

Bristol Town Administrator

From: Treasurer
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 12:29 PM
To: Bristol Town Administrator; Darla Senecal; Ian Albinson; jbouvier@nbmvt.com; Joel Bouvier; Michelle Perlee; Michelle Perlee; Peeker Heffernan
Subject: Budgeting for FY22 (2021-2022)

Good Afternoon,

Ian was in signing the warrants (maybe someone else can swing in so we can take those off the counter) and he and I were discussing different potential options for tackling the budgeting process and what those options might look like. Budgeting is such a time consuming task, and with all the items and things you need to take care of it seems to get pushed out, which turns into 4 hour meetings changing, altering, deleting lines and things from spreadsheets, which makes my eyes go crazy 😊.

My proposal for this upcoming year, to test drive this, is to break the budget down even further than just departments and start sooner. The General Fund budget is huge. Let's look at small chunks of that budget spending 20-30 minutes with a blank section of the portion of the budget in front of you all and you guys filling in the numbers. I'd be present for the discussion so we could talk about history, and Valerie could help remind you of some goals and objectives you'd made throughout the year. Taking smaller chunks of the budget at a time, I'm hoping, would allow for better discussion about plans that you have for the upcoming year, while also make notations about changing it the way you did. Perhaps we are accounting for some grant match from specific lines, or we delayed a project that now NEEDS to be taken care of. If we started this in October, with the idea we could tackle the entire General Fund budget in October and November (4 meetings), then spending the month of December with department heads, fingers crossed, it would put us/you in a really good position come January. Once all of that was done, combine all the work done from October-December then you could look at a fully put together budget to see where we were at and use January to cut and trim out some things

I'd love to have a further conversation, perhaps at the next meeting, about what this would actually look like and give you some examples of what the further broken down pieces would look like. As much as I love to think its still summer, October is coming, sooner than we'd all like to think.

If you have any ideas about helping spread this daunting task over some time I'd love to hear it.

Thank You,

Jen Myers
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