

ALG Minutes, February 28, 2019; Acton Memorial Library meeting room, 486 Main Street, 6:30PM

Present: Bart Wendell, facilitator; Katie Green & Joan Gardner, BoS; Jason Cole & Roland Bourdon, FC; Diane Baume & Paul Murphy, SC; John Mangiaratti, Peter Light, Steve Barrett (Marie Altieri, arrived at 6:50), staff.

Audience: Mark Hald, Asst. Town Manager; Brian McMullen, Asst. Assessor & finance director; Dave Verdolino, ABRSD finance director and Charlie Kadlec.

Additional information: Town of Acton multi-year financial model (aka spreadsheet); minutes 02/07/19; agenda.

1. Minutes were accepted with corrections from Peter Light.

2. FY 19 Update (John Mangiaratti & Peter Light)

John: we are on track; things are going smoothly; not as much snow so there's room in that budget.

Peter: Revenues are \$450k to the positive. We had a slight increase in Ch.70; transportation reimbursement was higher; investment income is "just south of \$200K". We will budget investment income in the future. We are \$950K to the positive in expense. The salaries are lower; there are fewer maternity leaves; 20% took the higher deductible health care plan. For SPED it's a wash. We got \$100K and transportation cost \$100K. Overall we are &1.4m positive.

3. Spreadsheet review (All)

Steve B: the debt exclusion and the outer years are marked in yellow. We have pulled out debt exclusion giving it its own row. Our plan has been to get the spreadsheet ready for the warrant. The biggest changes are in the outer years---the model has been retro-fitted and is ready to go.

No questions

4. School Building Update (Light & Altieri)

In February we sent the schematics to the state and we got feed-back we will be sending them to the MSBA on April 28. We will be working on the schematic designs and value engineering between now and June and send them into the MSBA in early July. We expect to hear by August 28th at that time we will know the costs and the size of the state reimbursement. We will have a good sense of the costs when we send the plans in.

Jason: It will take from the end of June through August just for the MSBA to come up with the effective reimbursement rate?

Peter: Yes.

5. Discussion of Town meeting articles (All)

Jason: We've not had a chance to go through all of them.

Katie: We have gone through all 53 and given out the presentations; we have deferred the PB (Planning Board) article until the 18th.

Peter: I will be drafting the language [for the schools two articles] tomorrow and will meet with the finance committee on Tuesday. We have looked closely at stabilization funds and we want to be transparent on the intended uses.

Legally it can be used for any purposes for the district. We have to look at bounding which will mean capital. For example if we get an unexpected influx of (Special Education students) SPED kids. I will get you copies (for the FC meeting) on the spreadsheets. We also have to be aware of the 5% E&D threshold.

Jason: we really do need the final language before we go to print. We have passed over some of the articles because of the language but we will revisit some of them.

John: all we can ask is that you get your recommendations as soon as possible.

Bart: who will not be here next year?

Katie: this is my fourth time and I have found it to be a good process and valuable. I just wish you all good luck in the future.

Jason: this is my second year and I will not be here next year. I do like the process—at first I wondered if it would work.

Diane: It will be the new school committee chairs and we will not know who they will be until we reorganize after Boxboro's town meeting and election.

John: I have enjoyed working with you all and working together for the betterment of the community.

Peter: It's a good way to get top understand the whole community and not just the schools. It helps to develop a budget within that context.

Katie: it's the staff that helps get us up to speed and for that we thank you.

6. Public Comment

Charlie: The ALG started because of Prop. 2.5 Before that the BoS did not make any recommendation on the school budget and as every article was passed there was a tally sheet to show us how much we were spending and what the levy would be. It's a lot better now.

On the spreadsheet on FY21 &22 there is a negative net position. Is the tax impact based on the levy as above or total with the deficit?

SB: levy for FY21 is full taxation; we will have debt exclusion on top.

Marie: It will be a \$1.2m deficit which will be balanced but the spreadsheets will have the SFT.

Bart: This is the last meeting of this season. When is the next?

There was a general discussion as to when the next meeting had to happen based on the requirements of the OML (Open Meeting Law) for having the minutes done by the next three meetings or three months---which ever was sooner.

There were some concerns about Boxboro not having their elections and town meeting until May.

It was decided that the next meeting would be held on May 16, 7:30 AM in Room 204, Acton Town Hall.

Adjourned: 7PM

Ann Chang