



YOUR VOTE COUNTS!



TOWN OF CHARLESTOWN

The Pipeline

May, 2016 Volume 20, No. 1

Charlestown Incorporated 1738

All-Day Financial Referendum

June 6, 2016

Charlestown Town Hall

Polls Open 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM



Proposed FY 2016 - 2017 Budget

To view the **COMPLETE**
2016—2017 Proposed Budget:
<http://www.charlestownri.org>
On right hand side of
home page, look under
“News and Information”
and select
“Town Budget 2016—2017”

The recommended operating budget is \$27,604,068, an increase of 2.39%, or \$643,424 above the 2016 budget. A tax levy increase of \$363,525 is required to fund the budget, based upon current estimates of the Grand List. The proposed budget requires an estimated tax levy increase of 1.08%, at an estimated rate of \$10.22 per thousand of valuation.

The Budget Commission recommendation of expenditures for FY2016-2017 and comparison with the prior fiscal year is presented below:

| EXPENDITURES | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------|
| | 2016 | 2017 | \$ Change | % Change |
| Chariho School Budget | 14,264,152 | 14,111,439 | (152,713) | -1.07% |
| Department Expenditures | 9,784,719 | 9,878,238 | 93,519 | 0.96% |
| Transfers Out | 1,343,950 | 1,195,650 | (148,300) | -11.03% |
| Debt Service | 676,721 | 675,088 | (1,633) | -0.24% |
| Capital Expenditures | 891,102 | 1,743,653 | 852,551 | 95.67% |
| Total Recommended Budget | 26,960,644 | 27,604,068 | 643,424 | 2.39% |

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 proposed local funding remains subject to State legislative action and should be closely monitored.

The recommended budget Real Estate tax rate is approximately \$10.22 per thousand of real estate valuation which will increase the tax levy by approximately 1.08%. The rate is based upon the Assessor's Statement of Assessed Valuations, assessment date December 12, 2015, and estimated net assessment value of \$2,330,151,649. Charlestown's tax rates during the current year are among the lowest in the State of Rhode Island (2nd to 5th lowest, varies by tax category), and will continue that effort in the new fiscal year.

**Sample Ballot:
See page 3**

Continued on next page...

The Budget Commissions recommendation of Revenues for FY 2016-2017 and comparison with the prior fiscal year is presented below:

| REVENUES | | | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------|
| | 2016 | 2017 | \$ Change | % Change |
| General Fund Tax Revenue - Current Year | 23,184,912 | 23,548,437 | 363,525 | 1.57% |
| General Fund Tax Revenue - Prior Years | 400,000 | 400,000 | - | 0.00% |
| Interest | 150,000 | 195,000 | 45,000 | 30.00% |
| In Lieu of Tax | 6,666 | 6,666 | - | 0.00% |
| Motor Vehicle Excise Tax | 42,696 | 42,696 | - | 0.00% |
| State Aid to Education | 1,716,895 | 1,706,432 | (10,463) | -0.61% |
| Other Governmental Revenue | 343,727 | 289,370 | (54,357) | -15.81% |
| Local Revenues | 1,065,748 | 1,090,467 | 24,719 | 2.32% |
| Fund Balance Transfers | - | 275,000 | 275,000 | |
| Impact Fee Transfers | 50,000 | 50,000 | - | 0.00% |
| Total Recommended Revenues | 26,960,644 | 27,604,068 | 643,424 | 2.39% |

Budget commission comments regarding major changes and recommendations for fiscal year 2016-2017.

The most recent Town Audit reports that the Town's unassigned fund balance is at approximately 19% of budget. The recommended level is 15%-25%. Utilizing a conservative approach, the Budget Commission has recommended that \$275,000 of fund balance be utilized to offset the budgeted expenditures in this budget.

Major Capital Projects: (Increased by 96%)

The most significant increase for FY 2017 relates to improvement of our roadways

Public Works:

| | | |
|--|-----------|------------------|
| Burdickville Road (engineered/surveyed last year), is now ready for construction | \$ | 1,040,400 |
| Road resurfacing throughout the Town (increased by \$100,000) | \$ | 250,000 |
| Kings Factory Road (initiate design/engineering) | \$ | 70,000 |
| Road Work Total | \$ | 1,360,400 |

Large projects include:

| | | |
|---|----|---------|
| Police Department vehicle and equipment replacement | \$ | 150,313 |
| Town Hall Emergency Power Generator | \$ | 110,000 |

Noteworthy budgetary recommendations include:

Personnel changes recommended by the Town Administrator and approved by the Commission include three management personnel reclassifications: Geographic Information Systems Manager, Wastewater Manager and the Tax Collector are reclassified by one grade in this recommendation. Each change was examined and justified as appropriate.

The Budget Commission recommends the hiring of a part-time plumbing and mechanical inspector. This budget includes funding of \$13,000 for the position.

The Town Administrator also recommended, and the Commission approves, the reclassification of one part-time position of maintainer in the Public Works Department to a full time position.

This budget recommendation includes continuation of support and changes related to the improvement of Public Works and Recreation Department coordination implemented last fiscal year. As was noted then, the budgets of both Parks and Recreation and Public Works have been modified to move maintenance and operational expenditures to appropriate accounts. This activity will continue in future years as changes are identified and activities coordinated. The Recreation Department budgets, particularly those which rely on temporary summer personnel, have been impacted by "minimum wage" increases mandated by law. There are proposals being discussed at the State level, which may again raise these rates in the future.

The budget commission recommends continued support of:

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Town Capital Maintenance Fund | \$200,000 |
| 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:

\$205,625. - The Charlestown Residential Collection Center (CRCC) recommended budget includes use of retained earnings, in the amount of \$10,250, and a General Fund subsidy of \$25,000 to fund this activity.

\$61,894. - Recommended Coastal Pond Commission budget to fund Commission activities, the Harbormaster, mooring fields and navigation aids. The Harbormaster has boats stationed in both Salt Ponds to improve coverage and services. The Coastal Pond Commission is funded by Mooring Fees.

Charlestown Budget Commission

Sample Ballot

1. öShall the Town appropriate the FY 2016-2017 budget of \$13,491,329 for municipal services, as adopted by the Charlestown Town Council on May 9, 2016?ö

2. PETITION #1

"Shall the Town Treasurer and the President of the Town Council be authorized, pursuant to RIGL §45-12-2, to issue and refund from time to time, bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness in an amount not to exceed \$1,750,000.00 (one million seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars) to finance the acquisition, maintenance and capital projects of two properties, the General Stanton Inn 4115 Old Post Rd, 6.85 acres, AP 13 Lot 1, purchase price \$1,325,000. (one million three hundred twenty five thousand dollars),: and 2.3 acre lot on Old Post Road, AP 13 Lot 5, purchase price \$163,000. (one hundred sixty three thousand dollars),: and Maintenance/capital fund of \$262,000. (two hundred sixty two thousand dollars), or any interest therein alone or in conjunction with Federal agencies, State agencies, land trusts, or preservation organizations or nonprofit organizations, for the acquisition of said listed properties, the terms, details and condition of such bonds, notes or other evidence of indebtedness, to be set by resolution of the Town Council or by the Town Treasurer and the President of the Town Council in the absence of such resolution?"

Explanation: Acquire the General Stanton Inn and one adjacent property for preservation and enhancement of our community village center. It is envisioned that a non-profit citizenø organization would be created to manage, develop and promote community values, uses and activities in the village. Envisioned activities include historic preservation, education, commerce that serves our community, entrepreneurial incubator business space, seasonal events and activities to guide and promote the continued development of Charlestownø central village, while preserving its character.



2016 Spring/Summer Parks & Recreation Programs

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

Parks & Recreation Phone Number: 364-1222

Summer Day Camp at Ninigret Park will run for ages 5 - 12. Registration for this program will begin on May 1st. The fee for residents is \$300 and \$325 for non-residents. The camp runs from June 27 until July 29. There will be extended weeks offered from August 1 - August 5 for \$100. Also, from August 9 - August 12 for a cost of \$100. Trips are at an additional cost. There are daily extended hours from 8:00 am - 9:00 am and 4:00 - 5:00 pm for \$10/hr. per hour. The camp is open rain or shine. No program on July 4th or August 8th.



Summer Counselor-In-Training Leadership Program will be offered for ages 13 - 17. Space in this program is VERY limited. This program will run the same weeks as the summer day camp and the cost is \$300 – for residents and \$325 for non-residents, which will include a trip to Lake Compounce in Bristol, Connecticut the last day. This program will provide leadership experience, including CPR, First Aid certification, trips, speakers, and additional materials and ideas to be used as resources for the youth in their future.

Tennis Lessons will be offered in Ninigret Park. Summer Tennis is from July 6 – August 19: Monday, Wednesday and Friday for \$120. Classes will run 8:00 am - 9:00 am for ages 6 - 8, 9:00 am - 10:00 am for ages 9-11 and 10:00 am - 11:00 am for ages 12-17. There will be a Summer Junior Tournament Play on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:00 am - 10:00 am from July 7- August 18 for ages 12-17. The cost is \$50 for junior travel team. The instructors are Don Fair, Anna Overend, Mike Gilligan, C.J. Widdlefield and Gabrielle Torres.

Summer Swim Lessons at Ninigret Park

There will be swimming lessons offered at Little Nini pond in Ninigret Park. Lessons for ages 3 - 5 will be at 9:00 am - 9:45 am, ages 6 and older 10:00 am – 10:45 am. Classes run on Mondays and Wednesdays. The first class of each new session will meet at 9:00 am to determine levels for the weeks to follow. Session I will be on July 6 - July 20 and Session II from July 25 – August 15 at a cost of \$60 per session. No class August 8th.

Junior Golf Lessons

Offered at Winnapaug Country Club Tuesdays July 15 - July 26 and Wednesdays July 6 - July 27
Fee: \$125.00 (includes four 1 hour lessons, balls, greens fees, water, and a snack).
Instructor: Lou Toscano – USGTF Certified Teaching Professional
E-mail questions to Lou – biglou52@cox.net



Summer Movies (FREE) – Wednesdays, held at dusk in Ninigret Park by the playground
June 29 - Goonies
July 13 – Minions
July 27 – Inside Out – Sponsored by the Hitching Post
August 10 – Everest

Sponsored by the Charlestown Senior Citizen Association, RPE Waste Services, Inc., Charlestown Ambulance Corp.



Summer Concerts (FREE) – Sundays (near playground – in the new pavilion from 5:00 to 7:00 pm)

June 26 – Dylan Jakobsen – Country Rock Artist from Seattle – tours nationally

July 10 – Silverteeth – Alternative Rock – best emerging band in 2015 – Band member from Charlestown

Sponsored by the Charlestown Chamber of Commerce

July 17 – John Connors – Big Draw Irish Band from Rhode Island – best emerging band in 2015

Sponsored by United Builders Supply

July 24 – Adam Ezra – Most versatile and potent rock players anywhere – Band of the year 2013 – New England Music

Awards- Sponsored by Arrowhead Dental Associates

August 14 – Abbey Road – Tribute Beatle Band from Rhode Island –

Sponsored by Pat's Power and the Oceanhouse Marina

Fitness Classes – Drop-in's welcome

Zumba: Monday Evenings, 5:30-6:30pm – Instructor: Gwynne Milar

Strength & Stability: Mon/Wed/Fri -9-10am – Instructor: Jodi Frank

Pilates Strength & Conditioning: Tues/Thurs-5:30-6:30pm – Instructor: Jodi Frank

Tai Chi :Monday Mornings- 10:30am – Instructor: Karen Psimer

Yoga: Monday Evenings: 6:45pm – Deidre Murphy, Community Yoga

Tuesday Mornings: 8:30 am – Sherry Cote, Community Yoga

Thursday Mornings: 9:00am – Ann Blais, Community Yoga

Saturday Mornings: 8:30am – Deidre Murphy, Community Yoga

All classes are \$5/class no pre-registration necessary

Held at the Sr. Community Center in Ninigret Park



Yoga on the Beach – all classes \$10/class

Monday Mornings – 8:00 am at Charlestown Town Beach

June 27, July 11, 18, 25 and August 1, 8, 15

Wednesday Evenings – 6:45 pm at Charlestown Town Beach

June 29, July 6,13,20,27 and August 3, 10, 17

Thursday Evenings – 6:45 pm at Blue Shutters

June 30, July 7, 14, 21, 28 and August 4, 11



This is a basic yoga Vinyasa flow offered to all levels of students, whether beginner or more experienced.

Full Moon Yoga – 7:00 pm \$10/per student

Charlestown Town Beach

Monday, June 20

Tuesday, July 19

Thursday, August 18



Kevin Kidd: Promoted to Sgt.

Congratulations to Kevin Kidd of the Charlestown Police Department who was promoted to Sergeant in February 2016.

Sergeant Kidd began pursuing a law career by attending Roger Williams University where he received a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice, was hired by Charlestown in 1998 and then graduated from the Municipal Police Academy's class of 1999-01. Sergeant Kidd was assigned to the U.S. Marshals Service for approximately 5 years as a Task Force Officer. Through the years he took many courses designed to enhance his career: Field Training Officer, Northwestern University Instructor Development, Reid Technique of Interviewing and Interrogation, Fire Investigation, Criminal Investigation Scientific Evidence I & II, Domestic Violence Train the Trainer, the Cooper Institute for Physical Fitness and First Line Supervisor's Course.

Sergeant Kidd is originally from South Kingstown, but currently lives in Narragansett and has one daughter.



What Do You Know About the Milky Way (no, not the candy)?



Now that spring and summer are upon us, the Milky Way is returning to the skies over Charlestown. It is the time of year when visitors from all over Rhode Island and from many other states visit the Frosty Drew Observatory in Ninigret Park to view the Milky Way.

In the summertime numerous arms of the Milky Way span the sky from horizon to horizon. If you haven't seen the Milky Way, then you are really missing out, as it is certainly a sight to see!

You may wonder why viewing the Milky Way is a spring and summer event. Because the Earth *spins on its axis* (giving us our day), stars appear to change their positions over the course of the night. Because Earth *orbits the Sun* (giving us our year), stars appear to change their positions over the course of the year. All this spinning and orbiting causes the Earth to face towards different parts of the Milky Way galaxy throughout the year. At night in the summer months, the Earth faces towards the bright center of the galaxy.

By June the Milky Way is visible all night long. On a clear and Moon-free Friday night, bring a blanket or reclining chair to Frosty Drew, lie back, and let yourself get lost in a cosmic playground of billions of stars.

Amazing views of the galaxy are only visible away from the bright glow of lights. Since a lighting ordinance was enacted in 2012, businesses planning new lighting or those replacing outdated fixtures have needed to install dark sky compliant lighting. The results have been noticeable.

Charlestown can be proud that its lighting at its Town Hall is an example of what can be done. Do you notice that there is no glare spilling into the sky? This is because the lights are "shielded" so the light is directed downward to where people need it and prevented from spilling upward to where they don't need it.

The lighting ordinance does not apply to residences, but you too can help protect our dark sky. Updating your home's outdoor lighting to dark sky friendly lighting will have a positive impact.

To begin, create a lighting plan as you answer the following questions: Do I really need to illuminate this area? If it needs to be lighted, how often does it need to be illuminated, and how much light is actually required?

Next, start to work on your plan. If it is time to replace your lights, you can buy lights that are shielded. If replacing your lights is not practical, you can install motion detectors on your outdoor lights, which will significantly reduce the time they are on. In addition, you can place shields, which are inexpensive and readily available, on your existing fixtures. Finally, you can help with community awareness by showing your neighbors your new upgrades!

If you want to learn more, you can consult online resources available at the International Dark Sky Association's website (<http://www.darksky.org/>). If you want to get involved in citizen science projects geared around the idea of bringing back the night, you can consult websites like Globe at Night (<http://www.globeatnight.org/>), or visit Frosty Drew Observatory on any clear Friday night to join in the ongoing conversation about our beautiful night sky.

4th Quarter Taxes Due

The 4th quarter installment of the 2015 Tax Roll is now due and will be delinquent after June 1, 2016. Make sure to call for interest figures if your account is delinquent.

We accept credit card payments by phone (1-888-272-9829) or online (www.officialpayments.com) or www.RleGov.com. You can also access by linking through the Town website. You will need to know your account number and the jurisdiction code (4902) or your pin #. Just a reminder, there is a drop box at the Town Hall's entrance door in case you are unable to pay during normal business hours. If a receipt is requested, please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Be on the lookout for your 2016 tax bill. The 2016 Tax bills will be printed and mailed by the middle of July. The 1st quarter is due August 1st and will be late after September 1st.

FIND YOUR FOUR! Comes to Charlestown

UPDATE:
As of press time, only 23
more signatures are needed
for the June 10th deadline!

The Town of Charlestown is pleased to work with Smartpower® and National Grid to assist our residents in lowering their energy costs and potentially getting an energy efficiency grant for our seniors. Residents can now participate through an easy to use website at www.FindYourFour.com. Not only can you reduce energy usage, but also through Rhode Island's Energy Challenge, our Senior/Community Center will become eligible for a \$5,000 grant. The grant is to be used toward the purchase of energy efficient lighting for the Center's parking area. Please join us in achieving the dual goals of lowering your energy usage and getting a grant for our Center.

Mark Stankiewicz
Town Administrator



According to the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, this year Rhode Island is one of the top five in the United States as one of the most energy efficient states.



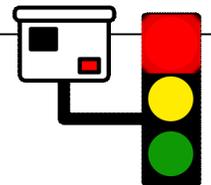
On April 11, 2016 Charlestown passed a Resolution to partner with the Rhode Island Energy Challenge: Find Your Four, which is a state-wide energy efficiency campaign run by the not-for-profit SmartPower and supported by National Grid. The campaign asks each of us to take four actions in our homes to reduce our energy use. We are committed to getting 5% of Charlestown households to sign up at www.FindYourFour.com. With only 300 sign-ups, Charlestown will win a \$5,000 grant, which will be used for new efficient lighting in the Senior Center parking lot.

You may have seen SmartPower folks around town, at the Cross Mills Public Library during the Knitting Group, or at the Charlestown Mini Super. We're asking you to please consider joining the Rhode Island Energy Challenge and participate by taking four simple energy actions in your home so you save money and energy. Here's all you need to join the Challenge:

Visit and sign up at www.FindYourFour.com
Invite 4 friends or neighbors to do the same.

**Remember:
Complete Stop
Right on Red!**

Have YOU seen these signs? Red Light Cameras on Rt. 1 North & 1 South at East & West Beach Roads



You all know not to run a red light, but here are the facts for a Right Turn on Red: Except when a sign is placed prohibiting a right turn on red, vehicles may turn right on a steady red light after the driver has stopped completely and yielded the right-of-way to pedestrians and other vehicles.



§ 31-13-4 Obedience to devices. – The driver of any vehicle shall obey the instructions of any official traffic control device applicable to him or her placed in accordance with the provisions of chapters 12 – 27 of this title, unless otherwise directed by a traffic or police officer, subject to the exceptions granted the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle in those chapters. Violations of this section are subject to fines enumerated in § 31-41.1-4.

§ 31-20-9 Obedience to stop signs. – Every driver of a vehicle approaching a stop sign shall stop before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection. In the event there is no crosswalk, the driver shall stop at a clearly marked stop line, but if none, then at the point nearest the intersecting highway where the driver has a view of approaching traffic on the intersecting highway before entering the intersection, except when directed to proceed by a police officer or traffic control signal. Violations of this section are subject to fines enumerated in § 31-41.1-4.

Beach Sticker Fees 2016

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| Resident Beach Sticker | \$ 50 |
| Resident Senior Citizens | \$ 25 |
| Non-Resident Beach Sticker | \$100 |
| Non-Resident Senior Citizen | \$ 50 |
| Cottage Pass | \$400 |

As of May 1, 2016 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



Lifeguards on Duty WEATHER PERMITTING

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



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.byebymattress.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's
364-1235 Treasurer
364-1212 Police (non-emergency)
346-1076 Public Assistance
364-5030 Wastewater Mgt.

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.

THE TOWN HALL PIPELINE

Charlestown Town Hall
4540 South County Trail
Charlestown, RI 02813



Time Sensitive Material