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is your VOICE**



The Pipeline

May, 2018
Volume 22, No. 1

Charlestown Incorporated 1738



All-Day Financial Referendum

June 4, 2018

Charlestown Town Hall

Polls Open 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM

To view the COMPLETE
2018—2019 Proposed Budget:
<http://www.charlestownri.org>
On right hand side of
home page, look under
“News and Information”
and select
“Town Budget 2018—2019”



Proposed FY 2018 - 2019 Budget

Dear Councilors:

Attached for your information and review is the Charlestown Budget Commission’s recommended budget for FY 2019, and its comparison with FY 2018.

This budget recommendation would not be possible without the support and assistance provided to the Commission by many people. We would like to recognize the contributions made by Town Administrator Mark Stankiewicz, Town Treasurer Pat Anderson and the department heads for their diligence and professionalism in the development of the budget. The contributions of Administrative Assistant Michele Voislow and Town Council Liaison Julie Carroccia, completed the budget team. Our thanks to them all.

The recommended Operating Budget for FY 2019 is \$28,484,646, which is an increase of 2.74% or \$760,045 greater than last year’s budget. To fund this 2.74% percent increase, a tax levy increase of \$113,664 or 0.48% is required, based upon current estimates of the Grand List. This would result in an estimated rate of \$9.65 per thousand of valuation, an increase of 6 cents from the former rate of \$9.59.

The Budget Commission recommendation of expenditures for FY 2018-2019 and its comparison with the Prior Fiscal year is presented below:

EXPENDITURES				
	2018	2019	\$ Change	% Change
Chariho School Budget	14,121,237	14,216,622	95,385	0.68%
Department Expenditures	10,231,803	10,439,116	207,313	2.03%
Transfers Out	1,125,050	1,225,225	100,175	8.90%
Debt Service	787,589	766,967	(20,622)	-2.62%
Capital Expenditures	1,458,922	1,836,716	377,794	25.90%
Total Recommended Budget	27,724,601	28,484,646	760,045	2.74%

Continued ...

The proposed Revenue Schedule is based upon the current best estimates of local revenues, and the Governor's proposed State transfers/grants to the Town. The Governor's local funding remains subject to State legislative action and shall be closely monitored.

The recommended Budget Real Estate tax rate is approximately \$9.65 per thousand of real estate valuation. The rate is based upon the estimated Statement of Assessed Valuations by the Town's Assessor. The estimated net assessment value of the Town's grand list is \$2,507,381,396 and remains subject to the Assessor's finalization and certification.

Charlestown's tax rate during the current year is among the lowest in the State of Rhode Island (2nd to 4th lowest, varies by category), and is expected to continue to maintain its favorable tax status with this budget.

The Budget Commission recommendation of revenues for FY 2018-2019 and its comparison with the Prior Fiscal year is presented below:

REVENUES				
	2018	2019	\$ Change	% Change
General Fund Tax Revenue - Current Year	23,813,094	23,926,758	113,664	0.48%
General Fund Tax Revenue - Prior Years	400,000	300,000	(100,000)	-25.00%
Interest	180,000	160,000	(20,000)	-11.11%
In Lieu of Tax	7,699	7,699	-	0.00%
Motor Vehicle Excise Tax	44,097	243,680	199,583	452.60%
State Aid to Education	1,653,819	1,624,182	(29,637)	-1.79%
Other Governmental Revenue	392,061	480,980	88,919	22.68%
Local Revenues	1,183,831	1,241,347	57,516	4.86%
Fund Balance Transfers	-	369,565	369,565	
Road Engineering Transfer		130,435		
Impact Fee Transfers	50,000	-	(50,000)	-100.00%
General Fund Revenues	27,724,601	28,484,646	760,045	2.74%

Budget Commission comments regarding major changes and recommendations for FY 2018-2019

Large Projects:

An increase in expenditures for Capital Projects continues to reflect significant improvements initiated in the Town's physical facilities and roadways. Efforts include improvements to our North/South roadways, replacement of worn storm culverts, expansion of road resurfacing and Park / Recreation facilities.

Public Works:

Old Mill Road renovation: Preliminary engineering is complete, funds for construction are recommended.
\$1,006,740.

Road Resurfacing throughout town.
\$120,000.

Kings Factory Road Box Culvert
\$250,000.

Recreation:

Columbia Heights – Playground improvements
\$24,000.

Wicklund field- basketball court renovation
\$35,000.

Fleet improvements:

This budget provides funding for fleet and vehicle replacements:

Police (One Patrol vehicle & one administrative vehicle)
\$72,002.

Public Works Wing Mower
\$18,000.

Ambulance : Charlestown Ambulance Corps. 5 yr. lease/purchase
\$56,000.

Town Hall:

Emergency Generator Replacement including needed electrical upgrades.
\$175,000.

Noteworthy budgetary comments include:

- 1) Maintenance of the Unassigned Fund Balance in the recommended range of 15-25% of budget to provide emergency funds and liquidity for financial activities of the Town.
- 2) Continued low bonded indebtedness of \$5,085,000 and excellent bond rating AA2.
- 3) No Staffing increases, except summer seasonal recreation staff.
- 4) Last year, the funding of the Burdickville Road reconstruction was approved. The project appears to be stalled due to resident concerns and other issues. If those issues are not resolvable in a reasonable time frame, the budget commission will consider recommending reallocation of funding to projects that are prepared to proceed. However, Burdickville Road reconstruction continues to be a high priority and is in the public's best interest, meeting both the present and future transportation needs of our community.
- 5) Creation of an account to maintain the Naval Memorial in Ninigret Park.

The Budget Commission recommends continued support for transfers to the following funds:

Town Capital Maintenance Fund
\$150,000.

Town Pond and Beach Preservation Fund
\$250,000.

Health Care Post-employment Benefits Fund
\$450,000.

Employee Severance Benefit Fund
\$150,000.

Budget Recommendations for Enterprise Funds:

A. \$204,327 The Charlestown Residential Collection Center recommended budget which includes use of retained earnings in the amount of \$15,952 and a General Fund subsidy of \$25,000 to fund this activity.

B. \$64,581 Recommended Coastal Pond Commission budget to fund operations, including Harbormaster, mooring fields, and navigation aids. The Coastal Pond Commission is funded by mooring fees and also anticipates the use of \$5,716 in retained earnings.

Charlestown Budget Commission

Richard J. Sartor
Chairman



2017 Spring/Summer Parks & Recreation Programs

The Charlestown Parks and Recreation Department is offering the following programs. You may register at the Charlestown Parks and Recreation Department office located in the Town Hall, or online at www.charlestownrec.com/info.

Parks & Recreation Phone Number: 364-1222

Summer Day Camp - Camp is for children ages 5 - 12 and is held at Ninigret Park from June 25th – August 10th. We offer one 5 week session for \$325 (residents) and \$350 (non-residents) and two 1 week extended camp weeks for \$100 (residents) \$125 (non-residents). Field trip are available for an extra fee and are not mandatory.



Summer Counselor-In-Training - Is your child too young for a job, but too old for traditional summer camps? We've got you covered.

Our CIT I Leadership program is designed for children ages 13 - 17 and looking to build a resume for future summer employment. The program will provide leadership experience working with our camp children and participating in certification classes, speakers and getting constant feedback from our experienced CIT I Leadership staff. Participants will get CPR/ First Aid certified, have group discussions about working with children and the community, and go on leadership trips.

Summer Tennis Lessons - Don Fair, Anna Overend, Andrew Ackroyd and Gabrielle Huzyk. Get the racket out of your house and onto the court.

Spring Outdoor Tennis - Ninigret Park Tennis Courts -April May 5-June 30

Saturday Mornings - 8am-9am- Ages: 6-8/9am-10am-Ages: 9-11/10am-11am-Ages: 12-17 Cost: \$95- Instructor: Don Fair - You must pre-register for this program

Summer Session - Instructor: Don Fair Location: Ninigret Park Tennis Courts

Date: July 6th to August 24th Time: Mon, Wed, Fri Fee: \$120/student / 6 - 8 Year Olds - 8:00 am - 9:00 am / 9 - 11 Year Olds 9:00 am - 10:00 am /12-17 Year Olds 10:00 am - 11:00 am



Summer Concerts



Join us on select Sundays at Ninigret Park, New Pavilion (near the playground) from 5 pm - 7 pm for our free summer concerts. We have a variety of local bands from RI and greater New England.

Phil Adams - June 24th - Sponsored by Dr. Stuart V. Demirs - Phil Adams is an a talented, young musician based in Westerly, RI dedicated to developing his musicianship and crafting his own sound in the simple hope of touching people with music in the same way music touches him.

Connor Fisher - July 1st - Connor puts her own twist on cover songs with her powerful voice. She has made a name for herself playing all over RI and is sure to entertain anyone who loves live music.

Bernard John - July 8th - Bernard plays a mix of folk and rock his voice is reminiscent of Americana greats. This show is sure to please the bluegrass, folk or rock fan.

Wild Sun - July 22nd - Sponsored by Arrowhead Dental - A Westerly based rock group Wild Sun stands apart from the noise and imitation with their honest brand of heartfelt rock and roll. In a time when every channel is overloaded with the same old thing,

John Connors and the Irish Express - July 29th -Sponsored by the Charlestown Senior Association - Traditional Irish music will make you think you are resting by the blarney stone.

James DeSalvo - August 12th - Sponsored by Pats Power Equipment - James plays inspired covers and original tunes. James uses his strong and unique vocals coupled with masterful guitar skills to create an atmosphere of pure delight.

Jabbawaukee - August 19th - Sponsored by Charlestown Chamber of Commerce

With their experimentation of psychedelic rock, display of song writing sensibilities and vocal harmonies of Americana, driving elements of blues, explosion of booty shaking funk and execution of lock tight changes, Jabbawaukee has all the qualities that define some of the best progressive / jam bands of all time.

Continued on next page..

Summer Movies – Summer Movies this summer on select Wednesdays at Ninigret Park across from the playground at dusk.

- June 27th - Lego Ninjago
- July 11th - Wonder Woman - Sponsored by Gemelli Bistro
- July 18th - Coco
- July 25th - Avengers Infinity Wars

**MOVIES
for the
FAMILY**

3 on 3 league

Thursdays at the basketball courts in Ninigret Park from 5pm to 7pm we will be running a 3 vs 3 half court league. We will split up the players into teams of 4 or 5 and each team will get two 20 minute half court games. We keep standings and mix in some fundamentals. Please register early because the league is dependent on the number of players registered. **Location:** Ninigret Park Basketball Courts **Dates:** Thursdays - July 12th - August 23rd **Times:** 5pm - 7pm (depending on registrations) **Fee:** \$50 per player



Swimming Lessons -Date: Mon, Wed -(Session 1) 7/9-7/25 and (Session 2) 8/15 – 8/30 **Time:** 9:00 a.m. -10:45 am **Fee:** \$60 per session - 3 - 5 Year Olds 9:00 am - 9:45 am Ages 6 + 10:00 am - 10:45 am. The first class of each new session will meet at 9:00 am to determine levels for weeks to follow.

Columbia Heights Block Party - Come to the block party and enjoy make your own ice cream sundaes, face painter, DJ, Carnival Party games, and much more! **Date:** June 16th **Time:** 12pm - 4pm **Location:** Columbia Heights Park **Fee:** Free Event

Fishing Derby- Come join us for the Annual Capt. Roger Quillen/Capt. Ron Fishing Derby. Set up at Little Nini Pond with your pole and a parent. This is a free event with no pre-registration necessary at the Little Nini Pond at Ninigret Park. This free program is sponsored by Breach-way Bait and Tackle along with the RIDEM Division of Fish and Wildlife. Prizes given!!**Date:** Friday, May 11th **Time:** 5:00 pm - 6:30pm **For:** Ages 3 – 15 **Location:** Little Nini Pond **Fee:** Free Event



Hunter Safety Training Hunter education courses are free and are offered by the RIDEM. We will be running a course this spring with a class capacity of 50 students. Students must attend all 3 days. **Dates:** May 14th, 15th and 16th **Time:** 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm **Location:** Charlestown Police Department Community Room **Fee:** Free

Charlestown Beach Bags in Stock

and available at

Town Hall and at Local Merchants!



The popular market totes have been reordered and will be in for summer.



Charlestown Welcomes New CPD Chief

Michael Paliotta, a 25-year police veteran and long-term member of the community, officially took the role of police chief on March 1, taking the helm from Jeffrey Allen, who announced in early February that he would retire following 5½ years as chief in Charlestown and more than 30 years of service in law enforcement.

"I consider it an honor and a privilege to lead and work alongside some of the finest men and women in law enforcement at the Charlestown Police Department," he said. "I strongly believe that policing is one of the noblest professions a person can undertake. It is truly a calling, not just a job, and I applaud anyone that is currently in policing or is considering pursuing a career in policing."

Paliotta, 49, has long been well known in the community, along with his wife, Heather Paliotta, who has worked for 16 years for the Charlestown Chamber of Commerce, including as executive director for almost nine years. The couple lives in Richmond and has four daughters, three who are grown, as well as three granddaughters.

With the announcement of his promotion, the department was left with no full-time lieutenants, as well as needing to fill two of the department's four sergeant positions. Paliotta will be responsible for revamping his command staff — a 90-day process that he said began nearly two months ago and will be completed within the next 30 days. In addition, the department will be looking to hire two additional officers this year and already has a third new hire in the academy. "It's a lot of change for a small department," Paliotta said.

Paliotta said he also intends to continue pushing the department forward technologically, creating a long-term plan for system upgrades to keep the department at the forefront, as well as handing off and training another officer to take over accreditation responsibilities and other tasks. "My goal will be to balance the costs with the need to keep modern," he said. "It's a balancing act, but a challenge I look forward to."

Tax Collector's News: 4th Quarter Taxes Due

The 4th quarter installment of the 2017 Tax Roll is now due and will be delinquent after June 1st, 2018. Make sure to call for interest figures if your account is past due.

Credit card payments can be made by phone, in person or online. Official Payments Corp. can be accessed by linking through the Town Website www.charlestownri.org or directly @ www.officialpayments.com as well as by phone at 888-272-9829. You will need to know your account number and the jurisdiction code (4902). We have an additional credit card service, RleGov, which requires both an acct# and PIN#. You can pay online at www.RleGovernment.com. You will find your personal PIN# on your tax bill or delinquent notice. Both RleGov and Official Payments charge a convenience fee of approximately 3%. If you need any assistance with paying by credit card, please contact our office at 401-364-1234.

As always, payments will be accepted at the Tax Collector's office. There is a drop box at the building entrance; in case you are unable to pay during normal business hours. If a receipt is requested, please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

We have been utilizing the Lockbox for about a year now and it has been running smoothly. If you want a receipt for your payment, please submit your payment to 4540 South County Trail with a self-addressed stamped envelope. The Lockbox Company cannot post to your account, they can only verify receipt of your check and that is only if there is something included with your payment for them to validate and return. We will continue to utilize the Lockbox for this coming Tax season so please keep an eye out for any information regarding the new Tax Bills. There will be an envelope provided for the 1st Quarter installment with the payment address printed on the Tax Bill for future payments.

We have also been taking advantage of a new program, Automatic Clearing House Withdrawals. If you are interested in signing up for ACH Withdrawals, please contact this office and we can assist you in the process. You can have your payments deducted from your account on an annual/quarterly/monthly/bi-weekly/weekly basis.

Be on the lookout for your 2018 Tax Bill. The 2018 Tax Bills will be printed and mailed by the middle of July. The 1st Quarter is due August 1st and late after September 1st. If your bill is under \$100.00, the entire bill is due in the 1st Quarter.

Thank you and Happy Summer!!!

Status of Water Resource Protection in Charlestown

Town of Charlestown
Office of Onsite Wastewater Management
Spring 2018

The Town of Charlestown is one of only two coastal communities in the state of Rhode Island that relies 100% on local groundwater for drinking water and only utilizes on-site wastewater treatment systems to manage our wastewater, (Little Compton is the other). Given this unique setting, the management of our Town's water resources is extremely important to protect our public health, safety, welfare and our environment.

Charlestown's water resources are harmfully affected by nutrients (mainly Nitrogen), bacteria and other contaminants that originate primarily from septic systems, lawn fertilizers and pesticides, stormwater runoff and wildlife. Studies have shown that up to 80% of the nutrient *Nitrogen* found in the groundwater near our densely developed areas originates from septic systems. Even properly functioning conventional septic systems (tank and leachfield) can discharge Nitrogen into the groundwater at concentrations above the drinking water standards.

Over the past 20 years, the town has implemented programs to manage and protect these fragile water resources. In fact, the Town of Charlestown is well recognized in Rhode Island, southeastern Massachusetts and beyond as a leader in groundwater and surface water protection.

Recently, the Town has obtained \$888,000 in USEPA grant funding to assist with our water protection programs. The funding has thus far enabled the following:

- ◆ Currently funding the upgrade of 15 substandard or failing septic systems in one area of the Green Hill Pond/Eastern Ninigret Pond Watershed that is critically impacted by Nitrogen to "Nitrogen Reducing Technology" septic systems. When installed, these new septic systems will likely remove over 150 pounds of Nitrogen per year from entering the groundwater in this watershed!
- ◆ Provided funding for a University of Rhode Island studies that have developed a new very cost effective way to monitor the efficiency of Nitrogen Reducing Technology septic systems and to help maximize their reduction of nutrients,
- ◆ Soon you may see some new demonstration "rain gardens" being installed with informational kiosks on public places in Charlestown. The rain gardens will illustrate how these beautiful and functional gardens treat stormwater runoff and protect groundwater and surface waters.

Water quality in Allen's Cove of Green Hill Pond has long been significantly impacted by bacteria and nutrients. A stormwater pipe had been discharging stormwater from the area of Charlestown Beach Road directly into Allen's Cove. This stormwater carried with it nutrients, bacteria and other contaminants into this small and environmentally fragile cove. A stormwater management project that has been in planning for many years to clean and manage stormwater entering Allen's Cove from the area of Charlestown Beach Road, Marion Drive, Shore Drive, Nancy Lane, and Traymore, Richard and Kilburn Streets is now proceeding toward construction. A new design will eliminate the "first flush" of stormwater from this area into Allen's Cove that carries with it most of the contaminants. Stormwater will now be directed into an engineered biological filtration swale for treatment before the treated water is discharged into another pre-existing stormwater treatment structure.

These exciting projects will have substantial benefits to our Town's resources and to the health of our community. We look forward to presenting our findings and conducting new projects in the future.



Senior Lunches: Good Food and Good Company!

Join Me For Lunch



Don't know what to do for lunch? Try a delicious lunch at the Charlestown Senior/Community Center. Here's the scoop: Monday through Friday at 12:00 noon a full hot lunch is served, or a cold lunch as an alternative, and of course dessert. All of this for only a \$3.00 suggested donation. It is requested that you reserve your spot at least 2 days in advance by stopping in or by calling the kitchen at 364-6998. Menu options are available by calling or by visiting our website at www.charlestownri.org. Don't pass up this opportunity to have a wonderful meal and meet some really interesting people as well.

THE TOWN HALL PIPELINE

Charlestown Town Hall
4540 South County Trail
Charlestown, RI 02813



Time Sensitive Material

Beach Sticker Fees 2018

Resident Beach Sticker	\$ 50
Resident Senior Citizens (65+)	\$ 25
Non-Resident Beach Sticker	\$100
Non-Resident Senior Citizen (65+)	\$ 50
Cottage Pass	\$400

As of May 1, 2018 seasonal Beach passes are available at the Town Clerk's Office. You may stop in or mail a letter of request to the Town Clerk along with your Charlestown property address, a copy of your vehicle registration, a check made payable to Town of Charlestown and a self addressed stamped envelope.

Daily Entrance Beach Fees

Charlestown Beach	
Weekdays	\$ 20
Weekends/Holidays	\$ 20
Blue Shutters	
Weekdays	\$ 20
Weekends/Holidays	\$ 20

Seasonal Hours of Operation

Mon.–Fri. (non-holidays) 9 AM to 5 PM
Sat., Sun. and Holidays 8 AM to 5 PM



Memorial Day—Labor Day
Lifeguards on Duty
WEATHER PERMITTING



Rhode Island's Bye Bye Mattress is a statewide mattress recycling program, created by a 2013 law and managed by the Mattress Recycling Council. As a participating collection site, we accept mattresses and box springs for free at Charlestown Residential Collection Center (CRCC) located at Sand Hill Road In Charlestown, during the following hours of operation: Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. See CRCC Note at bottom right of this page for CRCC holiday information.

Thanks to this program, the mattresses and box springs we collect are diverted from landfills and used to make other useful products like carpet padding, insulation, filters and mulch. It's also helping our community deter illegal dumping.

To learn more about Rhode Island's program, visit www.byebyemattress.com.

CRCC Reminder

ID Stickers expire annually at the end of the calendar year and must be renewed at Town Hall or by mail with a copy of your registration(s) and a twenty dollar check (made out to CRCC) for each sticker. Please call Alan at (401) 364-1230 weekdays with questions.



A very helpful online resource for questions about how to recycle various items is located at www.rirrc.org. Go to A-Z Recyclopedia.

Town Hall Contact Info

364-1210 Town Administrator
364-1215 Building/Zoning
364-1230 Dept. of Public Works
364-1222 Parks & Recreation
364-1225 Planning
364-1233 Tax Assessor's
364-1234 Tax Collector's
364-1200 Town Clerk
364-1235 Treasurer
364-1212 Police (non-emergency)
364-1076 Public Assistance
364-5030 Wastewater Mgt.



Address:

4540 South County Trail, Charlestown RI 02813

Town Hall Hours: M-F 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Animal Shelter: Call ahead, 364-1211

M-F 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM, Saturday 8:00 AM to Noon

CRCC Hours: M, TH, FRI, SA, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

NOTE: If a holiday falls on a Sunday, it will be observed the next day (Monday). If a holiday falls on a Monday, the CRCC does not open another day to compensate.