



The Pipeline

May, 2020 Volume 24, No. 1

Charlestown Incorporated 1738

All-Day Financial Referendum

June 1, 2020

(see additional information below)

Letter from the Board of Canvassers

Ballot Question

1. "Shall the Town appropriate the FY 2020-2021 budget of \$16,812,318 for municipal services, as adopted by the Charlestown Town Council on May 11, 2020?"

May 12, 2020

Dear Charlestown Voter,

In an effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19, the Town of Charlestown is conducting the 2020 Financial Town Referendum primarily by mail ballot. Voting by mail ballot makes it possible for you to vote without having to go to the polls in person. If you choose not to vote by mail, there will be one polling place open on Monday, June 1, 2020 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Charlestown Elementary School.

Please keep in mind that **your ballot must be received by the Charlestown Board of Canvassers by Monday, June 1, 2020 at 8:00 p.m.** You may return your ballot to the Town Hall by dropping it in the white drop box outside the front door.

Budgetary information can be found on the Town's website, www.charlestownri.org

- The 2020-2021 Budget, as recommended by the Budget Commission
- The 2020-2021 Tentative Budget, as Amended by the Town Council at their April 13, 2020 meeting for the Budget Public Hearing to be held on May 4, 2020
- **The 2020-2021 Budget, as approved by the Town Council at their May 11, 2020 meeting for consideration by the Electors of Charlestown**

Please direct any questions or concerns to the Town Clerk's Office at (401) 364-1200.

Sincerely,

Dale A. Santiago, Chair
Board of Canvassers

To view the COMPLETE 2020—2021 Proposed Budget: <http://www.charlestownri.org>
On right hand side of home page, look under "News and Information" and select "Town Budget FY 2020—2021"

Notice of Proposed Property Tax Rate Change

The Town of Charlestown proposes to increase its property tax levy to \$22,881,620 in the 2020-2021 budget year; the property tax levy this year is \$22,704,759. The FY2020 and FY2021 tax levies have excluded motor vehicle excise tax for the purpose of determining tax levy growth pursuant to current law. This is a proposed increase of .78%.

The Town of Charlestown is currently conducting a revaluation of property, which is mandated by the State of Rhode Island. It is estimated that the proposed increase in the tax levy will result in a property tax rate of \$8.20 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation as compared to the current property tax rate of \$9.23 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

The preliminary FY 2020-2021 motor vehicle levy includes taxes on motor vehicles at an unchanged rate of \$13.08 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, which includes the exemption amount provided by the state's motor vehicle excise tax phase-out legislation up to \$4,000.

The above property tax estimates have been computed in a manner approved by the Rhode Island Department of Revenue

TOWN of CHARLESTOWN Report to Taxpayers on Current and Proposed Budget

	<u>FY 2020</u> Current Town Council Adopted Budget	<u>FY 2021</u> Budget Commission Recommended Budget	<u>FY 2021</u> Town Council Adopted Budget for Referendum
Expenditures:			
Education	13,329,321	13,321,706	13,321,706
General Administration	774,187	824,365	823,115
General Financial Administration	551,986	569,169	569,169
Public Works	1,894,599	1,777,805	1,792,805
Police Protection	2,836,888	2,919,110	2,920,360
Parks & Recreation	718,429	771,488	771,488
Interest on General Debt	128,606	115,325	115,325
Principal on General Debt	535,000	540,000	540,000
Employee Benefits	2,362,129	2,538,611	2,538,611
Capital Improvements	1,020,679	1,880,620	1,840,620
Transfer out	1,727,936	2,839,638	2,460,022
Other	2,183,760	2,440,803	2,440,803
Total	<u>28,063,520</u>	<u>30,538,640</u>	<u>30,134,024</u>
Revenues:			
Local Property Taxes	23,388,112	23,483,259	23,483,259
Local Non- Property Taxes	1,418,442	1,416,900	1,416,900
State	2,290,235	2,088,984	2,088,984
Fund Balance	0	3,381,497	2,976,881
All other	966,731	168,000	168,000
Total	<u>28,063,520</u>	<u>30,538,640</u>	<u>30,134,024</u>

For a complete copy of the budget, please visit the Finance Department page of the Town website at www.charlestownri.org. Paper copies are available for pick up at Charlestown Town Hall, 4540 South County Trail, Charlestown, RI 02813.

Date: May 11, 2020

Virginia Lee, Town Council President

Charlestown Animals in Need of "Forever Homes"

Call 364-1211
to inquire about
either of these
terrific pets!



Holly



Oscar

HOURS
M - F 8:30 am - 4:00 pm
Saturday 8:00 am - noon
Please call first

News from the Tax Collector's Office - 4th Quarter Taxes Due

SPECIAL NOTICE: Given the current economic uncertainty and large number of unemployed, there will be many who will face financial difficulties, including making tax payments. Any taxpayer who finds themselves in these circumstances should immediately contact Tax Collector Jo Anne Santos at the Town Hall to make arrangements for delayed/deferral of taxes. Jo Anne can be reached by email at JSantos@charlestownri.org or telephone at 401-364-1234. The Town will make every effort to work with our residents and taxpayers to find a reasonable accommodation and will not aggressively collect taxes or place properties into foreclosure.

The 2019 4th quarter installment is now due and will be delinquent after June 1st, 2020. Make sure to call for interest figures if your account is past due.

We have been utilizing a Lockbox company for 3 years now. Since they do not post to your account directly, they are unable to provide a receipt. If you would like one, please include your request, along with your payment and a self-addressed stamped envelope to the Town Hall address @ 4540 South County Trail, Charlestown RI 02813. We will continue to utilize the Lockbox for this coming Tax season.

Payments can be made at the Tax Collector's office, in the Town Hall, during normal business hours, 8:30 -4:30, Monday through Friday. There is a drop box at the building entrance; in case you are unable to pay during normal business hours. If a receipt is desired, please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

If you are interested in signing up for ACH Withdrawals, please contact this office and we can assist you in the process. Your payments can be deducted from either your checking or savings account and you can choose from the following options: annual/quarterly/monthly/bi-weekly or weekly.

We do accept Credit card payments by phone, in person or online. Official Payments Corp. can be accessed by the "Quick Links" feature on the Town Website, www.charlestownri.org or directly at www.officialpayments.com as well as by phone at 888-272-9829. Your account number and the jurisdiction code (4902) are required. We have an additional credit card service, RleGov, which requires both an acct# and PIN#. You can pay at the counter, over the phone with the Tax Collector's Department or online at www.RleGovernment.com. You will find your personal PIN# on your tax bill or delinquent notice. RleGov charges a convenience fee of approximately 3%, where Official Payments charges a slightly higher percentage. If you need any assistance with paying by credit card, please contact our office at 401-364-1234.

Be on the lookout for your 2020 Tax Bill. The 2020 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.

THE TOWN HALL PIPELINE

Charlestown Town Hall
4540 South County Trail
Charlestown, RI 02813



Time Sensitive Material

Beach Sticker Fees 2020

Resident Beach Sticker	\$ 50
Resident Senior Citizen	\$ 25
Non-Resident Beach Sticker (Blue Shutters)	\$ 100
Non-Resident Sr. Sticker (65+ Blue Shutters)	\$ 50
Cottage Pass	\$ 425
Daily Parking fee (Weekdays)	\$ 20
Daily Parking fee (Weekends)	\$ 30

As of May 12, 2020 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	\$ 30
Blue Shutters	
Weekdays	\$ 20
Weekends/Holidays	\$ 30

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

Warning 2020 Beach Stickers

Please be warned that sales of beach stickers are final. If you purchase a beach sticker there is no guarantee as to the exact day of opening, hours of operation, required social distancing, sanitation protocol or other factors that may lead to limited access or closure. It is the Town's sincere hope to have the beach and park areas fully open beginning Memorial Day weekend. The current COVID-19 outbreak and the State and Town declared emergency make opening on a certain date very challenging. As of this publication, the Governor has issued 33 Executive Orders ranging from medical protocols & reporting to limitations on public gatherings. The lifting and/or reinstatement of such restrictions can change without advance notice and may impact how we operate our parks and beaches. Please keep these factors in mind before you purchase this year's permit.

CRCC Reminder

Charlestown Residential Collection Center (CRCC) 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 Finance
- 364-1212 Police (non-emergency)**
- 364-1210 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.