

**TOWN OF KIRKWOOD
PUBLIC HEARING**

**Preliminary Budget of the
Town of Kirkwood for the Year 2021**

October 27, 2020

A public hearing regarding the preliminary budget of the Town of Kirkwood for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2021 including general town funds, highway funds, fire protection funds, and light district funds was held on October 27, 2020 at 6:00 PM at the Joseph A. Griffin Town Hall with Supervisor Gordon Kniffen presiding.

Present: Supervisor Gordon Kniffen
Councilman Robert Weingartner
Councilman Lewis Grubham
Councilman William Diffendorf, Jr.
Councilwoman Katie Legg (via Zoom)

Also Present: Robert McKertich, Attorney
Kelley Diffendorf, Town Clerk
John A. Finch, Jr., DPW Commissioner
Duane Travis, ZBA Chairman

Supervisor Kniffen explained, it's been a tough year that none of us expected. Early in March the Board was proactive and put a freeze on spending. We took the budget that was approved for 2020 and created the virus budget. We had to cut revenues because people weren't out spending and there was no sales tax, which is our number one revenue. Doing that put us in better shape when preparing for the 2021 budget.

For 2021, we cut 8% in the General Fund and 4.3% in Highway. Fire was increased by 2.4% but they don't have the flexibility in their budget like we do. We appreciate what they do and the sacrifices they make for our town. In total, we cut spending by 5.4%.

Last year the tax rate decrease was just less than \$.05 and it will be about the same, just shy of \$.05 for 2021. We decreased the spending for 2021 by \$4,884. I think the taxpayers want to know how we are spending the money and how much we are going to raise their taxes, but we are actually lowering them. That's the goal and that is what the people are looking for us to do.

We continue to meet the tax cap, it's a good challenge for us. Our people have been patient and understanding with the virus budget and the spending freeze. This will be 19 years that the Town Board hasn't taken an increase in salary. In summary, we manage our town efficiently and effectively. We work together. Sadly, 2021 will be my last budget.

Supervisor Kniffen opened the hearing to public comment. Hearing no comments, he closed the hearing at 6:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelley M. Diffendorf
Town Clerk