



Town of Wenham

Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator Memorandum

TO: Board of Selectmen
FROM: Anthony M. Ansaldi, Jr., Town Administrator
DATE: November 26, 2019
RE: Town Administrator Report

I hope everybody had wonderful Thanksgiving and had the opportunity to share time with friends and family. On Saturday, November 30th, my wife and I had the pleasure of taking advantage of the Shop Local Hamilton-Wenham Holiday Festival, which is part of the National Small Business Saturday. It was truly a wonderful event, with treats, beverages and even Santa caroling, as we took advantage of what our local businesses had to offer.

It is not only the holiday season that is upon us but the budget season as well. We have started the FY21 budget development by meeting with Department Heads/Committees to go over their capital and operating requests. As discussed in previous TA reports, our early financial forecast finds us with a structural deficit of approximately one million dollars, so difficult decisions will need to be made to be able to present a balance budget at the Annual Town Meeting. With the intent of having a more transparent and engaging budget process, this years "Super Saturday" budget review, on Saturday, December 7th, will be televised by HWCAM. This is a great opportunity for the community to follow along and hear the same message that the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee receive.

Public Works

The DPW is just over the half way point for loose leaf collection. Residents can follow along on daily updates by visiting the Town's website, Facebook, Instagram or Twitter accounts. They have also expanded their operation in the parks and cemeteries. They have also completed our Holiday decorations on the outside of Town Hall. They also continue getting our snow and ice fighting equipment into working order to combat whatever Mother Nature brings their way.

Assessor

On November 19th, the Board of Selectmen voted adopt a Tax Factor of One for the Town of Wenham for Fiscal Year 2020. Assuming the Department of Revenue certifies our tax rate at \$18.94, the median change is in increase of approximately \$50 per month. On December 2nd, we will be meeting with a representative from Patriot Properties to explore moving our assessing database to their platform.

Wenham Tax Rate History

Fiscal Year	Average Assessed Value	Median Assessed Value	Tax Rate	Tax Rate % Change	Average Tax Bill	Average \$ Change from Prior Year	Average % Change from Prior Year	Median Tax Bill	Median \$ Change from Prior Year	Median % Change from Prior Year	Enrollement % Change from Prior Year (3 Yr. Avg.)
2003	\$ 541,800.00	\$475,000.00	\$ 11.03	-5.1%	\$ 5,976.05			\$ 5,239.25			
2004	\$ 536,600.00	\$474,800.00	\$ 11.59	5.1%	\$ 6,219.19	\$ 243.14	3.9%	\$ 5,502.93	\$ 263.68	4.8%	0.6%
2005	\$ 580,800.00	\$502,700.00	\$ 11.91	2.8%	\$ 6,917.33	\$ 698.13	10.1%	\$ 5,987.16	\$ 484.23	8.1%	0.4%
2006	\$ 633,900.00	\$543,900.00	\$ 11.20	-6.0%	\$ 7,099.68	\$ 182.35	2.6%	\$ 6,091.68	\$ 104.52	1.7%	0.2%
2007	\$ 652,400.00	\$546,700.00	\$ 11.67	4.2%	\$ 7,613.51	\$ 513.83	6.7%	\$ 6,379.99	\$ 288.31	4.5%	0.3%
2008	\$ 652,400.00	\$544,200.00	\$ 12.92	10.7%	\$ 8,429.01	\$ 815.50	9.7%	\$ 7,031.06	\$ 651.08	9.3%	0.3%
2009	\$ 654,300.00	\$551,900.00	\$ 13.71	6.1%	\$ 8,970.45	\$ 541.45	6.0%	\$ 7,566.55	\$ 535.49	7.1%	0.3%
2010	\$ 591,600.00	\$503,700.00	\$ 15.56	13.5%	\$ 9,205.30	\$ 234.84	2.6%	\$ 7,837.57	\$ 271.02	3.5%	0.5%
2011	\$ 536,100.00	\$467,600.00	\$ 17.17	10.3%	\$ 9,204.84	\$ (0.46)	0.0%	\$ 8,028.69	\$ 191.12	2.4%	0.4%
2012	\$ 536,100.00	\$467,500.00	\$ 17.89	4.2%	\$ 9,590.83	\$ 385.99	4.0%	\$ 8,363.58	\$ 334.88	4.0%	-0.2%
2013	\$ 504,100.00	\$447,700.00	\$ 18.48	3.3%	\$ 9,315.77	\$ (275.06)	-3.0%	\$ 8,273.50	\$ (90.08)	-1.1%	-0.7%
2014	\$ 504,400.00	\$445,300.00	\$ 18.88	2.2%	\$ 9,523.07	\$ 207.30	2.2%	\$ 8,407.26	\$ 133.77	1.6%	-0.8%
2015	\$ 607,000.00	\$515,600.00	\$ 16.25	-13.9%	\$ 9,863.75	\$ 340.68	3.5%	\$ 8,378.50	\$ (28.76)	-0.3%	0.1%
2016	\$ 597,600.00	\$509,700.00	\$ 16.98	4.5%	\$10,147.25	\$ 283.50	2.8%	\$ 8,654.71	\$ 276.21	3.2%	0.9%
2017	\$ 596,999.00	\$509,550.00	\$ 18.33	8.0%	\$10,942.99	\$ 795.74	7.3%	\$ 9,340.05	\$ 685.35	7.3%	1.4%
2018	\$ 596,999.00	\$509,550.00	\$ 18.79	2.5%	\$11,217.61	\$ 274.62	2.4%	\$ 9,574.44	\$ 234.39	2.4%	1.2%
2019	\$ 669,692.00	\$571,400.00	\$ 18.02	-4.1%	\$12,067.85	\$ 850.24	7.0%	\$ 10,296.63	\$ 722.18	7.0%	1.2%
2020	\$ 671,478.00	\$575,700.00	\$ 18.94	5%	\$12,717.79	\$ 649.94	5.1%	\$ 10,903.76	\$ 607.13	5.6%	1.2%

Police Department

Officers returned from Supervisor School and the Mass Accreditation Conference last week. All reported the training and exposure was very beneficial to enhancing Departmental training as well as keeping our policies, procedures and best practices current with real time assessments.

Fire Department

Unfortunately, the Fire Department reports that they have seen an increase in their call volume for alarms and medical calls. They want to remind the community that they are participating in the Public Safety Toys for Tots toy drive on Saturday December 7th from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Donations of new unwrapped toys can be dropped off at either the Police or Fire Stations. The Fire Department will also be donating their time at the Wreaths Across America event on Saturday, December 14th at 12:00 PM.

Town Clerk

New England Clerk Conference was one of the best. Sessions on communication leading to understanding as well as information on making life more bearable for those with disabilities. End of year preparations are under way: Census 2020 and dog registration, notification to elected officials with expiring terms and campaign finance information. FYI - 66 public records requests have come in since January 2019.

Recreation

Both electronic and hard copy versions of the Winter Program Brochure are now available, with over 75 programs are being offered. Winter Programs are set to begin after the new year. We will begin planning for the summer (camp and pool) when we return from Thanksgiving Break.