

Tri-Board Meeting
Board of Selectmen, Dracut School Committee, Finance Committee
October 22, 2015
Harmony Hall

Board of Selectmen Present – Tony Archinski, Tamil Dristiliaris, Alison Hughes and Cathy Richardson.

Dracut School Committee Present – Matthew Sheehan, Dr. Michael McNamara, Betsy Murphy, Joe Wilkie (arrived 7:04 p.m.) and Daniel O’Connell

Finance Committee Present – Louise Tremblay, Joe Herlihy, Edward Pitta, Joe DiCarlo, Helen Hamel and Bob Corey

Also Present – Ann Vandal, Assistant Town Manager/Finance, Linda Wright, Town Accountant, Steven Stone, Superintendent of Schools, William Frangiamore, School Business Administrator and Recording Secretary Shannon Rowe Beaulieu

Mr. Archinski opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Update Members on Progress of the Joint Budget Task Force Committee (JBTF)

Mrs. Hughes stated that at tonight’s JBTF meeting, Mrs. Vandal presented the Committee with the combined document for the Municipal and the School Department. Mrs. Hughes stated that the Committee would be reviewing the document and bringing the final document to the Tri-Board for review and discussion.

Mrs. Hughes discussed the collaboration between Jim Duggan, Ann Vandal, Superintendent Stone and Bill Frangiamore.

Mrs. Hughes stated that the Tri-Board would make the final decision on how to move forward with the final document and narrative which would be presented to the Tri-Board in November.

Mrs. Murphy thanked Jim Duggan, Ann Vandal, Superintendent Stone and Bill Frangiamore for all of their hard work through this process.

Mr. Archinski also discussed the collaboration with the Committee. Mr. Archinski stated that there were many figures to review and the Tri-Board would be happy with the final document and narrative.

Mrs. Hughes stated that the JBTF is hoping to vote on the final document at their November 4, 2015 meeting and then the final document would be presented to the Tri-Board.

Mrs. Hughes stated that fiscal year projections would continue to be added to the document as time goes on and discussed the matter of maintaining the projections when the Tri-Board takes over the charge of the JBTF.

(Tri-Board Meeting Minutes of October 22, 2015)

Mr. Archinski stated that the final document is not a budget, it is a tool to be used on how to plan for fiscal years moving forward.

Mrs. Hughes discussed the document being used as a forecasting tool not a financial tool.

Dr. McNamara discussed the document being a Town's needs list not a wish list. Dr. McNamara discussed the document being defined and rationalized with the entire Town's needs.

Discuss Dracut Public Schools Budget Process

Mr. Archinski discussed realizing during the JBTF meetings, that residents do not understand the budget process and discussed Superintendent Stone's budget presented to the JBTF.

Mrs. Murphy stated that if anyone has any questions to please contact Superintendent Stone or anyone on the School Committee and stated that Superintendent Stone's budget presentation is on their website, was given to the School Committee and the JBTF.

Superintendent Stone gave a brief history of how the School's budget process works, stated that the Town Charter requires a working budget be presented to the Town Manager in February of each year which is six months before the numbers come in from the State. Superintendent Stone discussed why some personnel are laid off and stated that some are hired back and some are not depending on the Circuit Breaker, grants, etc.

Mr. Archinski stated that there has been plenty of media to learn the process of the School Department's budget but a lot of residents are not educated on how the budget process works.

Public Input

Mrs. Alison Volpe, 32 Clement Road, appeared before the Tri-Board and stated that she appreciates the JBTF and has attended most of their meetings. Mrs. Volpe discussed the term "wish list" and cautioned the use of that term. Mrs. Volpe discussed residents having the same questions and the same issues come June 2016 and asked how the Tri-Board is going to handle these issues and would like the Tri-Board to have a plan going forward.

Mrs. Hughes stated that the consensus of the JBTF was that the plan should be made by the Tri-Board moving forward with the information provided to them by the JBTF. Mrs. Hughes discussed closing the gap with Economic Development, possible override, etc. Mrs. Hughes stated that the Tri-Board should look at the Town as a whole.

Mr. Archinski stated that the JBTF all agreed that the numbers presented are real numbers. Mr. Archinski stated that the JBTF will make several recommendation on where to go.

Mrs. Volpe asked if the Tri-Board was going to have a plan and are there going to be any changes for next fiscal year?

(Tri-Board Meeting Minutes of October 22, 2015)

Mrs. Vandal stated that next June is not a logical time line but it could happen.

Mrs. Hughes stated that the JBTF will have to discuss with the Tri-Board a time frame and each individual Board may have to make the final decision.

Mrs. Volpe stated that she wants to make sure there is an urgency with accomplishment.

Ms. Richardson stated that the Tri-Board is not the voting authority, each individual Board would need to vote.

Mr. Herlihy stated that Social Security is not going up next year and how are people going to be able to afford the money that is needed?

Mrs. Vandal stated that the JBTF reviewed every revenue and expenditure line item and the needs have to happen for both the Municipal and School sides. Mrs. Vandal asked that the Tri-Board hold their comments until they receive the final document.

Mr. Archinski stated that no one likes the numbers and this is a forecasting document to help identify problems and trying to look for solutions.

Mrs. Dristiliaris stated that they keep referring to a document that most of them have not seen yet.

Some discussion ensued regarding the document and who has seen it and how hasn't.

Mr. Archinski stated that there would be another Tri-Board meeting which the final document from the JBTF would be presented for their review.

Adjournment

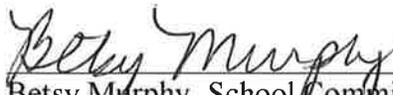
Motion made by Mr. Sheehan to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Mrs. Murphy. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Tri-Board Committee



Tony Archinski, Board of Selectmen



Betsy Murphy, School Committee



Louise Tremblay, Finance Committee