068,712	1,068,712	1,068,712	0	0.0%	26,066	2.5%
Air Pollution Dist.	33,397	34,088	34,088	34,088	0	0.0%	691	2.1%
MAPC	31,698	31,837	31,837	31,837	0	0.0%	139	0.4%
RMV Surcharge	235,800	189,020	189,020	189,020	0	0.0%	(46,780)	-19.8%
MBTA	5,364,833	5,315,442	5,315,442	5,315,442	0	0.0%	(49,391)	-0.9%
SPED	19,068	32,598	32,598	33,614	1,016	3.1%	14,546	76.3%
School Choice Sending Tuition	44,863	70,579	70,579	55,430	(15,149)	-21.5%	10,567	23.6%
Charter School Sending Tuition	53,926	53,858	53,858	51,534	(2,324)	-4.3%	(2,392)	-4.4%
TOTAL CHARGES	6,826,231	6,796,134	6,796,134	6,779,677	(16,457)	-0.2%	(46,554)	-0.7%
OFFSETS								
Libraries	89,070	86,027	86,027	86,027	0	0.0%	(3,043)	-3.4%
TOTAL OFFSETS	89,070	86,027	86,027	86,027	0	0.0%	(3,043)	-3.4%
NET LOCAL AID	15,126,054	15,561,424	12,225,198	15,156,744	2,931,546	18.8%	30,690	0.2%
NET LOCAL AID W/O OFFSETS	15,036,984	15,475,397	12,139,171	15,070,717	2,931,546	18.9%	33,733	0.2%
GROSS LOCAL AID	21,952,285	22,357,558	19,021,332	21,936,421	2,915,089	15.3%	(15,864)	-0.1%

The Town Meeting budget appropriated in June assumed a 15% cut in state aid, so level funding of most accounts has provided much needed support to the Town. In addition, we made further adjustments to local receipts that were performing lower than projected in June. The following adjustments were made to local receipts:

REVENUE SOURCE	FY2020 BUDGET	FY20 ACTUAL	FY21 YTD	June 2020 REVISED	November TM REVISED	VARIANCE
Motor Vehicle Excise	6,142,644	6,277,980	428,624	5,952,222	5,952,222	0
Local Option Taxes	3,460,310	5,274,692	0	2,871,748	2,171,748	(700,000)
Licenses and Permits	1,170,775	1,015,703	132,551	952,259	746,500	(205,759)
Parking and Court Fines	3,300,000	2,441,943	177,646	1,650,000	1,650,000	0
General Government	4,564,268	9,120,383	781,211	5,052,033	5,616,318	564,285
Interest Income	974,977	1,732,705	69,702	749,513	749,513	0
In Lieu of Tax Payments	1,010,509	1,590,248	180,005	1,377,647	877,647	(500,000)
Refuse Fees	2,850,000	3,026,916	723,626	3,224,327	3,224,327	0
Departmental and Other	7,646,736	6,743,669	617,024	5,221,860	4,195,550	(1,026,310)
Total	31,120,219	37,224,239	3,110,389	27,051,609	25,183,825	(1,867,784)

The net result is additional revenue of \$1,063,762 available for appropriation. In addition, we are recommending the release of \$1,000,000 of funding that was set aside in the reserve fund until more information on revenue was known. After several meetings with the Town/School Partnership we are recommending that \$1,750,000 be allocated to

the Schools and the remaining \$313,762 be allocated to the Town. The recommendation for the Town appropriation is as follows:

Finance Department: **\$30,000** The racial equity procurement working group has been working on a regional approach to encourage diversity in procurement practices. To support that effort we are planning to do a cooperative RFP for a consultant to assist with a phased approach for data gathering for a Disparity study, which the group believes is a necessary first step in a multi-phased approach.

Planning and Community Development: **\$30,000** Parking requirements are a critical component of our Zoning By-law . The Town seeks to better understand the implications of parking policy and regulations, new approaches to mobility, the existing public and private parking supply in different parts of town, changing life styles and attitudes toward automobiles and climate change policy goals as it relates to onsite parking requirements in our zoning bylaws. Major changes—and even adjustments--to the Town’s approach to the parking supply must be based on technical projections by professionals and, given staff constraints, consulting services are warranted. The results of the study will be incorporated into ongoing Zoning work being conducted by the Planning Department. The Planning Department and the Engineering and Transportation Division of DPW will work closely to develop a scope for this project as well as seek out additional funding sources to supplement the requested budget allocation.

Fire Department: **\$128,762** Given the minimum manning requirements and the desire to maintain existing service levels in the Fire Department this recommendation addresses the current payroll deficit projected for the department.

Building Department: **\$85,000** The February Financial Plan added an inspector position to the Building Department to meeting current workload and anticipated enforcement duties related to the regulation of the short-term rental industry in Brookline as proposed under Articles 9-11 of this Special Town Meeting. In order to support building permit activity and additional enforcement we are recommending funding of this position.

Library: **\$40,000** The Library Trustees have advocated for additional support as they plan to open the building to the public. They have also argued that the current level of funding may jeopardize their state aid because their reduction was disproportionate other reductions made to Town departments.

APPROPRIATION OF RIDE SHARE REVENUE

The Town has received \$245,871.50 in funds from the State assessment on transportation network companies (TNCs), such as Uber and Lyft. One half of the \$0.20 per ride assessment was distributed to the Town and can be appropriated “to address the impact of transportation network services on municipal roads, bridges and other transportation infrastructure or any other public purpose substantially related to the operation of transportation network services in the city or town including, but not limited to, the complete streets program established in [G.L. c. 90I, § 1] and other programs that support alternative modes of transportation.” St. 2016, c. 187, § 8(c)(i).

The attached memo outlines the recommendations voted by the Transportation Board.

Recreation Revolving Fund

I am still working through with the Recreation Department on a potential amendment to the ceiling voted by Town Meeting for the Recreation Revolving Fund. I will provide an update on Tuesday on the recommendation for this fund.

Golf Enterprise Fund

More information on a will be provided on Tuesday on a recommendation for an adjustment needed to in order to undertake more tree removal and to rent equipment for grounds keeping purposes.

A formal vote on Article 1 will be presented to the Board on the scheduled vote date of 10/27/2020.