



TOWN OF MILLVILLE

MASSACHUSETTS 01529



July 2, 2018

RE: UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTING NON-OVERRIDE BUDGET CUTS

Dear Resident:


In an effort to keep residents apprised about continued override budget reductions which will impact the Town, I am sending you this letter to further update you on what has transpired as a result of the override ballot question not passing at the June 19th Election. Last week, you were sent a notice informing you the Town's Annual Fiscal Budget, beginning July 1st, did not appropriate funding for municipal trash collection as well as other important public services. By law, the Town can only expend funds which have been approved in the annual budget voted by the townspeople. Despite running very lean town operations with limited staff and low wages, the Finance Committee, Administration and Board of Selectmen have repeatedly warned that the Town can no longer balance the budget by using one-time "rainy day" revenues which have gone dry. Collectively, they have advocated for more sound and sustainable financial management practices. They recognized it was imperative to finally right-size the budget and couple it with a modest increase in the tax rate phased in over 8 years in order to balance future budgets.

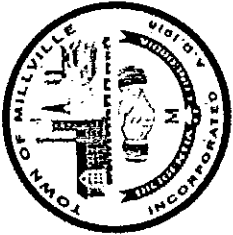
In May, voters overwhelming passed a budget contingent on the passing of a phased in override. Later in June, the override was not passed at the ballot which means the Town must now implement significant cuts in services in order to balance this year's budget which is legally required. Some of these reductions were specifically detailed in the adopted contingent budget, while others will be forthcoming in order to close an additional \$300k of the remaining deficit and finalize balancing of the budget. Some of the Town's Departmental budget cuts which were adopted to go into effect on July 1st include the following:

- **Ending Municipal Trash Collection**
- **Eliminating Plowing & Sanding Of All Churches**
- **Ending Any Assistance Maintaining Private Cemeteries**
- **Cutting All Stipends (i.e. EMS Coordinator, Tree Warden, Animal Inspector & Boards)**
- **Reducing Certain Town Hall Department Hours**
- **Shutting Off 64% Of Street Lights**
- **Eliminating Vacant Positions**
- **Laying Off All Senior Center Employees**
- **Zeroing Out Annual Funding Of All Library Personnel**

Town Officials recognize complying with the vote to implement a non-override budget means the Town is forced to make these difficult reductions of services residents have come to expect and rely upon. Although the first round of cuts held essential personnel (police, fire, EMS) harmless, going forward everything must be on the budget table for further scrutiny to close the remaining deficit. Please know we will continue to keep you updated during this challenging financial time. We strongly encourage residents to obtain information from official sources in an effort to best discern fact from fiction. The Town remains committed to providing accurate information in as timely a manner as possible.

Sincerely,


Jennifer M. Callahan
Town Administrator



Please Note:

Board of Health Trash Service

Sign-Up Forum:

Tuesday, July 10th 5 PM to 7 PM
Town Hall, 290 Main Street

Town Clerk New Office Hours:

Wednesdays Only 9 AM to 1 PM

For Appointment Call (508) 883-5849 or Email
townclerk@millvillema.org

BMR School Committee Calls For

District Wide Town Meeting:

Will ask Millville & Blackstone Voters to approve increased supplemental funding to the FY 2019 budget at **end of July or in August**

Treasurer Collector:

First Quarter Tax Bills

Due August 1st

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