

**City of Portland, Maine
Remote Finance Committee Meeting
Thursday, July 22, 2021
5:00 PM, Remote via ZOOM**

AGENDA

ZOOM MEETING INFORMATION

This meeting will take place remotely using Zoom. Virtual meetings are allowed using emergency legislation approved by LD 2167; 1 M.R.S. §403A, that authorizes cities and towns to conduct meetings online. Allow your computer to install the free Zoom app to get the best meeting experience. If you are not able to attend live, a recording will be uploaded to portlandmaine.gov/livestream the next day.

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://zoom.us/j/91849160165?pwd=bVprYWFjV0JxT2cyRkdYRm5uUUUp3UT09>

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Webinar ID: 918 4916 0165

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1. Introductions

2. American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 – City of Portland Funding Update

The Committee will hear an update from City staff on the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA). As noted in previous meetings the US Department of the Treasury released interim guidance for State and Local entities in May 2021 and comments were due within 60 days (the deadline was July 16th, 2021). Final implementation guidance from the US Treasury detailing appropriate uses of ARPA funds and addressing questions from funding recipients is expected shortly. During the meeting staff will discuss the City of Portland ARPA website and highlight the links to available ARPA information. Staff and the Committee will also discuss next steps for public outreach including links to the public portal for comments and suggestions on uses of ARPA funding. Demand for funding will exceed supply and some ideas suggested for funding may be ineligible based on final ARPA implementation guidance.

- i. Finance Director ARPA Presentation July 22, 2021

3. Discussion of Final State of Maine FY22 Budget, Additional State Educational Subsidy, Additional Revenue Sharing Funding and Resulting Tax Rate Decrease from FY21 to FY22

The State of Maine biennial budget has been finalized and contains significant increases to critical City and School Department revenues including State of Maine Revenue Sharing (an increase from FY21's 3.75% of total revenues distributed to municipalities to 4.5% of total revenues for FY22) and increases to General Purpose Aid for Education (fully funding the subsidy to the statutorily required 55% of the cost of K-12 education). 100% of the increase in municipal Revenue Sharing, expected to be in excess of \$1.25M, is planned to be used for tax reduction and will have a significant downward impact on the final mill rate which will be calculated by the City Tax Assessor later this summer (current estimate prior to the new funding is \$13.49 per the recent revaluation notices). The Portland Public School Department is also expected to receive between \$6.1M and \$6.2M of additional educational subsidy and earlier this month the Portland School Board voted on use of these funds. The PPS recommendation is being voted on by the full City Council [at the Monday, July 19th City Council meeting](#) and details can be found on the meeting agenda. The Finance Director will discuss the total projected reduction to the City mill rate (both pre and post revaluation) as a result of these revenue increases and will highlight the significant overall tax and mill rate decrease from FY21 to FY22 as a result of these additional funding sources.

4. Revaluation Discussion - Programs and Options for Taxpayers

Finance Director Brendan T. O'Connell and City Tax Assessor Christopher Huff will review existing tax relief programs (<https://www.portlandmaine.gov/145/Tax-Relief>) and options available to taxpayers. The Committee may also review and discuss additional programs and tax relief options which exist elsewhere in the State of Maine and would be permitted under Maine Revised Statutes.

- i. Property Tax Relief Programs

5. Adjournment