

Minutes OK'd

ALG Minutes

September 15, 2008

6 PM

[The meeting was held at 6 PM because the meeting scheduled for September 12th was not properly posted]

Present: Facilitator: Bart Wendell. Heather Harer, SC; Steve Noone, Herman Kabakoff, FC; Lauren Rosenzweig, Paulina Knibbe, BoS; Staff Steve Ledoux, John Murray, Bill Ryan & Marie Altieri.

Audience: Dick Calandrella, Clint Seward, C. Kadlec, Bob Ingram & Paul Hoff.

There were no additions to the agenda

Minutes of August 25, 2008 were approved

3. Proposed Joint Board Meeting

Looking at the schedule for the meeting, Bart noted that the times were tight, and he asked for advice as to who would speak first and the amount of public involvement.

Discussion

Lauren said that the meeting was essentially for the public so that everyone would be on the same page and understand the terms being used. She felt that the board should be able to ask questions first then the public.

It was suggested that the public's questions wait until the end.

Others felt that this was not satisfactory but after each presentation; there should be time for public questions.

There will be two main presenters: Steve Ledoux. Steve will go through a set of definitions and Bill will present the major drivers for the school budget.

It was agreed that the section on the budget calendar could be omitted if it was getting too late.

Lauren did not want the meeting to go beyond 9:30

2. Multi-year plan

Extra Information: an updated ALG plan from March 7

Marie reported that she worked on the update with Steve Barrett & Steve Noone. The assumptions on Page 2 have not changed---the plan has just been extended out to FY 2012.

Marie made note of the drop in Ch. 70 aid after FY 11. The formula for computing the aid had a five-year life & that will be up in two years.

Page three was a "Summary of Options for a Multi-year plan"

The first was the ALG plan; second was to lower the tax rate by \$2.4m; raise the levy limit; third was to lower the tax rate by the \$2.4m and decrease revenues in the following year.

Herman took exception to this info sheet saying that none of the boards had seen it before & the numbers were such that "they would scare the voters"

Steve Noone reminded all that there was a request to see what would happen if the \$2.4 m was removed & that the numbers were highly volatile

John Murray suggested that this page developed the issues that should be considered in the next few months & that this was the start of the discussion & not the end.

Herman continued to disagree.

Heather said she thought it was important for the voters to see what would happen to the budget process if the \$2.4 m was removed. "I think it is showing that the elected officials are being up front & honest."

Paulina & Lauren agreed with Heather.

Steve Noone said that in a sense he agreed with Herman "looking at those deficits we would face, we would do something about it before we reached that fiscal year"

Lauren noted that the BoS had not seen any of the sheets so she was willing to have the first two printed in the warrant and work on the third.

Bart: do we have an agreement on that?

More discussion: Steve Noone will write the caveats for the warrant. Herman said he thought they should be vetted.

Bart: are you expecting a vote?

Lauren said that both the FC & SC had seen this info sheet before but the BoS had not. Because of the tight printing deadline, the warrant had to go out on Thursday & there was not time for an additional BoS meeting.

4. STM

There will be a second article on the warrant for the purchase of two lots off Piper Lane, next to the Great Hill conservation area.

The next meeting will be October 10

Adjourned 7 PM

Ann Chang