

Budget Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
March 24, 2021

Present: Jenn Walsh; Lynn Cavicchi; Frank DelVecchio; Michael A. Trowbridge; Sara Walsh and Walter Wilk
Also Present: Barry LaCasse, Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director; Teresa Murphy, Superintendent;
Edward Donoghue, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations and Kevin Dumas, Town Manager

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2021 MAY 28 A 8:17
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Jenn Walsh and Walter Wilk were not present at the start of the meeting but Jenn arrived at 5:10pm and Walter arrived at 5:14PM.

1. Call the Meeting to Order AT 5:00 PM

Ms. Sara Walsh, Chair called the meeting to order at 5:04PM.

2. Acceptance of meeting minutes from February 24, 2021

Motion: To approve the meeting minutes from February 24, 2021. (Trowbridge/DelVecchio)

Roll Call Vote:

M. Trowbridge – Yes, L. Cavicchi – Yes, F. DelVecchio – Yes, S. Walsh – Yes

Passes 4:0

3. Budget Planning Update

- Update/Modifications on Town and School Budgets
- Timeline of state budget announcement
- Federal Funding Impact

Mr. LaCasse stated that he emailed the committee earlier in the day and that as of today there is a \$2.2 million deficit. He then presented a document on how he is proposing to close the budget gap. He explained that he has removed \$980,541 from school's appropriation request, which represents the expenses that needs to be absorbed schools' budget because the CHAMPS (After school program) revenue was basically non-existent due to COVID. He then stated that the school's projected COVID needs were \$1.6 million and that was reduced to \$900,000. Mr. LaCasse then explained the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and how that aid was divided into three categories local, county and school. \$1.2 is available for local aid in FY22, \$2.3 in county aid and \$1.1 million in school aid. Mr. LaCasse proposed that the local share and county share of the Rescue Plan Act would offset the \$980,541 for the Champs revenue loss and part of the general government deficit and then the school share and the ESSR Grant would cover the COVID expenses for the schools. Ms. Walsh asked a few follow up questions to provide clarification. She also asked if the \$2.2 million deficit was all COVID related and Mr. LaCasse responded that the deficit was due to revenue shortfalls in FY20 and FY21 not due to an increase in expenses. Members of the Committee asked some questions but no motions were made.

4. Plan for update to committees

Ms. Walsh asked if the school could present to the Finance Committee on April 15th, however Mr. Donoghue stated that he would not be presenting to the School Committee until May 4th so it would be too soon. Mr. Donoghue also noted that the schools have not yet received notification if they need to provide remote virtual learning next year to students. If they do that will increase their budget. Mr. Donoghue suggested moving his hearing up a week and then meet on April 29th. It was agreed to have Schools, Finance Committee and Select Board join the Budget Subcommittee meeting with all the Boards.

5. Timing of additional meetings if needed (next scheduled 4/29)

As noted in previous agenda the next meeting will be April 29 at 5PM and Ms. Walsh stated it did not appear that another meeting would be needed.

6. Items not known within 48 hours meeting

There were no items.

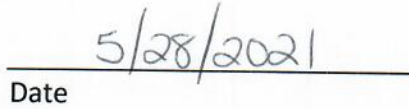
7. Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn the March 24, 2021 meeting at 5:38PM. (DelVecchio/Trowbridge)

Roll Call Vote:

J. Walsh – Aye, W. Wilk – Aye, M. Trowbridge – Yes, L. Cavicchi – Yes, F. DelVecchio – Aye, S. Walsh – Aye
Passes 6:0


Signature


Date

Minutes prepared by Carrie Champagne