

## ALG Minutes, August 20, 2015

Present: Bart Wendell, Facilitator; Katie Green & Peter Berry, BoS; Margaret Busse & Mike Majors (came late) FC: Kristina Rychlik, SC; Steve Ledoux, Glenn Brand, Steve Barrett & Marie Altieri, staff.

Absent: Paul Murphy, SC

Audience: Janet Adachi & Franny Osman, BoS; Clare Jeannotte & Brian McMullen, staff.

Extra Information: ALG Plan Tie Out; 8.5"x11" Multi-year Financial Plan (one page front sheet); New ALG Plan; Regular 14"x11" Multi-year Financial Model.

1. Minutes were Okayed with a minor correction

### **2. Update on FY 16 revenues and expenditures and FY15 year end**

**Steve L:** FY 16 has no big surprises everything is going to plan. But be aware we have not had free cash certified. Many in the DOR have taken the governor's early retirement so we have lost a lot of the people we've dealt with over the years

**Steve B:** we are closing out FY15 and plan to have all the paper work into the DOR on Aug. 28 and have it take 75 days. They will be vetting all fund activity. The preliminary FY15 results show @\$30M operating budget with @\$150-\$200k turn back---which is considerably less than before.

On the revenue side there continues to be an acceleration of MV Excise tax and the fee continue to be in a positive range of \$1-\$1.25M which is good news.

**Glenn:** We are in a transitional period, getting ready for the start of the new school year.

**Clare:** We are in a similar place as the town in the process of closing out FY15. In FY 15 we are squeaking by with about \$20k total but we have a transportation reimbursement shortfall of \$200k which will be off-set by some other revenue sources principally Medicare and ERate. Expenses will be favorable to budget less than 1% or in the range of \$500k. The majority of this relates to health insurance, which we are not expecting until late in the year. We have nothing for FY16. The audit is ongoing.

### **3. Spreadsheet format**

**Steve B:** This is a work in progress. The large print version (14"X 11") it is the exact cover page that we used last March in the warrant.

Our charge was to make the plan more user-friendly. Sixteen years ago the ALG was one page and there have been add-ons over the years. We thought that it needed to be simplified by having all the pertinent information on the front page. Totals do not match; especially now that we have the region.

**Marie:** The old form has too much data. We decided to just do Acton's share of the school numbers; add reserves on the front page. What's in the plan comes directly from another document. For the schools it's table six---the assessment.

The front page needs to be sources and uses. The allocations; state aid, just Acton, Town of Acton reserves; chapter 70 and E&D are already in the assessment. We have to consider which of the back pages we need to keep and which parts of the back pages need to go onto the simplified front page.

**MB:** Let's go through all the back pages and see what we should keep and what should be noted on the first page.

**Marie:** Second page is revenue and tax levy. Should we keep this in its current form?

There were questions about the necessity for all the numbers and where the history of the tax levy would be shown. It was agreed to continue.

**Marie:** Third page is debt exclusion. It was agreed that this should not be on the first page but the historical information was still good, Page four is revenue and state aid.

**Marie** suggested and it was agreed to start at FY15 and go forward to reflect the regionalization.

Page five is Revenue and local receipts. It was agreed to start with FY 15

Margaret noted that the information was valuable for a general sense but it was not necessary to break it out in such detail.

**Page 6 OPEB.** It was agreed that the voters are still interested in the OPEB issue but all the appropriation numbers are not necessary. The total amount taken from reserves needs to be on the front page. It was not clear how long the interest in OPEB as a separate number would last and there was consideration to have it on the front page this year but revisit the need for next year's warrant.

**Steve L:** reminded the ALG that the FC point of view was that "an X amount of reserves" could be used if the OPEB trust was funded according to their plan.

**Page seven School Town allocation:** There was a general agreement that this page could be deleted in its entirety!

**Page eight analysis assessments:**

Marie: This page will stay. Some of the detail will be a back page. More work needs to be done on this page

**Page nine: reserves**

This is another page that needs work.

**Margaret** suggested that the columns that are \$0 be deleted

**SB:** there will be an additional line to keep track of the stabilization plan

**Page 10 Analysis of assessments and projected state aid.**

This page will become a second tab for table six.

**Margaret:** What is the purpose of the OPEB page and should we just feature the totals and not all the other information.

**Marie:** There is so much data that it's hard to understand some of the numbers are for "pay as you go" while others are for the retiree health. We could put the OPEB trust as a tab on the reserve pages.

**Kristina:** This is a great start and we thank the working group. Everything exists someplace else.

**Mike:** We rarely reference the back pages in the ALG discussions, so are they needed?

**Margaret:** I'm not sure if we just use these pages as tools for deliberation, but they are also posted in the warrant. Is it possible to post them on-line?

**Steve B:** We can deliver the workbook electronically to the group ---but we do not post the ALG sheets on line.

**Marie:** I suggest that 2-3 of us work on the front page during the year which will be used as the working documents for the ALG. The historical data can be posted but not changed at every meeting and have debt exclusion and OPEB as appendices.

**Katie:** I want to thank you for doing all this work. The first page is great but having the tax impact in the warrant is very important. It's still important to have the OPEB number at Town Meeting where the people can easily see it.

**Peter:** I think we can put a summary on-line. Does the state aid include the increase in valuation?

**Brian:** I'm working on that tab [valuation]. The out years have not been updated I have to do a better job on tax impact forecasting. Right now I see for FY16 @ a 3% increase over FY 15. The ALG plan has a 2% increase

**Peter:** Have the consultants done all the field work so that you see the 3% increase in residential?

**Brian:** Doing the commercial revaluation is far more complex and takes a lot longer.

**Margaret:** We need to have the tax impact on the front page—it just needs to be the SF tax bill

**Bart:** So have you (the committee) gotten the feedback you need?

**Marie:** Yes. The tax impact will be on the front page

Katie asked for this page to be sent out before the next meeting

#### **4. Tri-Board Meeting**

**Kristina:** We did meet and worked on a possible agenda. We also discussed the issue of Minutemen and the idea of forming a MMT working group. That idea was well received, however if that doesn't happen the SC has a liaison to Pam Nourse lined up to help us better understand the issues the school is facing this year. We decided to have just Acton and not invite Boxboro. We also looked to add to the agenda the FC Point Of View and do budget reviews. The School committee and FC are on board.

**Katie:** The selectmen talk about it in September 8<sup>th</sup>

**KR:** we were thinking of having it after the November Town Meeting.

The meeting date was discussed and it was decided to hold the meeting sometime in October. The schools will send out a doodle poll to see what dates are free.

**Mike:** The FC is eager to do their Point of View. It's important that the board members get to know each other.

## **5. Public Comment**

**Franny:** I think it's important for the boards to get to know each other and perhaps we should start exercises and games.

Agenda

**Next meeting is September 24<sup>th</sup>**

Bart complimented the Katie and Steve on the video on the Walker property issue. Katie said that they were planning to one on Kelley's Corner for the November Town Meeting.

Adjourned 8:40

Ann Chang