

ALG Minutes February 8, 2018

PRESENT: Janet Adachi & Katie Green, BoS; Steve Noone & Jason Cole, FC; Paul Murphy & Amy Krishnamurthy, SC; Steve Ledoux, Bill McAlduff, Steve Barrett & Marie Altieri, staff. Absent: Bart Wendell, facilitator.

Audience: Mark Hald, Asst. Town Manager; Brian McMullen, Asst. Finance director/principle assessor; Dave Verdolino, school finance director, Jon Petersen, candidate for school committee.

Extra Info: spreadsheet

Janet assumed the role of facilitator.

Minutes were tabled until next meeting

SB: went through the changes in the spreadsheet which codified the changes made at the last meeting. Increase in the use of reserves to \$2.2m; school assessment increase to only 3.90%; and one third of the tax levy. These changes still leave a \$182,722 deficit.

Janet noted that the purpose of the meeting was to erase this deficit.

Steve Noone said the FC had an agreement to raise the reserve use to \$2,385,217. The increase comes from taking specific items deemed as one-time capital and allowing them to be covered by the reserves. The list: Minuteman, \$189,579; MBTA whistle \$140K; bike share \$9K, Interest on: fire engine \$23,888; fire HVAC \$13K and complete streets \$9,750. This action (\$185,217) erased the \$182K deficit.

There was agreement to accept this proposal.

Jason noted that he was the one who held up the decision from last meeting and he accepts this compromise. He has grave concerns about the budgets as a whole. He said he appreciates the mechanism of the ALG process and the buy in from the schools, town and finance committee. But taking \$100K more from reserves to cover operating is not sound. It's not clear what the measurable returns will be for the future budgets. We (FC) are here to protect taxpayers.

Janet noted that the BOS felt that they were put on the spot by the statement and it was not in character. She said the BoS had followed the FC's POV and they made an earnest effort in subsequent iterations to close the financial gap.

Marie said that it was important that the three groups continue to work together for the good of the whole. She added that there would be state reimbursement for the transportation costs that will reduce the percentage of the school's assessment.

Bill: In my 21 years of working in various school districts this system is unique. I would consider developing a similar process in other districts because it is so helpful. Coming to consensus is wonderful and it is good for everyone to hear the different points of view.

Steve Noone noted that item 3 was overlooked and the FC wants to have a long range plan that includes FY20 &21.

SN: We need to send out an assumption page for the upcoming fiscal years we have to do our own and include the turn back assumptions into a formula so we are not caught unawares and fall off a cliff. This is something that needs to be discussed for the next meeting'

The warrant will be going to press on March 10

The next meeting will be WEDNESDAY February 28

Adjourned at 7:55

Ann Chang