

## Public Comment

Linda Sosa

6/2/26

I am against this increase in property tax and ask the Council to vote against the proposed budget. Do not wait for the property tax public hearing in August and leave the town in limbo. Drop the property tax increase now. Erin will have to redo the budget, which is due to the State June 22, but she is excellent at accounting. Josh and Dawn need to work with the Council members need to develop a plan and job description and work on this in a group and at Council meeting. And run it by the Town Attorney for advice and to see if some parts of it are not legal. Right now it can be summed up as, give us the money, we have no plan.

The most important thing we do as a Town is transparency. In Dawn Dilego's letter she was transparent about having no plan. Also no job description. And certainly not run by our lawyer. But I am not opposed to creation of this new, unknown job.

Erin worked on projects for the Town, and was paid hourly for several years before she applied to become Town Manager and became salaried. Malia was paid hourly as Community Center Director and over several years the scope of her work greatly expanded. She is now Director of Administration and is salaried. This current proposed job should follow the same pattern. This job is the main reason given for the need to raise property tax. Fire, EMTs and deputy coverage are free services from the County that comes out of County property tax and include maintenance of vehicles, equipment and supplies. For free. If the fire truck has a problem the County sends someone to fix it.

The Impact Statement gives the impression that we all give a little bit of money. To get to a \$50,000 increase our businesses are going to have to give up a lot of money.

The Town has plenty of funds and can easily pay someone to do this proposed job, especially on an hourly basis. There is no need to punish businesses and property owners.

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