

ALG Minutes
September 9, 2009



Present: Bart Wendell, facilitator,; Mary Ann Ashton, Herman Kabakoff, FinCom; Sharon McManus, Xuan Kong, School Committee: Paulina Knibbe, Peter Berry, Board of Selectmen; Steve Ledoux, Steve Mills, Marie Altieri, Staff.

Audience: Members of the public

Bart Wendell called the meeting to order at 7:15AM

There was a motion to approve the minutes of the 7-29-09 meeting. Minutes were approved unanimously.

At Steve Ledoux's suggestion, I (Steve Mills) reviewed my recent recommendation to the School Committees calling for budget cuts totaling \$500,000 in the current fiscal year. The one page document delineating those cuts was circulated and included:

- the elimination of one position in the schools' central office,
- a 5% freeze on all materials and supplies,
- a projected savings in the health insurance account,
- the use of \$250,000 of \$450,000 ARRA stimulus funds

Steve Ledoux talked about the overlay account and one time tax payment of \$160,000. Marie Altieri informed the ALG of the school department close out of the '09 fiscal year that included \$525,000 into the Excess and Deficiency (E&D) account, and \$400,000 free cash from the Acton Public Schools.

Herman Kabakoff represented the Fincom and talked about the 97% solution. He noted that the town has a AAA bond rating in large part due to our prudent financial approach. It was agreed upon that the 97% solution was not a numeric goal but a fiscal theme moving forward. Both sides (municipal and school) talked about a hiring freeze remaining in effect.

At 7:40 a.m. Marie reviewed the current ALG spreadsheet and stated that with tax title revenues, overlay, and the lower APS assessment, this gets us to a balanced budget. Marie then reviewed the spreadsheet that includes projections for the fiscal 2010, 2011, and 2012 budgets. This spreadsheet made three different predicted estimates:

1. level funded local aid
2. 10 % cut in local aid
3. 20 % cut in local aid

as we move forward over the next two fiscal years (2011 and 2012). After much discussion the ALG agreed on assuming a predicted 10% cut in local aid.



Acton Leadership Group Meeting

September 09, 2009

7:15 AM

Town Hall, Faulkner Hearing Room

Bart Wendell Facilitating

----- Agenda Topics -----

Please Note 7:15 AM Start Time!

✓ 1. Approval of Minutes 7/2/09	General Discussion	
2. FY 10 Town/School/State Budget Revenue Update	Steve Ledoux Steve Mills	
3. Finance Committee Point of View/The 97% Solution	Herman Kabakoff	
4. Review of ALG Spreadsheet	Marie Altieri	
5. Estimate of Overlay Surplus	Steve Ledoux	
6. Other		

Please Post

Acton Leadership Group Schedule 2009-2010

2009

July 29	7:15 AM	Complete
August 19	7:15 AM	Complete
September 2	7:15 AM	Cancelled
September 9	7 :15 AM	Rescheduled
October 14	7:15 AM	
November 18	7:15 AM	
December 16	7:15 AM	

2010

January 13	January 27	7:15 AM
February 10	February 24	7:15 AM
March 10	March 24	7:15 AM

****This tentative calendar is subject to discussion at the September 9, 2009 meeting.