

Budgeting and Financial Management

- **How is the town's budget for the upcoming fiscal year being approached?** The budget session for 2025-26 is designed to allow each town department to showcase their activities and achievements, while also providing an opportunity for the council to ask questions and offer suggestions. The goal is to thoroughly review the budget without rushing the process.
- **What is the impact of potential tax rate changes on the town's general fund?** Reducing the tax rate by one cent is estimated to have an impact of approximately \$750,000 on the general fund. This figure is used when considering adjustments to the tax rate.
- **How does Vienna handle water and sewer services for out-of-town residents, and are subsidies considered?** Out-of-town residents who use Vienna water pay for the service, but sewer fees collected from them are remitted to the county. While the possibility of subsidies for these residents has been considered, it's acknowledged that very few likely receive tax relief.
- **What is the purpose of the Debt Service Fund?** The Debt Service Fund is used to issue general obligation debt to finance capital expenditures and projects outlined in the Capital Improvement Plan. The fund is reported to be in a strong financial position, with significant cash reserves being accrued to prepare for future bond issuances.
- **How does the town track and manage financial obligations and disbursements across fiscal years?** The town tracks spending and changes year by year at the department and division level in the budget booklet. Funds are considered obligated when a purchase order is issued. Carry-forwards represent funds that have been approved or committed but not yet obligated, and these are accounted for in the fiscal year they are obligated through a purchase order.

Town Services and Infrastructure

- **What are some of the key responsibilities and recent achievements of the Public Works Department?** The Public Works Department manages a wide range of infrastructure and services, including street maintenance (repairs, markings, sweeping), storm drain cleaning, sanitation (trash, recycling, yard waste), snow and ice control, and building maintenance. Recent achievements include training additional CDL drivers, significant progress in road repaving due to ARPA funding, and successful coordination on a large sewer main repair.
- **What initiatives are underway within the Planning and Zoning Department?** The Planning and Zoning Department is focused on completing the Comprehensive Plan, updating zoning regulations (including outdoor lighting), fully implementing the new Granicus online software system, collaborating on strategic projects like trail

development, streamlining business licensing processes, improving zoning enforcement, and maintaining a high level of customer service.

- **What are the Vienna Police Department's staffing levels and priorities?** The Police Department has 51 sworn positions. Despite a low vacancy rate, the department is currently operating with fewer officers available for street duty due to new hires in the academy and personnel on leave. Priorities include maintaining street strength, pursuing state accreditation, enhancing officer training (including crisis intervention), improving data collection and statistical measures, and utilizing technology like license plate readers while adhering to strict data access protocols.