



Town of Mansfield

6 Park Row, Mansfield, Massachusetts 02048

Town Manager

Kevin J. Dumas

January 1, 2021

To the Mansfield Select Board, Finance Committee, and the Citizens of Mansfield, I bid you welcome:

I am proud to present to you the Town of Mansfield's proposed Fiscal Year 2022 budget and this accompanying budget message. The Mansfield Town Charter states that ***"The Town Manager, no later than the first Monday in January of each year, shall submit to the Select Board and Finance Committee a proposed budget and a proposed capital improvement program for the ensuing fiscal year with an accompanying budget message and supporting documents"***. Thus, I have complied with the Town Charter's mandate. With that said, please know that there is much work to be done before a revised final budget is resubmitted to you for consideration later in 2021.

As currently presented, the Fiscal Year 2022 General Fund Budget totals \$108,128,485.73 and contains a shortfall of approximately \$4.842 million. The amounts contained herein are the requested budgets from the Town's department heads. However, it is important to note that this draft budget is largely burdened with School related COVID-19 education impacts and the loss of revolving fund revenue in addition to general cost increases in other Town departments and the assumption of level funded aid in all areas (State Aid & Local Receipts). Beginning today, and over the course of the next few months, I will be reviewing each department's proposed spending plan with our staff and working with our Budget Subcommittee. As soon as a balanced budget is achieved, I will submit a second Town Manager's Budget Message that will more thoroughly discuss the assumptions that I have made and the challenges that the Town faces in Fiscal Year 2022. At that time, I will also update the Town's website and ask for your budget binders to be returned so that they may be updated with the final balanced budget documents.

As you are aware, the budget process is a time-consuming all-inclusive process that considers all of the Town's stakeholders. The goal is to fashion the best budget possible given Mansfield's fiscal constraints. I look forward to working with the Select Board, Finance Committee, School Committee, department heads, and concerned citizens to ensure that the Town's best interests are expressed in the Fiscal Year 2022 budget presented for approval at the May Annual Town Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin J. Dumas,
Town Manager