

Reader's Guide to the Annual Budget

PURPOSE

The Annual Budget is an instrument that sets HRSD's budgetary policy and authorization to raise revenues and spend funds each fiscal year. The development of the Annual Budget is guided by HRSD's mission and vision statements:

- HRSD's mission is to protect public health and the waters of Hampton Roads by treating wastewater effectively.
- HRSD's vision is future generations will inherit clean waterways and be able to keep them clean.

ANNUAL BUDGET OVERVIEW

HRSD's Annual Budget contains the following sections:

Financial Forecast

This section provides a high level, 20-year forecast of projected retail rate increases, operating revenues and expenses, capital improvements and related funding sources, amounts contributed to and fiscal year-end balances of cash and investment reserves, and selected financial ratios that help to measure the financial health of HRSD.

The forecast is an inflationary based model where trends from past fiscal years and proposed operating budgets are used to forecast future operating needs. Transfers to reserves and to the Capital budget are forecast to be in amounts that are not less than parameters established within HRSD's Financial Policy. Debt service for permanent financings are generally forecast to have a maximum term of 30 years at an interest rate that approximates 20-year average fixed rates for HRSD. Interim, or construction, financings' interest rates are based on a 10-year historical average.

Operating Budget

The Operating Budget represents the authorization by the HRSD Commission to spend funds directly related to operating and maintaining HRSD's programs and assets during the fiscal year. This section includes each department's annual operating budgets. Those expenses that are not attributable to a specific department are assigned to "General Expenses." Transfers represent authorization to transfer revenues raised from operations to either the Capital Budget or to various reserves established in HRSD's Financial Policy. The Operating Budget Summary provides the budget by department and major object code classification. Department Budgets and General Expenses, Debt Service and Transfers detail budget expenditures by major object code classification. The number of full-time positions authorized for the fiscal year is provided by department.

Capital Budget

The Capital Budget represents a plan of specific, major capital improvements over a period of ten fiscal years. The Capital Budget is not an approval or appropriation of funds for individual projects. There is no authorization or funding for individual projects until the Commission acts on the specific project. The Commission formally authorizes spending for individual projects throughout a fiscal year and generally upon project initiation.

The Summary Schedule details the funding sources for capital improvements as well as planned expenditures.

A formal, detailed, Capital Improvement Program with more specific project information is available at <https://www.hrsd.com/cip>.

HRSD's budget authorizations, capital improvement plans, user rate setting practices and other significant financial practices are guided by HRSD's Financial Policy. The Financial Policy and Revenue Policy are available at <http://www.hrsd.com/finance>.

HRSD's Rate Schedule is available at <http://www.hrsd.com/finance>.

BUDGETARY PROCESS

HRSD prepares its Annual Budget under the provisions of its enabling legislation and its Trust Agreement, dated March 1, 2008. In accordance with those provisions, the following process is used to adopt the Annual Budget:

The process begins in late December with the issuance of the Annual Budget Instructions by the General Manager. Each department completes its Operating Budget by March 1 for the General Manager's review.

The HRSD Commission appoints a Finance Committee which typically consists of two Commissioners. The committee meets in early April to review the budgets. The Commission reviews these budgets during its April meeting.

The final Annual Budget, which incorporates the Operating and Capital Budgets, is presented at the May Commission meeting for adoption. The Commission simultaneously adopts the budget and any resulting wastewater rate schedule changes. All rate adjustments must be publically advertised four consecutive weeks before they can take effect.

The HRSD Commission approves any budget amendments during the fiscal year.

BUDGETARY ACCOUNTING AND CONTROL

HRSD operates in accordance with annual operating and capital budgets prepared on a basis of accounting that is different from generally accepted accounting principles.

The Operating Budget is adopted by department, with budgetary controls exercised administratively by management at the department level. The General Manager is authorized to transfer funds among departments without further approval by the Commission. Appropriations

lapse at the end of the fiscal year. Valid, outstanding encumbrances (those for which performance under a contract is expected in the next year) are re-appropriated without further approval by the Commission and become part of the subsequent year's budget.

The Capital Budget represents a ten-year plan. Funds for the Capital Budget are adopted throughout a fiscal year on a project basis. Transfers among projects require approval by the Commission. Appropriations for these budgets continue until the purpose of the appropriation has been fulfilled.

Glossary of Financial Terms

Appropriation: An authorization granted by the Commission to incur obligations for specific purposes. Appropriations are usually limited to amount, purpose and time.

Basis of Accounting: HRSD's financial statements report the financial position and results of operations of HRSD in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America (GAAP).

Bond Ratings: A grade given to bonds that represents a measure of their credit quality. Private independent rating services such as Standard & Poor's, Moody's and Fitch provide these evaluations of a bond issuer's financial strength, or its the ability to pay a bond's principal and interest in a timely fashion.

Capital Improvement Program (CIP): Ten-year plan for major non-recurring facility, infrastructure, or acquisition expenditures that expand or improve HRSD and/or community assets. Projects included in the CIP include physical descriptions, implementation schedules, year of expenditure cost and funding source estimates, and an indication of HRSD Commission priorities and community benefits

Centum Cubic Feet (CCF): Typical unit in which industrial-consumption of natural gas or water is measured; each CCF being 100 cubic-feet.

CIP Percent Cash Funded: Percent of each year's capital improvement plan funded with cash through transfers from operations. HRSD's Financial Policy requires that at least 15 percent of each year's planned capital improvements be funded with cash. This ratio indicates the amount of capital improvements that are not leveraged.

Days Cash on Hand: Measured by current and non-current cash and investments, plus any restricted cash and investments, if available for general system purposes, divided by operating and maintenance expenses less depreciation, divided by 365. This calculation will exclude accrued debt service for the next fiscal year and all funds in the Risk Reserve and Renewal and Replacement Reserve.

Debt Service: Amount of money necessary to pay principal and interest on bonds outstanding.

Debt Service as a Percent of Revenues: Total revenues divided by total debt service. This ratio measures the debt service burden compared to total revenues.

Risk Management Reserve: HRSD maintains a self-insurance program for some of its risk exposures. HRSD'S Financial Policy requires HRSD to maintain a Risk Management Reserve as of the end of the fiscal year of not less than 25 percent of projected annual self-insured claims costs for known, retained risks.

Senior Debt Service Coverage: Current-year revenues available for debt service divided by current-year senior lien debt service. This ratio indicates the financial margin to meet current senior lien debt service with current revenues available. HRSD's Financial Policy requires that Senior Debt Service Coverage will not be less than 1.5 times senior lien debt service. When

calculating compliance with this coverage requirement, HRSD may make reasonable adjustments to the net revenues as presented on a basis consistent with generally accepted accounting principles. HRSD's Senior Trust Agreement requires Senior Debt Service Coverage, which is determined by dividing the Income Available for Debt Service by the Maximum Annual Debt Service, will not be less than 1.2 times.

Total Debt Service (Adjusted): Calculated in accordance with HRSD's Subordinate Trust Agreement, the ratio determined by dividing the Net Revenues by annual debt service. In such calculation, funds spent on Locality Assets may be excluded from the calculation of Net Revenues under the circumstances described within the definitions of Net Revenues and Operating Expenses. Annual debt service will be based on actual principal and interest payments during the year (i.e., not accrual based).

Total Debt Service Coverage Ratio (GAAP): Calculated in accordance with HRSD's Senior Trust Agreement, the ratio determined by dividing the Net Revenues by annual debt service. In such calculation, funds spent on Locality Assets are considered an expense. Annual debt service will be based on actual principal and interest payments during the year (i.e., not accrual based).

Trust Agreement: The formal agreement between bond holders, acting through a trustee, and HRSD.

Unrestricted Cash: Unrestricted cash and investments at fiscal year-end that are not earmarked for another purpose.