



Town of Acton

Finance Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: October 10th, 2017

Town Hall Room 204 • 7:30 pm

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Members in attendance: Bob Evans, David Wellinghoff (Clerk), Steve Noone (Chair), Christine Russell (Associate), Jeff Bergart, Mike Majors, Tom Farley, Jason Cole (Vice-chair), John Benson (Associate), Roland Bourdon

Members absent: Christiana Andersen

Other: Brian McMullen, Janet Adachi (BoS), Amy Krishnamurthy (School Com.), Marie Altieri (Deputy Superintendent), Dave Verdolino (ABRSD - Dir. Of Finance)

Chair Noone called meeting to order at 7:33.

Public participation – None.

Minutes approved from last meeting.

Update from Acton Boxboro School District – Marie presents ABRSD update. FY17 revenues were favorable by 0.9% or \$787k. Expenses favorable by 1% or \$848k, and total \$1.65mn or 2%. Revenue was helped by State aid \$384k, Medicaid \$209k, Interest \$93k, and other \$101k. Expenses favorable by salaries \$556k, health insurance \$443k, out-of-district SPED tuitions \$263k, transport \$292k, and utilities \$409k. Unfavorable expense variations were workers comp at \$156k, capital outlays at \$636k, and building/grounds maintenance \$209k. Marie notes Moodys has removed the negative outlook from the rating given improvements in E&D which for FY17 was \$4mn or 4.6% of budget.

Enrollment projections are completely changed given the dynamics over the past two years. FY17 numbers were actual 330 for Kindergarten vs. projected 286. FY18 numbers were actual 353 vs. projected 298. These are heavily dependent on housing turnover which has increased dramatically since mid-2015. FY25 school enrollment projections are now looking

to be 5,450 vs prior estimates of 4,942 and earlier of 4,454. MSBA has agreed to take into consideration the new October numbers which is a positive.

Faster growing student groups that may need more resources are English learners and low income families.

Medium term capital projects are \$13.4mn over the next 5-7 years.

For the Building Project, a feasibility study costing \$1.3mn will need to be done that will be reimbursed 45.3% by the MSBA. ABRSD will be responsible for \$710k which they are looking to fund out of E&D reserves. The potential cost of the twin school would be \$100-120mn with reimbursement of 40-45% and Acton's cost of \$45-60mn. Potential for the school to be completed by 2021 or 2022.

Report on ALG Meeting – Steve provides updates on the latest ALG meeting.

Updated FY19 Budget Scenarios – Steve provides the 4 budget scenarios to review and reference in the future.

Finance Committee Business – CPC is looking at a property at Arlington / Newtown Road which could be \$800k and another \$1.3mn for development rights at Stony Field farms. Insulet ground breaking has occurred. School Committee is hiring a firm for a permanent superintendent. Special Town Meeting has at least 2 articles (school project, marijuana). Town Manager search is ongoing.

Meeting adjourned at 9:11.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Wellinghoff
Finance Committee Clerk