

Finance Committee

Meeting Minutes

July 25, 2023

7:30 PM

Present: Christi Andersen (Chair), Jason Cole (Vice Chair), Steve Noone, Roland Bourdon, Dave Wellingshoff, Christine Russell, Esha Gangolli, Scott Sullivan, and Vlad Kan (Associate)

Ms. Andersen called the meeting to order.

1. Citizen's Concerns

Ms. Friedrichs made comments regarding no recycling in room 204 and that the Planning Board canceled their meeting because they had nothing to do

2. Minuteman Superintendent Update

Ms. Russell gave an overview of the situation at Minuteman School:

- The superintendent is on leave, currently have a temporary superintendent
- Currently have an interim principal
- The investigation is ongoing and meetings have been in executive session
- There has been no communication from the School or the School Committee
- Ms. Russell believes more info and/or a resolution will be forthcoming

3. Cost of Growth Discussion

Mr. Cole led the members in a discussion about developing a definition of the cost of growth associated with developments and what matrix could be used to estimate the costs. Some suggested matrix:

- # of needed public safety positions
- Water hookups
- Sewer hookups and discharge capacity
- School enrollment
- MBTA zoning requirements

Members discussed if the Planning Board should provide information and/or participate in developing such projections. They also discussed what and where data is currently available. Mr. Noone said this data will be needed as support of an override, if one is

needed in the future. Members discussed how collecting such data points would be useful and what other stakeholders should participate.

Ms. Friedrichs supports the idea and suggests using existing studies which may be helpful.

4. ALG Discussion and Recommendations

Ms. Russell talked through current and projected capital projects and the associated slides. Members talked about how inflation, interest rates, union contracts, etc. would impact budgets and debt service.

Discussions were had to determine what info is needed for Acton Leadership Group (ALG) versus Point of View (POV) as far as borrowing and when such borrowing may happen.

A former Acton Boxborough School Committee member suggested a visual that shows what we are locked into and what is wanted to help those preparing the budgets.

Mr. Sullivan asked how accurate the revenue projections have been. Mr. Noone replied that revenues are usually within 1-2% of budget. Projections are a function of State law as they don't allow budgeting more in local receipts than received in the prior year.

Mr. Noone made a motion that the ALG representatives make recommendations to ALG as per the conversation and slide's guidance. Mr. Bourdon seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

5. Finance Committee Business

Members gave their liaison reports.

Mr. Kan moved to adjourn. Mr. Cole seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting

Point of View (POV)