Budget cuts after 5th failed Referendum on 7/28

$600,000 cut total

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1) BOARD OF EDUCATION

$200,000 failed 4th referendum cut (cuts not previously identified)

Combined with

$500,000 failed 5th referendum cut

The following items have been cut or adjusted:

Grade 1 teacher resignation and replacement

Grade 3 teacher resignation and replacement

Technology resource price reduction

Elimination of paid position at athletic events – ticketing

Tuition cost for employees' child(ren) non resident

Elimination of Kindergarten Teacher (one year/non continuing)

Reduction of Custodian and associated union benefits (unfilled vacancy)

Early Start CT Grant Amendment

Supply line reductions

Elimination of Library/Media Teacher Middle (LMC will remain open and students will continue to have access to library books through classroom visits, teacher checkouts, or independent visits during the school day with support from Library Media Aide (5 hours/day)

Elimination of /5 Art Teacher and Associate Benefits

Flex Teacher Hiring Cap

Elimination of 1.0 Music

Reduce housekeeping staffing of Pool (not closure of pool)

Medical/Dental insurance saving on new HR hire

Elimination of PPS Administrative Assistant

For more information please look on wlps.org under Board of Education.

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2) PARK AND RECREATION

$20,000 cut from failed 5th referendum

The following items have been cut or adjusted:

S&W Pool/Summer
S&W Day Camp

To achieve this in revenue on the pool side, we are targeting daily fees for the pool to be $5 per WL Adult and $3 per WL Child. This is based of the assumption that the town will amend the agreement with Suffield for next summer to be Suffield residents will receive the in-town rate instead of free access or that the agreement is ended by either town. Out of town rates will be $7 per adult and $5 per child. Based on last year's pool attendance, this will bring in roughly $20,000.

For Day Camp, this summer we achieved savings by eliminating the equivalent of 3 counselors, reducing hours of other staff, canceling trips and increasing concession stand prices so that we did not have to raise fees mid-summer. We'll revaluate if we'll reintroduce some of these items for next summer, but as a starting point an initial estimate would be an increased fee of roughly $15 per week before other considerations (2027 min wage increase, field trip costs if reinstated, etc).

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3) BOARD OF SELECTMEN/GENERAL GOVERNMENT

$60,000 cut from failed 5th referendum

The following items have been cut or adjusted:

Employee Benefits

Salaries and Wages BOS (Social Services)

The proposed $60,000 reduction to the Board of Selectmen’s budget is not simply a $60,000 budget cut. It represents another step toward the elimination of positions and further reductions in the Town’s workforce. Each additional reduction in staffing diminishes the Town’s capacity to provide essential services to residents and places greater pressure on the employees who remain. At this point, these cuts are no longer occurring in isolation-they are directly affecting the Town’s ability to deliver the level of service residents expect and deserve.

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4) PUBLIC WORKS

$10,000 cut from failed 5th referendum

The following items have been cut or adjusted:

S&W Seasonal

The proposed $10,000 reduction to the Department of Public Works budget will be taken from the S&W Seasonal line, reducing that account from $64,167 to $54,167. This equates to approximately 560 fewer seasonal labor hours, or roughly 14 weeks of seasonal staffing.

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5) POLICE

$10,000 cut from failed 5th referendum

The following items have been cut or adjusted:

Salary
Public Relations
Medical Drug Testing

Affected: Community events/ FD carnival / Officer testing