

### **From the First Selectwoman...**

The Portland Budget Referendum will be on **Monday May 8, from 6:00 am to 8:00 pm** at The Portland Middle School, 93 High Street. The budget is available in the Town Clerk's office, the Portland Library and at [www.portlandct.org](http://www.portlandct.org). Please vote!

On April 5, 2017 the Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to approve the 2017-2018 Proposed Budget.

- Total Expenditures: \$33,646,598: 3.57% increase over current 2016-17 adopted budget;  
General Government increase: 2.76% increase over current budget;  
Board of Education increase: 4.07%\* increase over current budget;
- Taxation: 32.98 mills: +0.47 mill

*\*NOTE: The Governor's proposed Budget changes the grant structure for Special Education. Excess costs for Special Education used to be recorded in a separate fund – NOT in the General Fund. With the Governor's proposed change, \$290,000 of Special Education costs that were recorded in a separate fund are now part of the General Fund, and are included in the Board of Education's requested increase. Without this grant change the increase for Education would be a 2.62% increase. The Governor's Proposed Budget request from Portland of \$966,127 for the Teacher's Retirement Fund is not included in the proposed budget.*

#### Town Goals: July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018:

- Continue careful use of all Town funds, while addressing our needs.
- Increase economic development, with our existing businesses, the re-development of Elmcrest, and St. Clements' planned improvements.
- Improve our sidewalks, roads and parks (Route 17 & Middlesex Avenue).
- Work with the Board of Education to maintain and improve our schools.
- Continue the analysis of the water and sewer systems and town-owned roads.
- Work to reduce costs and increase energy efficiency.
- Pursue grants and participate in regional efforts whenever appropriate.
- Implement the 2016 Plan of Conservation and Development.
- Promote & support our well-run fire, emergency and police departments, public works, library, health, senior and youth services.

#### Accomplishments: July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017:

- Celebrated the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Town.
- Continued the assessment of the water and sewer systems, funded by a \$50,000 grant from MDC.
- Elmcrest Re-Development: Signed the fixed assessment agreement with the developer, BRT, LLC.
- Air Line Trail: Issuing the bid this Spring 2017 on the improvements. The trail should be officially opened by the end of 2017. The grant awarded to the Town for this project is \$685,932.
- Brownfield Project: The Phase 3 Environmental Report on the Brownstone Avenue property is completed, and we are working toward the implementation of the \$750,000 clean-up grant already awarded to the Town.
- Passed the bond referendum for the Route 17 Park, Sidewalks, Roads and other improvements in November 2016.
- Completed the 2016 Town Audit with no findings.
- Re-paved the parking areas on Main Street.
- Participated in the Inter-Community Capital Equipment Purchase Program with Cromwell.
- Passed the Complete Streets Policy for safer sidewalks and travel for pedestrians, bicyclists and vehicles.
- Assisted with the review and permitting of major industrial renovation and expansion projects, including but not limited to those at Specialty Lighting, RED Technologies and CT Pharmaceutical Solutions.

Susan Bransfield, First Selectwoman 860.342.6715 [sbransfield@portlandct.org](mailto:sbransfield@portlandct.org)