

**PORTSMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 23, 2016 (Saturday)
AGENDA**

**SHOULD THIS MEETING NEED TO BE CANCELED DUE TO INCLEMENT
WEATHER THE MEETING WILL BE RE-SCHEDULED TO
JANUARY 25, 2016 AT 6:00 PM
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, TOWN HALL, 2200 EAST MAIN ROAD**

8:00 AM - PORTSMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY, 120 EDUCATION LANE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SITTING AS THE PORTSMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

NEW BUSINESS

1. Joint Town Council/School Committee Budget Discussion
 - a. Presentation/Discussion - Budget Strategy And Planning
Documents: [Presentation.pdf](#)
2. Discussion/Action - Legislative Priorities For 2016
Documents: [2016 Legislative Priorities.pdf](#)

FUTURE MEETINGS

January 25 6:00 PM - Town Council/School Committee Budget Strategy and Planning Meeting (If Needed)
January 25 7:00 PM - Town Council Meeting
February 8 7:00 PM - Town Council Meeting
February 22 7:00 PM - Town Council Meeting

ADJOURN

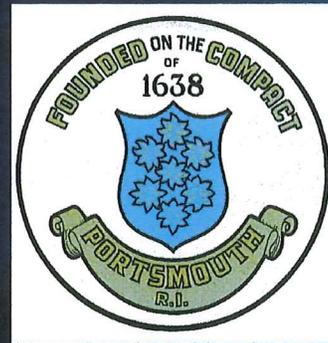
The public is welcome to any meeting of the Town's boards or its committees. If communication assistance (readers/interpreters/captions) is needed or any other accommodation to ensure equal participation, please contact the Town Clerk's Office at 683-2101 at least (3) business days prior to the meeting.

POSTED 1/20/16

Portsmouth, RI

Joint Town Council & School Committee Meeting

JANUARY 23, 2015



Challenges Ahead

- Infrastructure
 - School
 - Town
- Revenue
 - Tax Levy
 - School Funding Formula
- Expenditures
 - Benefits
 - Litigation
 - Debt Service
- Technology
- Staffing



Infrastructure

Municipal

Town Hall

Public Safety

Public Works

Recreation

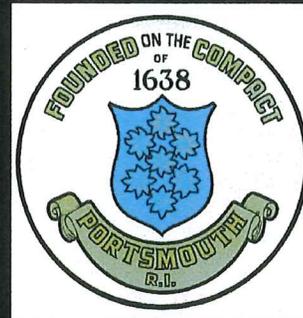
School

School Buildings

Administration Building

5 Year Capital Plan

Housing Aid Reimbursement



Infrastructure: Town Hall



Built: 1895 (addition 1991)
15,400 Square Feet
Staff: 29
Parking Spaces 39

Issues:

- Increasing staff size
- Increase need of space for equipment
- Inefficient use of space
- Systems (phone, wiring) need updating

Solution:

- Space needs and use study
- Use of school admin building
- Brown House Renovation

Infrastructure: Public Safety



Concept for New Station



Current Station

Current Police Station

Built: 1975
Sq. Feet: 5,000
Staff: 37
Space & Safety Concerns
New Station: \$10 million
Voter Referendum Nov 2016



Fire Station

Current Fire Station

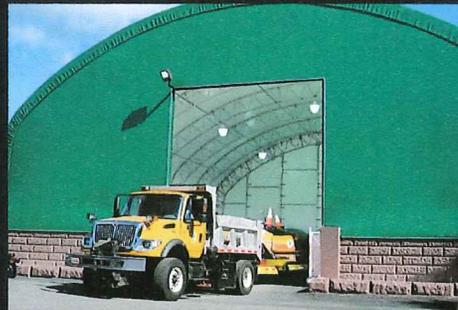
Built: 1970
Sq. Feet: 14,500+/-
Staff: 41
Vehicles: 6 (firefighting & ambulance)
ISO rating / Insurance Cost
Response Time
Future: Second Station (2021)

Other

PI Police Substation
Marine Patrol
Consolidated Dispatch

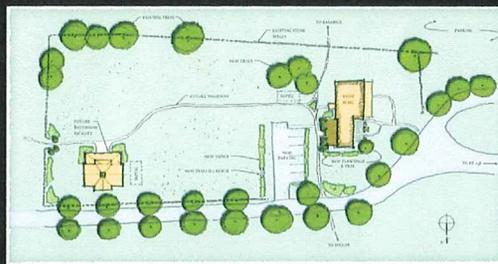
Infrastructure: Public Works

- Salt Sheds
 - 2 Locations: Improve efficiency
- Update road management program
 - Make Public
- PI Facility
 - PI Facility Needs Study
 - Police Substation
 - Public Facilities
 - DPW
 - PI Volunteer Fire
- Elimination of Police Maintenance
 - New Police Station Design calls for bays for repairs on Police Vehicles
 - Review Layout of Existing DPW Facility



Infrastructure: Recreation

- SSS Property
 - Finish Engineering
 - Develop Fields
- Brown House
 - Current in Design Phase
- Lower Glenn Park
 - Review and Upgrade Facilities
- Elmhurst Park
 - Design Phase: Matching DEM Grant
- Bristol Ferry Property
- Weaver Cove
 - Review and Upgrade
 - Possible DEM Grant



Infrastructure: Schools

School Facilities:

- Hathaway Elementary School – 50,200 s.f.
- Melville Elementary School – 44,800 s.f.
- Portsmouth Middle School – 157,800 s.f.
- Portsmouth High School – 193,500 s.f.
- Portsmouth Administration Building – 4,400 s.f.

Other:

- Administration relocation to PMS – need for additional space and desire by Town to expand into existing Admin space
- Storage facility at PHS athletic complex

Status:

- Facilities study completed by The Robinson Green Beretta Corporation in November 2014
- 5 Year Facilities Capital Plan to address immediate health/safety issues developed and approved by the School Committee
- Necessity of School Construction application submitted to RIDE – key to accessing Housing Aid Reimbursement

Recent/Upcoming Improvements:

- New boilers installed at both elementary schools
- New boilers to be installed at PMS and PHS during the summer
- Lighting/energy efficiency projects at all schools
- Roof replacements at both elementary schools

Revenue

Town

Tax Levy: 1% = \$500,000

Collection:

- Collection Rates 
- Prior Year Collections  \$2.7 million - \$1.2 million

Housing Aid:

- FY 17 Spike \$500,000
- FY 18+ Normal and Reduced as school debt decreases

Municipal Incentive Eliminated

School

State Aid:

- Year 6 of 10 of implementation of new state funding formula
- Projected to lose approximately \$200K in state aid in FY17

Tuitions :

- Expected to increase by approximately \$100K due to increase in Little Compton student enrollment and the collection of Pre-K tuitions.



Expenditures

Benefits

Health

FY 17 Increase 13% (est)

FY 16 Cost Town \$2.4 million 13%= \$318,240

FY 16 Cost Schools \$3.8 million 13%= \$490,000

Pension:

ARC FY 16 \$3,623,290 FY 17 \$3,955,207 FY 18 \$3,991,692

OPEB:

Pay as you Go & Contributions by Employees

Liability FY 13/14 \$13,554,244 FY 14/15 \$14,039,421

Litigations: \$700,000 to \$1,200,000 liability

School Resource Officer – Shared cost between Schools/Town

Student Assistance Councilor - \$24,000 increase to school costs

School Busing – \$250,000 increase to school costs



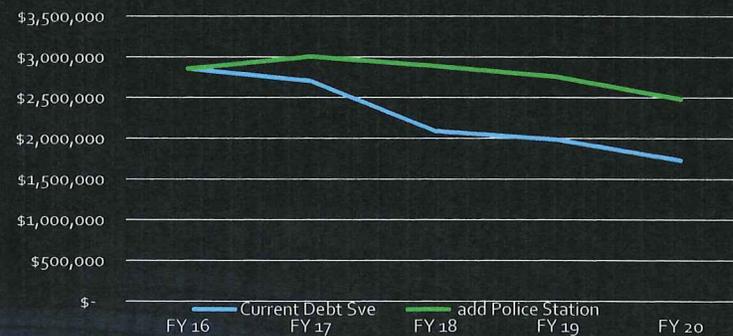
Expenditures

Debt Service

	FY 16	FY 17	FY 18	FY 19	FY 20
Current	\$ 2,858,368	\$ 2,704,495	\$ 2,088,927	\$ 1,982,402	\$ 1,734,637
Police Station	\$ -	\$ 300,000	\$ 800,000	\$ 775,000	\$ 750,000
	\$ 2,858,368	\$ 3,004,495	\$ 2,888,927	\$ 2,757,402	\$ 2,484,637



Projected Debt Service



Technology

TOWN

- OSHEAN
 - Fiber & Improved Service to PI
- Virtualize Servers
- Telephone System
- Management Systems
 - Work Order
 - Project Management

SCHOOL

- Network/Storage infrastructure replacement
- Laptop/Computer refresh
- Copiers replacement
- 1:1 Student Device Rollout – Grade 5



Staffing

TOWN

- Reorganization of Staff/Departments
 - Update Job Descriptions
- Develop Training Program
- Develop Succession Plan
- Improve Communications
- Seasonal Positons

SCHOOL

- District Management Council review of staffing levels at PHS and PMS
- NEA contract expires on 6/30/16
- Safety/Emergency Preparedness investment





Portsmouth Town Council and School Committee Proposed 2016 Legislative Agenda Discussion Items

The following represents a consolidated list of Portsmouth Town Council and School Committee proposed 2016 Legislative Agenda priorities for discussion.

Town Council

1. Sakonnet River Bridge: Continue our strong opposition to any toll structure imposed on the Sakonnet River Bridge.
 - a. Remove existing toll gantry.
2. Oppose a statewide tolling program: Reject any legislation that proposes statewide tolling.
 - a. Fight to reject any legislation that proposes to injure commercial transportation in RI.
3. Funding to examine Insurance Reimbursement Rates of Ambulance Cost: Rhode Island reimbursement rates are 24-40% lower than other New England communities. Most RI municipality ambulance service is provided by the local fire department. The cost of maintaining these programs outweighs the revenue. Improved revenue from the insurance companies will help in this area, particularly in many struggling fire districts.
4. Compassion Center: Impose a tax on compassion centers. The tax could be used to fund:
 - a. School Resource Officer Programs.
 - b. Reestablish State funding for DARE and drug prevention programs.
5. Binding Arbitration: Repeal binding arbitration laws.
 - a. Repeal Binding Arbitration for public safety collective bargaining agreements.
6. School Funding:
 - a. Modify the School Surplus law to allow schools to maintain 5% of budget as fund balance.
 - b. Increase State funding levels for RI schools, particularly Special Education.
7. TAX on Social Security and military Pensions:
 - a. Fight for the removal of income tax on Social Security and military pensions.
 - b. Increase the property tax exemptions for veterans and seniors.



Portsmouth Town Council and School Committee Proposed 2016 Legislative Agenda Items (cont.)

8. Support business growth in RI: Fight for an income tax exemption or statewide stabilization plan to help encourage business growth and relocation in RI.
 - a. Support state programs at the local level to improve workforce education and development.
 - b. State support for small business incubation center in Portsmouth.
 - c. Expedite the funding discussion / legislation associated with RhodeWorksRI program.
 - i. Reject any legislation that calls for funding RhodeWorksRI with tolls.
9. Authorization for Local Vendor Preference Ordinance: Allow local communities to award bids on small contracts (less than \$500,000) to taxpaying business in their community that bid on the contract and are within 10% of the low bid and willing to match the low bid.
10. Navy Property: Continue to explore options for State cooperation with US Navy initiatives to divest infrastructure and utilities, e.g. Tank Farms, Burma Road, and Stringham Road.
11. Roads: Repave East Main Road before the end of 2016.
12. Portsmouth Permanent Collection: Provide \$5K for funding of the Portsmouth permanent collection housed at the Portsmouth Library.
13. Waste Water Management:
 - a. Expand funding for the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank to ensure there is sufficient funds to finance the CCSLP program.
 - b. Extend the ban on cesspools in the Rhode Island Cesspool Act of 2007 to include all cesspools statewide.
14. Creation of \$0.01 (one cent) tax per gallon of gas: Similar to the Hotel and Meal Tax. One Cent per gallon be collected by fuel stations and put into a fund for the community it was collected fund. Unlike the Hotel and Meal Tax this money would not go into the general fund, but be available to the community as a reimbursement for road and sidewalk projects. In a similar manner of Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP) that other states have.
15. Low / Moderate Income Housing: Update the Low / Moderate Income Housing Act (R.I.G.L. §45-53) to remove impediments toward compliance by municipalities.
16. Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Act: Vigorously oppose any so-called “opt-out” amendments to the Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Act (R.I.G.L §45-22.2).



Portsmouth Town Council and School Committee Proposed 2016 Legislative Agenda Items (cont.)

School Committee

1. No Statewide Teachers Contract: The Portsmouth School Committee does not think that a statewide teacher's contract is in the best interest of the taxpayers, students or employees of Portsmouth. Local communities should be able to negotiate their own contract. Especially those communities that pay for over 50% of the education burden via property taxes. When the state pays for over 50% of the cost of running the Portsmouth school district, then the state is free to go to a statewide contract.
2. No Binding Arbitration: We request that our legislators reject any future bills giving teacher unions the right to binding arbitration for teacher contracts.
3. Support the School Building Infrastructure Bond: We urge your support for a substantial bond issue to be used exclusively for school infrastructure improvements and replacements in the state's public school system. The statewide infrastructure improvement needs exceed \$1.5 billion with most of that needed in Providence. Aside from the need, it would also be a construction stimulus for the RI economy with associated economic multiplier effect.
4. Support an Increase in State Funding for High Cost Special Education Students: The cost of special education for even one intensive needs special education student can wreck a well-managed school budget. In light of this fact, we request the state address this issue by creating a funding mechanism that kicks in when costs for any individual student exceeds a specified threshold.
5. Study and Change How DCYF Handles Responsibility for Students in Their Care: On a related topic we also encourage our legislators to modify how DCYF handles students under their care. DCYF should accept financial responsibility for children under their care. Portsmouth has recently experienced a situation where a child under the care of DCYF was directed to an out of district placement. The student's father then moved to New Bedford and attempted multiple times to register his child for school in New Bedford. New Bedford would not accept his student. The courts have now ordered Portsmouth to pay for this child's out of district tuition even though the family no longer lived in the district. DCYF should be responsible for the tuition of students in their charge.
6. Group Home Aid: Review the bed costs for group homes. Portsmouth has two group homes and these students come to school with greater needs than the average student population. The current rate does not cover the cost of educating these children.
7. Support Legislation that Limits the Amount of Funding Provided to Charter Schools from District Budgets: While the Portsmouth district has not been significantly impacted, we support our fellow public school committees in their call to limit the funding of charter schools that is taken from district budgets. School districts are responsible for many costs that do not apply to public schools and that funding formula needs to be reworked.



Portsmouth Town Council and School Committee Proposed 2016 Legislative Agenda Items (cont.)

8. The same rules should apply to both School Committees and Town Councils:
 - a. School committees should be permitted to amend their agendas in the same fashion as other public bodies in our state. Please change RIGL 42-46-6b by removing reference to the school committees.
 - b. The Portsmouth School Committee believes that Town Council members should be required to participate in the same number of hours of professional development that are required for school committee members. With their important duties and responsibilities our state's Town Councils would benefit from having their members participate in professional development. We encourage you to take up legislation that would make this requirement the same for both branches of town government.
9. Freedom of Information Requests: Individuals should be prohibited from making multiple requests for the same information. Public bodies should be able to refer these individual to the original documents provided within a reasonable period of time. (Administrative staff should not be forced to waste time and tax payer dollars when repetitive requests are made for the exact same information when nothing has changed.)
10. Funding Formula: We urge the legislature to carefully study the recommendations that have recently been brought to the governor by the committee she established to review the funding formula. Per their recommendations we would encourage you to support adding funding for special education and English language learners but to not support merely a reallocation of funds which will further reduce the funding Portsmouth receives from the current formula.
11. Charter Schools: We urge your support of the following two bills regarding charter schools:
 - a. House Bill No. 7051
BY Serpa, Amore, O`Grady, O'Brien, McKiernan
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION - MAYORAL ACADEMIES {LC3299/1}

(Provides the creation of a new charter public school or the expansion of an existing charter public school would require approval from the city or town council of each sending school district.) 1/07/2016 Introduced, referred to House H.E.W.
 - b. House Bill No. 7066
BY O`Grady, Amore, Fogarty, Regunberg, O'Brien
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION - CHARTER SCHOOLS {LC3420/1}

(Requires the board of education to make certain findings regarding the sending districts before granting approval to a new charter school project.)
01/07/2016 Introduced, referred to House Finance
01/08/2016 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration.