
City of South Burlington

FY 2013 Budget As Approved by City Council and Keys to Financial Success

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Key Elements of FY 2013 Budgets

- General Fund expenditures are \$18,970,660, an increase of \$1,300,108, or 7.36%.
- General Fund non-property tax revenues to increase by \$840,895, or 12.15%.
- Property tax rate estimated to be \$0.4036, an increase (2.1 cents), or 5.49%.
- Special Funds (200, 300 and 600) continue to be consolidated into the General Fund. Special Funds budget expenditure is \$790,284, a \$169,594 decrease from FY 2012.

Key Elements Of FY 2013 Budgets

- The Water Fund budget is \$2,370,308, an increase of \$32,873. Water user fees are proposed to increase 2.8%.
- The Water Pollution Control Fund budget is \$2,668,971. This is a decrease of \$38,439 or -1.42% from the current year's budget. To continue to build reserves, a rate increase of 1.5% is proposed - lower than the FY 2012 estimate of a 3% increase.
- The Stormwater Fund budget is \$3,621,856, an increase of \$1,884,238 which is offset by \$1,786,114 in additional revenues. No rate increase is proposed for FY 2013.

Understanding the General Fund

- General Fund - Property Taxes to be raised
Over the FY 2012 amount - \$709,215

Some FY 2013 Increased GF Expenditures:

■ Capital Improvement Program	\$190,000
■ Undesignated Reserve Fund	\$ 50,000
■ Increase in Contingency Fund	\$178,875
■ Sick Leave Reserve Fund	\$ 99,600
■ Other entity payments	\$ 44,000
■ Increased library staffing	\$ 70,000
■ Pension Fund administration	\$ 56,000
Total	\$688,475

How Does the FY 2013 General Fund Budget Benefit City Taxpayers?

- Added Library Staffing resulting in increased library hours and services.
- Restoring a staff position to Highway (cut in FY 11) allows for better service to citizens.
- Capital Improvement Program Reserve Fund of \$190,000 designates needed money for City Center, etc.
- New Undesignated Reserve Fund of \$50,000 meets Auditor's recommendation for "rainy day" safety net.
- Increase in "contingency fund" pays for unexpected but necessary expenses we are still discovering.
- New Sick Leave Reserve Fund starts to pay for long-term liability which is currently unfunded.

How Does the FY 2013 General Fund Budget Benefit City Taxpayers? Continued

- A three-year, phased, technology upgrade will bring City into the 21st Century.
- Putting \$100,000 in the pension funds above the actuary's recommendation creates long-term financial stability.
- 5-year Recreation Capital Plan funded by about \$32,851 per year meets the long-term needs of program participants.
- No increase in borrowing or debt service.
- Vehicle and other capital items funded via 5-year plan creates sustainability through cost consistency and saves money.
- Paving dramatically increased - cost offset by grants.
- Financial difficulties continue to be overcome.

Estimated City Taxes and Utilities Based on Fiscal Year 2013 Budgets

- City Tax rate estimated as 2.1 cent increase, from \$0.3826 to \$0.4036
 - For condo at \$224,000 is an increase of \$47.04 annually.
 - For primary residence at \$322,000 is a \$67.62 annual increase.
 - Each \$100,000 in assessed valuation yields a \$21.00 increase.
- Water rate proposed increase = \$6.43 annually.
- No Stormwater proposed increase = \$0 annually.
- Wastewater proposed increase = \$5.36 annually.
- Total Estimated City Tax and Utility Increase
 - Condo, \$224,000 = \$58.83 annually, \$4.90 monthly.
 - Single Family Detached, \$322,000 = \$79.41, \$6.62 monthly.

Increases In FY 2013 General Fund Non-Property Tax Revenue

- The City continues to increase ways to raise money other than through property taxes:
 - \$ 75,000 - Fire Inspector net of expenses.
 - \$ 90,000 – Highway impact fee funding Route 2.
 - \$134,520 – Highway Paving Grant.
 - \$ 8,380 – Asset Forfeiture Police training.
 - \$136,000 – Fire Impact fee funding new truck.
 - \$ 17,700 – FY 2012 Planning/Zoning fee increase.
 - \$ 41,640 – Administrative Service charge to other funds.
 - \$ 9,000 – Renting out vacant office space Police Station.

- **\$392,240 - Total**

So, What Do I Get for My Money?

- Fire
- Rescue
- Police
- Highway (road, street & sidewalk plowing)
- Library
- Parks and Recreation
- Planning and Zoning
- City Clerk (licenses, elections)
- Water, Wastewater and Stormwater

Ballot Items

- **Article I – Election of Officers**
- **Article II – Approval of City Budget**
 - ❖ FY2013 Total Budget \$28,422,079
 - ❖ FY2013 Raised by Property Taxes \$11,210,483
- **Article III – Petitioned Article – Advisory Item**
 - ❖ In light of the United States Supreme Court's *Citizens United* decision that equates money with speech and gives corporations rights constitutionally intended for natural persons, shall the city of South Burlington vote on March 6, 2012 (town meeting date) to urge the Vermont Congressional Delegation and the U.S. Congress to propose a U.S. Constitutional amendment for the States' consideration which provides that money is not speech, and that corporations are not persons under the U.S. Constitution, that the General Assembly of the State of Vermont pass a similar resolution, and that the town send its resolution to Vermont State and Federal representatives within thirty days of passage of this measure?

Town Meeting Information

- **Monday, March 5th – Public Hearing/Pre-Town Meeting**
 - ❖ F.H. Tuttle Middle School, 500 Dorset Street.
 - ❖ 5 to 6:30 p.m. – PACT community dinner or pot luck (details to be determined).
 - ❖ 7 p.m. – Public Hearing on City and School District Budgets and discussion of Town Meeting ballot .
- **Monday, March 5th – Candidates' Forum**
 - ❖ Immediately following the Public Hearing and discussion.
- **Tuesday, March 6st – Town Meeting Day Vote**

The following polling places are open 7a.m. to 7p.m.

 - ❖ 3-7 Orchard School, Baldwin Ave
 - ❖ 3-8/10 F.H. Tuttle Middle School, Dorset Street
 - ❖ 3-9 Chamberlain School, White Street

Absentee Ballots are available until 4:30 p.m., March 5th, in the Clerk's Office at 575 Dorset Street, or call 846-4105.

City Council Approves FY 2013 Budget and asks for Voter Support

- On January 18th City Council voted unanimously to send this budget to the voters.
- On January 30th Governor Shumlin signed H. 493 into law, meaning our Charter has been amended, so voters will now vote on the City and School budgets until each passes.
- City Council encourages the citizens of South Burlington to support this budget as a responsible approach to our long term financial health.