

ALG Minutes, Jan 12, 2023,

Acton Leadership Group meeting, Jan. 12, 2023 12PM, via Zoom

Present: Bart Wendell, Facilitator, David Martin and Dean Charter, SB; Adam Nolde and Steve Noone, FC; Kyra Cook and Amy Krishnamurthy, SC; John Mangiaratti, Peter light and Marie Altieri, staff.

Extra Info/documents: Agenda; Minutes Dec. 8, 2022 and ALG model

II. Regular Business

1. Public comment: there was none
2. Minutes were accepted

II. Special/New Business

3. FY 23 Update

JM: we're half-way through the year. Things are OK except the OT account for public safety. There have been retirements and we're looking for new employees. In Town Hall we're in transition with the retirement of Steve Barrett and Brian McMullen. Lisa is also set to retire. We'll work through it. We got a \$750K grant through Trahan's office for the Asa Parlin house; a \$100K grant for green communities, 50% of which goes to the schools.

Peter: there is a \$150K projected revenue surplus in Ch. 70; the state increase the per pupil amount from \$30-\$60. The surplus will also be in the charter school's account. We also have about \$150K from investment income. We are working with a consultant to prioritize capital improvements. We have repurposed \$3m under the appropriation for the new school. We will need a place-holder for this on the warrant.

4. Model

Marie: thanks to John, we've got the deficit down. the Minuteman numbers are better: \$428K for operating budget; \$140K for debt.

New growth numbers are better than anticipated and about \$200K will flow into FY24

Both the Town and schools lowered their budget numbers significantly and now the net position is only \$322K. More work will be done on this.

John: we were asked to work on the ALG plan format but we don't have the time right now and will do that after Town Meeting.

The 3% we originally proposed was more than 3%. Department heads stepped up and revised their budgets and we were able to make \$238K reductions in the model.

With all the retirements, we will not have the same salary costs. The tax recap is complete and the numbers from FY 23 have flowed into FY 24. We are still left with a

\$322K net. We will focus our time on FY 24---getting the net down and not the outer years.

Peter: When we presented the budget it was at 2.99%; we have done a reassessment and further reductions. There is concern that we are cutting too much and that there will be direct impacts on the students; changing the numbers in the elementary school sections; library media people—we need to be careful that cuts are OK under state regulations. We cut out \$250-\$300 K but h committee would like to see ways that some of the cuts can be restored. It's the last 10% of the cuts that will heavily impact the students and is most uncomfortable.

Bart: comments?

Finance committee members went over some of the numbers again.

Marie said that the new growth was in the \$200K range

David asked about the "Painful" cuts of the last 10%

Peter: it's a matter of balancing priorities and it's a task that is still not finished.

David asked about E&D use.

Peter said it was down a quarter of a million; last year they used \$1.5m

Bart: on reviewing the model—can any work be done today or should it wait?

Peter: suggested that it would be better to wait. He noted that the budget was in a "good place" for January. I have not done the presentation to the SC; don't know their reactions. So we should stay in a holding pattern.

Bart: I don't remember any other time when the budgets were so far advanced.

Members thanked John and Peter for their work.

Bart: Any agenda items for the February 9TH meeting? Nothing extra was added.

The Feb. 9th meeting will be at Noon on Zoom.

There was a request to change the March 9th meeting to March 8th. There was agreement. That will also be at noon on Zoom

Adjourned: 12:27

Ann Chang