

## **ALG Minutes October 29, 2015**

Present: Bart Wendell, Facilitator; Katie Green & Peter Berry, BoS; Margaret Busse & Mike Majors, FC; Kristina Rychlik, SC; Steve Ledoux, Glenn Brand, Steve Barrett & Marie Altieri, Staff. Absent: Paul Murphy, SC.

Audience: Clare Jeannotte, Janet Adachi, Brian Mc Mullen, Charlie Kadlec & Bob Ingram.

Extra information: ALG spreadsheet plan; ABRSC statement regarding citizen's petition at Acton STM.

Minutes Okayed

### **2. Update on FY 16 and FY15 Year End**

**Glenn:** Not much new to report. He will present the first FY17 budget to the school committee on Nov. 19th.

Clare reported that the first quarter reports were in and the changes in the levels of state aid. FY 15 has closed. The final report is technically not closed until the end of October which spills over into November when it becomes official.

**Steve L:** there is not a lot to report. The town has started the FY17 budget process with the two day retreat on the hill. There is a committee within the town hall which works on the budget every Thursday.

### **3. Spreadsheet**

**Steve B:** there is a new summary for the revenue recap projections. The model has the tax levy at 2.5% on the levy of \$75.2m which is \$1.9m. [Each ½ % = loss of \$380K of taxes; each 1% = \$760K of taxes] the model assumes taxing the \$985K of untaxed levy capacity from last year.

For state aid on the municipal side there is an estimate of 2.5% increase above FY16 level; ABRSD 1% increase above the FY16 level; meals tax is level.

Steve explained that since the meals tax was new, they felt it should be level funded until there was a history developed for possible expected increases. Under local receipts new growth has not been certified but there is an expectation of exceeding the FY 16 \$900K by \$200-\$400K. This will have a ripple effect throughout the budget. These are just the preliminary revenue numbers.

**Marie:** no decision has been made on the tax levy. That's usually done at our December meeting. These preliminary numbers are an attempt to get the information on paper. We know there are likely to be changes.

### **4. Special Town Meeting**

Peter noted that 25% of the Kelley's Corner plan was done but the plans are not ready for the fall town meeting so will be moved to the annual town meeting in April. At that time there will be a request for 100% design funds at \$¾ million. There is the expectation of federal and state reimbursement.

Margaret said that the \$275K appropriated at the 2013 Town Meeting paid consulting fees and got to a 25% getting to 100% of the design moves the project into a TIP category. We need to spend the money to get the leverage [for the federal and state funds]

Kristina: The citizen's petition for the changes in school testing is article 1. The school committee has voted a statement (she distributed the statement).

The selectmen do not have any position on the petition but will discuss it at their meeting on Monday. Glenn noted that the board of education has not voted on PARC and the Common Core is not up for discussion. Kristina noted that she does have some concerns about PARC but feels it is not responsible to against something that's required.

There was concern that the STM might take more than one evening and the second night will have to be on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

## **5. Revenue Projections**

**Peter:** Local receipts for FY 16 seem to be higher than the actuals for FY 15 but it might be better to take the conservative route and use the FY 15 actuals.

**Marie:** Our take away is New Growth at \$900k and overlay at \$900k

**Mike:** I'm surprised at the good news and think we should take the conservative route

**Bart:** Shall we go with the \$900k? Silent agreement

**Marie:** Chapter 70 aid is 1% it will be going down [loss of school population] but we expect the minimum of \$25/per pupil. We have a new Governor, and do not know how he will treat education

**Margaret:** Is there any information on getting a higher rate for SPED students.

**Clare:** We will get the Foundation information at the end of November. There has been no discussion on changes in the formula. We would like to see higher reimbursement rates for health and SPED.

**Katie:** Will there be changes in the regional transportation at \$1,226k

**Clare:** for FY 15 it was \$1.353K but the cherry sheet still has the \$1226K and that's what we will use for the projection.

**Bart:** So the revenues are OK for now. Silent agreement

## **6. Override**

Marie this is on the list because we would need to make the decision at this point if we were going for an override.

**Bart:** Agreement that there will not be an override? Another silent agreement

**Peter:** we are lucky to have the reserves as we use them to balance the budgets

**Mike:** Looking into the crystal ball we can see bumps in the future where we will need an override. There are many capital projects that are needed. That's why I think we need to appoint a capital committee to help shelter us from overrides in the future.

**Bart:** When do you want this committee formed?

There was a general discussion as to when the committee needed to be formed. Some thought that it should wait for the end of annual town meeting while others thought the committee needed to establish a methodology for how projects would be listed and a strategy as to how the funds would be raised. Projects included North Acton fire Station, Senior Center, needs for Minuteman Tech and the unknown needs for the ABRSD. There were questions as to what would make the list other than actual buildings. Steve L wanted to know if a \$750K fire truck would be added.

It was decided that Steve L and Glenn would meet and discuss the possible committee and the possible charge. There is also the question of Boxboro if the project is part of the region.

## **7. Recap of tri-board meeting**

All thought it was a valuable experience and one that should become an annual event

## **8. Public Comment**

Charlie Kadlec asked where the numbers shown on the spreadsheet came from.

Steve B said they were those that were the numbers from the warrant.

Mr. Kadlec suggested that there should be a reset to zero. Steve said that could be done but then there would be a "\$90m" surplus. Marie explained that the numbers would shortly change once the budgets were presented to the boards.

Peter was concerned that the request for Minuteman did not reflect the needs that the school would present for the construction of a new building. It was agreed that they had to wait for more information from Minuteman.

Bart asked if there were any pressing items for the agenda for the next meeting. It was decided to keep the November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting date as well as the December 10<sup>th</sup>. If the November date is not needed, the meeting will be cancelled.

Adjourned 8:25

Ann Chang