

No tax increase foreseen in Elon budget

By Bill Cresenzo

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The property tax rate in Elon would remain steady under the proposed 2018–19 budget.

Town Manager Richard White recommends that the tax rate stay at the current 45 cents per \$100 valuation.

Water and sewer rates would go up 3 percent. The town gets its services from Burlington, which has proposed a 2 percent increase. The other 1 percent that White is proposing will help cover the costs of replacing water meters around town.

The \$7.4 million budget also includes money for a new water and sewer truck, and a new police car. The police department will use \$125,000 in federal asset forfeiture money to buy a parking enforcement vehicle and a four-wheel-drive truck, and to build a storage building.

“Over the last several years, board and town staff have worked toward retooling the organization and preparing the foundation to guide the community for at least the next 20 years in a deliberate manner,” White says in his budget message to the Board of Aldermen. “This budget begins the process of aligning town resources with the strategic plan. Having positive fund balances in the general fund and the water and sewer fund, and very low debt levels, places the town in a stronger position to begin considering larger infrastructure investments to accomplish the vision and goals of the strategic plan.”

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