

Public Forums Re. Budget FY24: Q&A, Comment
Aggregate Comments from July 27th and August 4th

Scribe: Facilitator Jennifer Knauer, Jennifer Knauer LLC. Submitted to Town Manager on August 4, 2022.

- Services & General Notes (A-C, pages 1-2)
- Capital Funds (D-O, pages 2-5)
- ARPA General Notes (page 6)

SERVICES (A-C)

Discussion Prompts	What services are crucial? Why / rationale?	What services would you adjust or could you live without? Why / rationale? <i>(Note –may not need to be an all-or-nothing calculation.)</i>	What services <i>could</i> you live without but are really important to the community’s well-being? How so?
A	Services that bring in revenue (or have the potential to bring in revenue). Explore ways to increase revenue from these sources where appropriate.		
B	Raise fees on a sliding scale where possible (more equitable)		
C	Senior Bus	Look at CCTA Transit System / Alternatives (ie microbus system)	

General Notes Offered By Participants During Discussion About Services

Noted During Discussion on 7/27:

- How to reach more of the community for these conversations? What could the Town do to increase various ways of outreach / info / engagement? (I.e. families under-represented)

Noted During Discussion on 8/4:

- We need to be very intentional about outreach and feedback from under-represented people (people for whom public meetings and surveys do not work).
- Consider different times that would work for families (i.e. at least one on the weekend, or staff go to different places in the town to make it easy for people to walk to / adjacent to other activities)
- Comment re. survey structure / results: is it possible to have groups of numbers – is there more consistency when look at top options? (short answer, yes) Observation: sometimes difficult to be boxed in by how survey defines options.

CAPITAL NEEDS (D-O)

Discussion Prompts	What would you be willing to pay for, if it meant paying more? Why / rationale?	What would you be cautious about paying for? Why / rationale?	Notes
D		<p>Significantly cautious about new costs. Wondering about what existing home owners can sustain for their taxes, AND the impact for incoming residents. Tough to attract new people to the community when tax rates are high.</p>	<p>Worried about hidden continuing costs beyond initial investment(s)</p>

<p>E</p>	<p>A <i>shift</i> towards a consolidated building complex.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A consolidated building complex may require significant time / energy / expense that seems out of reach now, but... • ...could initially invest in a long term master plan in order to work towards a consolidated building complex in phases (i.e. how to handle individual buildings – how to transition from individual to consolidated) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cautious about a huge investment in the near term (just the land / site is particularly important and expensive) • Worried about spending money wastefully (ie. Police Situation Paving was cited). How to respond to this / prevent similar mistakes going forward? • Cautious about a big investment in this until we are more settled into this decision / situation (as a Town) 	<p>Municipal Buildings (ie. “master campus”) – want to be sure that it is part of a wider, systemic, sustainable plan.</p>
<p>F</p>	<p>Replacement of buildings (municipal complex)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Here’s why: We have a rare opportunity to leverage federal funds for particular components of this initiative....currently running into limitations with efficiencies in current buildings – shift to net zero in newer complex / buildings 		<p>Perhaps utilize sale of other buildings towards a consolidation?</p>
<p>G</p>	<p>Town Office Building / Command Center – former Sogoloff Property? Rationale: check to see if thinking has changed since last town center plans.</p>		<p>Note: different needs for programming / parking / warehouse & storage space</p>

H	<p>Library Building Repairs (or as part of complex). Space and upkeep is needed! (however noted that this building may not be feasible in long run where currently situated). Rationale: town's only library.</p>		
I	<p>Update Pool / Community Center (beneficial in attracting younger families and adding to tax base)</p>		
J		<p>Alternative fuel vehicles. Are there opportunities for alternative fuel vehicles? Consider carefully. May be better off going after these purchases over long term – not FY24</p>	
K	<p>Infrastructure Up To Date: particularly Water. There is one time \$\$ to be used to achieve a critical objective / goal / update places of concern. Rationale: don't want to be in a position of playing catch up, paying costly urgent clean up</p>		
L	<p>Assess imminent needs (ie. road repairs)</p>		

<p>M</p>	<p>Strategies to leverage current capital fund projects for climate change action</p> <p>Example - Indian Brook Reservoir – Level Control for dam. Rationale: because hopefully this saves the costs of clean up / damage</p>		
<p>N</p>	<p>Has Town considered building a solar farm?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considerations: ways to put old landfill to good use? • Ways to increase solar energy? 		
<p>O</p>	<p>Purchase of Land.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rationale: This gives the municipality options when it comes to addressing climate change impacts and protecting agricultural and water resources for the future. • Can we bring in expertise in planning 10-20 years out? 		

ARPA Notes / Comments:

1. Is there any effort to align ARPA funding, State Funding, Fed Funding? (Ex. infrastructure bill that passed, funding for housing, opioid settlement) **Can we crosswalk these options and leverage multiple funding sources to offload and offset these expenses?** (for prevention programming, for example?)
2. Solar infrastructure?
3. Resource initiatives to address invasive pests damaging trees and forest land.
4. Tree Farm on town owned land. (grow a variety of trees, use of green belts or explore agreements with property owners)
5. Like the idea of doing something significant – a sustainable project vs splintering among many different projects.
6. Support childcare initiatives; support of families