

**Joint Budget Task Force Committee
Minutes of August 10, 2015
Selectmen's Chamber, Town Hall**

Present for Board of Selectmen: Alison Hughes, Tony Archinski, Linda Wright, Town Accountant, Ann Vandal, Assistant Town Manager/Finance, Jim Duggan, Town Manager and Recording Secretary Shannon Rowe Beaulieu

Present for School Committee: Betsy Murphy, Michael McNamara and Steven Stone, Superintendent of Schools

Present for Finance Committee: Louise Tremblay and Bob Corey

Mrs. Hughes opened the meeting at 5:04 p.m.

Review of Second Revision of "Draft" Town 5 Year Revenue Projections

Mrs. Vandal provided a revised "Draft" Revenue Projections FY16-FY21 (Subject to Change) to the Committee and confirmed the numbers for Real Estate and Personal Property tax.

Mrs. Vandal discussed abatements, debt exclusions and State assessments and stated that there are no significant changes.

Mrs. Vandal stated that she did not receive any emails or calls with questions from the Committee.

Mrs. Vandal stated that she did not adjust School construction numbers but she will review them.

Mrs. Vandal discussed new growth revenues and based them on average over 3 to 5 years.

Dr. McNamara asked about the \$5,000 budget for Court fines. Mrs. Vandal stated that the amount is projected over the next couple of years.

Mrs. Vandal discussed the \$15,000 budget for Towing fees which is also projected over the next couple of years.

Mrs. Vandal discussed the Library revenues with fees and fines in revolving funds.

Mrs. Vandal discussed the Town Auction revenue going into the Capital Improvement Fund which is a Town By-Law.

Review Second Revision of "Draft" Dracut Public School's 5 Year Revenue Projections

Superintendent Stone provided a revised "Draft" Revenue Forecast: Dracut Public Schools FY17-21 V.2 and discussed the \$907,142 in this current years grants.

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Superintendent Stone discussed the \$922,000 in grants place holder over the next couple of years.

Superintendent Stone discussed the \$65,000 Kindergarten grant which is assumed will be the same as last year but is not carrying over for future years.

Superintendent Stone discussed the revolving fund from Dracut High School parking revenues and after school care provided by the YMCA revenues.

Superintendent Stone discussed E Rate being plugged into FY17 and using the money over 3 years as the money has to be used within 5 years.

Dr. McNamara discussed the Title 1 drop and discussed the calculation being based upon poverty level. Dr. McNamara discussed the District getting the allocation which is divided by the Schools.

Dr. McNamara discussed the after school care being run by the YMCA and stated that the YMCA pays a fee to the School.

Dr. McNamara stated that ½ days are required for Kindergarten and discussed costs for full day Kindergarten.

Dr. McNamara discussed athletic fees and stated that the registration fees for fall sports are required when the student registers.

Superintendent Stone stated that the athletic revenue is slated to go down in the future.

Dr. McNamara stated that the School Committee would like to see a drop in the Elementary transportation fee, athletic fees and Performing Arts fee's.

Dr. McNamara stated that the parking fee will remain.

Superintendent Stone stated that they assume participation will stay leveled with the additional fees and discussed how the additional athletic fees were determined.

Old Business

Mrs. Hughes stated that expenditures will start to be reviewed at the next meeting.

Discuss Public Input Options

Mrs. Hughes discussed residents being able to submit public input without attending a meeting.

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Mr. Duggan stated that he could establish a separate email with a link on the Town's website and have the email address be posted on DATV and the email address could be announced at the meetings.

Mrs. Hughes stated that residents could send letters as well until the day before the Agenda deadline for the Committee's review.

Public Input

Mrs. Susan Koufogazos, 22 Blackberry Field Road, appeared before the Committee and thanked them for allowing public input. Mrs. Koufogazos stated that they needed to get rid of athletic fees but also need to remove the transportation fee for grades K-6.

Mrs. Hughes stated that at the August 25, 2015 meeting the Committee will be reviewing the Town's expenditures and at the September 9, 2015 meeting the Committee will be reviewing the School's expenditures.

Mrs. Hughes stated that during future meetings the Committee will continue to review revenues, expenditures, State funding and investments.

Adjournment

Motion made by Mrs. Murphy to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. Corey. Motion passed unanimously.

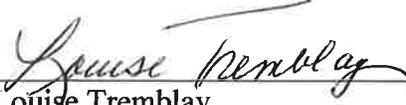
The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.


Alison Hughes


Tony Archinski

Betsy Murphy


Dr. Michael McNamara


Louise Tremblay


Bob Corey