

**NARRAGANSETT TOWN COUNCIL
BUDGET WORK SESSION
MINUTES APRIL 10, 2017**

At a Budget Work Session of the Town Council of the Town of Narragansett for fiscal year 2017-18 held on Thursday, April 10, 2017 at 7:31 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Present: Susan Cicilline-Buonanno, President

Matthew M. Mannix, President, Pro Tem

Jill A. Lawler, Member

Patrick W. Murray, Member

Michael T. Moretti absent

James M. Manni, Town Manager

Laura Kenyon, Finance Director

Susan Cicilline-Buonanno, President opened the work session to review the budget. President Buonanno asked if there was a consensus from the council to support the Homestead Exemption. She asked if the council was interesting in implementing the exemption or keep the tool in the tool box.

She said the council would need to make a decision on what the percentage would be used. It was noted that it would affect the rate and not the budget.

Laura Kenyon, Finance Director reviewed the cuts in the budget that were made from discussions the previous week totaling \$311,432. She explained that would bring the tax levy to \$50,390,450 and tax revenue would be \$49,750,000.

She explained the homestead exemptions as follows:

10% Homestead Exemption:

\$10.61 real estate, \$15.91 commercial and \$16.46 for motor vehicle

5% Homestead Exemption:

\$10.46 real estate, \$15.69 commercial and \$16.46 for motor vehicle

Councilor Mannix spoke on the long road that the homestead exemption had traveled to be passed and the right thing to do was to use it.

Councilor Murray spoke on how using a 5% homestead would not hurt the non-homesteader as much the first year and then phase in it over the next few years.

He commented that he was for the homestead and only wanted to point it out.

President Buonanno read an email from Councilor Moretti stating that he was Ok with the 10% Homestead Exemption.

Councilor Lawler commented that she was also ok with it but did want to echo what Councilor Murray had stated and she wanted to also help the businesses with some relief. She said it would be a small amount at 5% for a while. She

commented she was looking forward to next year budget season to work on a three tier tax system.

Residents Richard VanGermeersch and Stanley Wojciechowski spoke.

Laura Kenyon, Finance Director reviewed the following cuts to the budget:

\$12,500 Capital Zoning Project

\$10,000 Conservation Tree Board Request

\$20,000 Fire Department

\$3,500 Town Manager's office

\$20,000 Town Solicitor

Laura Kenyon, Finance Director explained that the unassigned fund balance \$2,054,000 for capital projects, tax revenue \$50,054,000, School appropriation \$25,661,983, OPEB \$2.8 Million and Pension Fund \$6.1 Million

Council Mannix spoke on all the tax exemptions available for residents.

The work session meeting adjourns at 7:55 p.m.

ATTEST:



Anne M. Irons, CMC
Council Clerk

MINUTES ACCEPTED AS
PRESENTED 06-05-17



Anne M. Irons, CMC
Council Clerk