



# The Pipeline



May, 2021 Volume 25, No. 1

Charlestown Incorporated 1738

## All-Day Financial Referendum

### June 7, 2021

(see additional information below)

### Letter from the Board of Canvassers

Dear Charlestown Voter,

In an effort to further reduce the spread of COVID-19, the Town of Charlestown is conducting the 2021 Financial Town Referendum primarily by mail ballot. Voting by mail ballot makes it possible for you to vote without having to go to the polls in person. If you choose to vote in person, there will be one polling place open on Monday, June 7, 2021 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Charlestown Town Hall, Council Chambers.

Please keep in mind that **your ballot must be received by the Charlestown Board of Canvassers by Monday, June 7, 2021 at 8:00 p.m.**

**To ensure that your ballot is received by the deadline:** You may return your voted ballot, sealed in the Oath Envelope, to the Town Hall by dropping it in the white drop box outside the front door.

Budgetary information can be found on the Town’s website, [www.charlestownri.gov](http://www.charlestownri.gov). Go to the News and Information section and click on Town Budget FY 2021-22.

The 2021-2022 Budget, as recommended by the Budget Commission

The 2021-2022 Tentative Budget, as Amended by the Town Council at their April 12, 2021 meeting for the Budget Public Hearing held on May 3, 2021

**The 2021-2022 Budget, as approved by the Town Council at their May 10, 2021 meeting for consideration by the Electors of Charlestown**

Please direct any questions or concerns to the Town Clerk’s Office at (401) 364-1200.

Dale A. Santiago, Chair  
Board of Canvassers

## Ballot Question

### Explanation to Voter:

A vote of "Yes" will be to approve  
A vote of "No" will be to reject

1. “Shall the Town appropriate the FY 2021-2022 budget of \$16,734,690 for municipal services, as adopted by the Charlestown Town Council on May 10, 2021?”

- Yes
- No

To view the **COMPLETE** 2021—2022 Proposed Budget: <http://www.charlestownri.org>  
On right hand side of home page, look under **“News and Information”** and select **“Town Budget FY 2021—2022”**

# Notice of Proposed Property Tax Rate Change

The Town of Charlestown proposes to increase its property tax levy to \$22,910,126 in the 2021-2022 budget year; the property tax levy this year is \$22,882,971. The FY2021 and FY2022 tax levies have excluded motor vehicle excise tax for the purpose of determining tax levy growth pursuant to current law. **THIS IS A PROPOSED TAX LEVY INCREASE OF 0.12%.**

The proposed increase in the tax levy will result in a property tax rate of \$8.18 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation as compared to the current property tax rate of \$8.23 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

The preliminary FY 2021-2022 motor vehicle levy includes taxes on motor vehicles at an unchanged rate of \$13.08 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, which includes the exemption amount provided by the state's motor vehicle excise tax phase-out legislation up to \$5,000.

A property tax rate of \$8.49 would be needed in the coming budget year, if the budget was increased to raise the maximum levy authorized by Section 44-5-2 of the Rhode Island General Laws.

It should be noted that any petition for an increase or decrease to the budget as proposed might increase or decrease the property tax levy and the property tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

The Town of Charlestown's budget for the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year was discussed at the Budget Public Hearing on May 3, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via a Webex virtual public meeting.

**In an effort to provide the safest voting environment, the June 7, 2021 all day Financial Referendum will be conducted primarily by Mail-In Ballot.**

The above property tax estimates have been computed in a manner approved by the Rhode Island Department of Revenue

Certification: This is to certify that the data contained in this report are accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Date: May 10, 2021

Deborah A. Carney, Town Council President

## TOWN of CHARLESTOWN Report to Taxpayers on Current and Proposed Budget

	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2022
	Current Town Council Adopted Budget	Budget Commission Recommended Budget	Town Council Adopted Budget for Referendum
<b>Expenditures:</b>			
Education	13,321,706	13,509,358	13,509,358
General Administration	823,115	1,040,361	1,036,281
General Financial Administration	569,169	579,915	579,915
Public Works	1,792,805	1,871,350	1,875,430
Police Protection	2,920,360	2,975,310	2,975,310
Parks & Recreation	771,488	883,097	883,097
Interest on General Debt	115,325	101,941	101,941
Principal on General Debt	540,000	545,000	545,000
Employee Benefits	2,538,611	2,655,330	2,655,330
Capital Improvements	1,840,620	2,622,555	2,622,555
Transfer out	2,460,022	1,299,446	1,299,446
Other	2,440,803	2,160,385	2,160,385
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,134,024</b>	<b>30,244,048</b>	<b>30,244,048</b>
<b>Revenues:</b>			
Local Property Taxes	23,483,259	23,483,814	23,483,814
Local Non- Property Taxes	1,416,900	1,490,500	1,490,500
State	2,088,984	2,152,889	2,152,889
Fund Balance	2,976,881	2,981,845	2,981,845
All other	168,000	135,000	135,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,134,024</b>	<b>30,244,048</b>	<b>30,244,048</b>

Call 364-1211  
to inquire about  
any of these  
terrific pets!

## Charlestown Animals in Need of "Forever Homes"

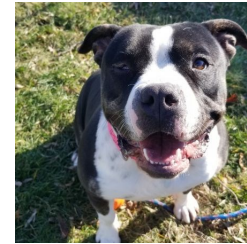
HOURS  
M - F 8:30 am - 4:00 pm  
Saturday 8:00 am - noon  
Please call first



Sandy



Leo



Bubbles

## News from the Tax Collector's Office - 4th Quarter Taxes Due

2020 4<sup>th</sup> quarter installments are now due and will become delinquent after June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Please call for interest figures if your account is past due.

Payments can be made at the Tax Collector's office, in the Town Hall, during normal business hours, 8:30-4:30, Monday through Friday. There is a drop box at the building entrance; in case you are unable to pay during normal business hours. If a receipt is requested, please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

We have been utilizing a Lockbox company for the past 4 years. The Lockbox company is unable to provide a posting receipt, so if you would like one, please include your request, along with your payment and a self-addressed stamped envelope to the Town Hall address @ 4540 South County Trail, Charlestown RI 02813. The Lockbox will be utilized again in the upcoming Tax season. Please note, tax payments are always accepted in person at the Town Hall, and they can also be mailed to the Town Hall address.

Another acceptable form of payment would be Credit Card payments, either by phone, in person or online. Official Payments Corp. can be accessed by the "Quick Links" feature on the Town Website, [www.charlestownri.org](http://www.charlestownri.org) or directly at [www.officialpayments.com](http://www.officialpayments.com) as well as by phone at 833-398-6729. Your account number and the jurisdiction code (4902) are required. We have an additional credit card service, RleGov, which requires an acct#. You can pay at the counter, over the phone with the Tax Collector's Department or online at [www.RleGovernment.com](http://www.RleGovernment.com). RleGov charges a convenience fee of approximately 3%, where Official Payments charges a slightly higher percentage. If you need any assistance with paying by credit card, please contact our office at 401-364-1234.

We also accept ACH (Automated Clearing House) Withdrawals as a form of payment. If you are interested in signing up for ACH Withdrawals, please contact this office and we can assist you in the process. Your payments can be deducted from either a checking or savings account and you can choose from the following options: annual/quarterly/monthly/bi-weekly or weekly. We have also processed one-time transactions with ACH Withdrawals.

New Tax Bills will be coming out soon! Please watch for your 2021 Tax Bill. The 2021 Tax Bills will be printed and mailed by the middle of July. The 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter is due August 1<sup>st</sup> and late after September 1<sup>st</sup>. If your bill is under \$100.00, the entire bill is due in the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter. Please contact us at 401-364-1234 with any questions you may have regarding your taxes.

Thank you and have a safe and happy Summer!!!  
Jo Anne Santos, Tax Collector

## THE TOWN HALL PIPELINE

Charlestown Town Hall  
4540 South County Trail  
Charlestown, RI 02813



# Time Sensitive Material

## Beach Sticker Fees 2021

Resident Beach Sticker	\$ 50
Resident Senior Citizen	\$ 25
Non-Resident Beach Sticker (Blue Shutters)	\$ 100
Non-Resident Sr. Sticker (65+ Blue Shutters)	\$ 50
Cottage Pass	\$ 425
Daily Parking fee (Weekdays)	\$ 20
Daily Parking fee (Weekends)	\$ 30

Seasonal Beach passes are available at the **Town Clerk's Office**. You may stop in or mail a letter of request to the Town Clerk along with your Charlestown property address, a copy of your vehicle registration, a check made payable to Town of Charlestown and a self addressed stamped envelope.

## Daily Entrance Beach Fees

Charlestown Beach	
Weekdays	\$ 20
Weekends/Holidays	\$ 30
Blue Shutters	
Weekdays	\$ 20
Weekends/Holidays	\$ 30

### Seasonal Hours of Operation

Mon.–Fri. (non-holidays) 9 AM to 5 PM  
Sat., Sun. and Holidays 8 AM to 5 PM



**Memorial Day—Labor Day**  
**Lifeguards on Duty**  
**WEATHER PERMITTING**

## Warning 2021 Beach Stickers

Please be warned that sales of beach stickers are final. If you purchase a beach sticker there is no guarantee as to the exact day of opening, hours of operation, required social distancing, sanitation protocol or other factors that may lead to limited access or closure. The current COVID-19 outbreak and the State and Town declared emergency make operations very challenging. As of this publication, the Governor has issued 48 Executive Orders ranging from medical protocols & reporting to limitations on public gatherings. The lifting and/or reinstatement of such restrictions can change without advance notice and may impact how we operate our parks and beaches. Please keep these factors in mind before you purchase this year's permit.

## CRCC Reminder

Charlestown Residential Collection Center (CRCC) ID Stickers expire annually at the end of the calendar year and must be renewed at Town Hall or by mail with a copy of your registration(s) and a twenty dollar check (made out to CRCC) for each sticker. Please call Alan at (401) 364-1230 weekdays with questions.



**A very helpful online resource for questions about how to recycle various items is located at [www.rirc.org](http://www.rirc.org). Go to A-Z Recyclopedia.**

## Town Hall Contact Info

- 364-1210 Town Administrator
- 364-1215 Building/Zoning
- 364-1230 Dept. of Public Works
- 364-1222 Parks & Recreation
- 364-1225 Planning
- 364-1233 Tax Assessor's
- 364-1234 Tax Collector's
- 364-1200 Town Clerk
- 364-1235 Finance
- 364-1213 Information Technology
- 364-1212 Police (non-emergency)**
- 364-1210 Public Assistance

### Town Hall Address:

4540 South County Trail, Charlestown RI 02813

**Town Hall Hours:** M-F 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

**Animal Shelter:** Call ahead, 364-1211

M-F 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM, Saturday 8:00 AM to Noon

**CRCC Hours:** M, TH, FRI, SA, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

**NOTE:** If a holiday falls on a Sunday, it will be observed the next day (Monday). If a holiday falls on a Monday, the CRCC does not open another day to compensate.

