

Monthly Financial Summary

January 10:

As Finance Chair for this year, I have begun to work with the town manager discussing the foundation of the municipal budget for Fiscal Year 2012.

The manager plans to submit to the Town Council a municipal budget that will increase the municipal portion of the tax rate by 1.5%. This translates to \$6 per \$100,000 of value on a home. Put another way, for a home in town valued at \$300,000 the municipal budget will add \$18 to their tax bill next year. This would be the first increase after small declines in each of the last two years.

Total projected expenditure for 2012 is \$8,880,334 which translates to \$340,647 additional spending over the current year, allowing approximately 2% increases in both full-time and part-time payroll and some much-needed building repairs and equipment replacement.

Notably, at Ft. Williams the annual maintenance budget will increase by \$80,000 over the current year, bringing it to \$100,000 allocated for next fiscal year in upkeep, maintenance and repairs. With any luck, private fundraising will come close to matching these dollars so we can begin to address the many ongoing capital needs that received some attention last fall.

On a related note, we are at the half-way point in the fiscal year and are in excellent financial shape. Revenues continue to decline, especially investment income, which is at \$25,000 rather than the \$81,000 budgeted. Nonetheless, projections out to June shows revenues will be at 100.3% of budgeted revenues, thanks to the manager's fiscal expertise and prudent planning.

Interestingly, state revenue sharing has declined each year since 2008 to a drop of 10.6% and excise tax income has declined each year since 2006 for a cumulative drop of 12%.

Closing on a bright note: for the first time ever more than half the taxes have been paid at the six month mark in the fiscal year; it stands at 50.3% as of January 1st.