

ALG Minutes, June 4, Via Zoom, 8 AM

Present: Bart Wendell, facilitator; Joan Gardner and Jon Benson, BoS; Roland Bourdon and Christi Andersen, FC; Amy Krishnamurthy, SC; John Mangiaratti, Peter Light, Steve Barrett and Marie Altieri, Staff. Absent: Dian Baume, SC. Public: John Petersen, ABRSC member.

Additional information/documents: Agenda; Draft Minutes May, 20; ALG model updated from last meeting.

Regular Business

1. Minutes were accepted with two corrections

Special Business

2. FY20 update

Peter: We have a reduction of about \$200K and are in the process of applying for every eligible FEMA grant. The CARES Act money for the schools will go into the FY 21 budget; we need technology for the 9th grade.

John: Revenues are on track; collections are solid---it's almost normal, and we are pleased. On the expense side we have a hiring freeze and a freeze on non-emergency expenses. We expect to turn back \$1M.

3. CARES conversation

John: we intend to take full advantage of the Cares Act funds; we have put in applications for rental assistance and are working on a business assistance program. We have a \$425K expense which we can have CARES pay 25%. We expect to get somewhere between \$1.7-\$1.8M

4. Multi-year plan

Steve: we have made the changes from last meeting and now have the budget ready for FY21. We pulled back to FY 20 on state aid, local new growth; added \$50K from the overlay fund; reduced \$215K in capital a total of \$429K reduction. So we are \$152K positive for FY 21.

Marie: we did do some work on FY 22 & 23; we lowered the assessment; theres a bigger increase nearly 3.8% for FY22 & 23.

Christi: what decreases the base?

Marie: the actual revenues; keeping expenses minimal and Ch. 70 aid.

Peter: If inflation is at 3% we need to change assumptions.

Marie: biggest decrease in FY 21 was \$500K.

Christi: we need to keep a close eye on that.

Bart: Comments?

Christi: in general the changes in the out years show huge deficits. FY 22 & 23 will be harder to balance; we need to tighten the budgets as much as we can. It would be helpful to have better predictions for the “rainy day” funds for the out years.

Bart: so the plan is ready to go to the warrant. Is ever one good with that?

There was a general assent.

Bart: I know this is not on the agenda but as an administrative matter does it make any sense to keep the same ALG members for the summer? Any comments?

Roland: Christi will take over for me and Christine Russell will join---she knows pretty much where things stand.

On the BOS side after Town meeting Joan will no longer be chair but will be replaced by Jon Benson and Dean Charter will be the vice chair who will attend the ALG meetings. This reorganization will take place on July 6th.

Bart: when will the FC reorganize?

Roland: July 7th

Bart: when will the schools reorganize?

Amy: I am assuming that one of us (either me or Diane) will stay. It's typically the chair and vice chair but we will not be reorganizing until August sometime. We will make sure the new person is up to speed on ALG matters.

Bart: no further discussion need happen. Do you want to plan more meetings now or wait until after Town Meeting?

It was decided to wait. There was a full discussion on how Town Meeting would be conducted: the petition to not pass the budget which would mean that there would be 1/12 budgets---a far more complex and costly alternative; all the reports will be on line because there will be no hand outs at town meeting. John noted that the warrant had been cut down in size and the majority of the articles were on consent. Roland suggested that the Town Report also be on line and only print a few (100) for historic purposes.

There will be an outside audience and an inside audience. The FC will be outside. Jon Petersen will present the school budget: Peter Light will be the only one to attend the Boxborough Town Meeting and not the whole committee to allow for greater social distancing. Christi voiced her concerns about the Minuteman budget. Jon said that there will be an outside speaker from the school and there will be a narrative about the changes that the school has done to explain the budget increases. Christi suggested that this also be part of the on line warrant.

Bart: there will be no more ALG meetings for this session. I wish you lots of luck with your Town Meeting; it's been an interesting year.

Signed off at 8:40

Ann Chang