

**Joint Budget Task Force Committee
Minutes of October 28, 2015
Town Hall, Selectmen's Chamber**

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, Steven Stone, Superintendent of Schools and Bill Frangiamore, Business Manager

Present for Finance Committee: Louise Tremblay

Mrs. Hughes opened the meeting at 5:37 p.m.

Committee's Comments on Combined Revenue and Expenditure Projections Town Wide:

Mrs. Hughes stated that comments from the previous meeting was to add verbiage to the final document and some formula's needed to be fixed.

Mrs. Vandal presented the Committee with a complete packet titled FY16-FY21 Projected Revenues and Expenditures, School and Town dated October 28, 2015.

Mrs. Hughes discussed Mr. Duggan, Mrs. Vandal, Superintendent Stone and Mr. Frangiamore giving their recommendations at the next meeting.

The Committee agreed that these are the final numbers and this document is an extremely comprehensive five year plan for the Town.

Dr. McNamara discussed the Municipal Miscellaneous revenues and expenditures verbiage being broken down.

Mrs. Vandal stated that the verbiage for that item is broken down on page one of the document.

Dr. McNamara asked if page numbers could be added to the final version.

Mrs. Hughes asked if the 70% of the Parker Avenue School lease was included in the projections? Mrs. Vandal stated that they are still discussing the Parker Avenue School lease internally.

Public Input

Mrs. Allison Volpe, 32 Clement Road, appeared before the Committee and discussed the confusion with the last Tri-Board meeting. Mrs. Volpe asked if this document would be a working document?

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Mrs. Hughes discussed the only numbers being set in stone are the FY16 numbers. Mrs. Hughes explained that there is always a chance the numbers will change so the document cannot be a final document as it will always be edited once the fiscal years pass.

Mrs. Vandal stated that the narrative will be ready for the next meeting.

Mrs. Hughes discussed looking at Mrs. Vandal, Mr. Duggan, Mr. Frangiamore and Superintendent Stone for guidance on how the delta should be handled. Mrs. Hughes stated that doing that at the Tri-Board meeting maybe too cumbersome.

Mrs. Hughes explained that unless huge economic development happens right away a revenue source need to be brought in.

Mrs. Hughes discussed addressing FY17 issues that need to be looked at and the need to explain clearly to the residents if their help is going to be needed.

Mrs. Vandal discussed making adjustments not "cuts".

Mrs. Murphy discussed making a priority list to moving forward.

Mrs. Vandal stated that the summary would be coming forward then suggestions are made.

Mr. Duggan discussed suggestions of investments, things held back, etc. and discussed looking at an override in a very cautious manner.

Mrs. Vandal discussed some expenditures being contractual.

Ms. Tremblay discussed a possible override and how would they move forward as it comes to be a part of resident's taxes every year.

Mrs. Hughes discussed Proposition 2 ½ and how it works.

Mrs. Hughes stated that 3.3 million would add 10% to resident's tax bills and they would never think of suggesting that.

Mrs. Murphy discussed feeling like they are always in crisis mode and the need to find a way not to be in that mode.

Mr. Archinski stated that no one disagrees that the Town needs additional revenue and discussed having a summary of the numbers with revenue suggestions, looking at different revenue scenarios and looking for a way to sustain revenue until economic development comes in.

Mrs. Hughes discussed coming up with an agreeable number to help sustain the budget and offering options to the taxpayers.

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Mr. Jesse Forcier, 211 Parker Road, appeared before the Committee and discussed one scenario being a debt exclusion.

Mrs. Vandal explained how a debt exclusion works and stated that it is added to the tax bill to cover debt for that year. Mrs. Vandal stated that a debt exclusion does not necessarily free up money and there is an end to a debt exclusion.

Mr. Forcier stated that the Assisted Living facility would be on the tax role starting in FY18.

Mr. Duggan stated that once the permitting process is complete for the Assisted Living facility, the facility should be opening by September 2016.

Mrs. Vandal stated that she would provide a narrative on the original document and provide a narrative with different scenarios for the next meeting.

Superintendent Stone stated that he is concerned that any changes will make residents think the need is not real.

The Committee discussed how to move forward and how to handle the delta.

Mr. Duggan stated that the goal is working to try to move forward.

Mrs. Hughes discussed bringing the final document with the narrative back to the Board of Selectmen, School Committee and Finance Committee for their input.

Mrs. Hughes discussed Mr. Duggan, Mrs. Vandal, Superintendent Stone and Mr. Frangiamore continuing on with the projections and reporting back to the Committee.

Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Mrs. Murphy to approve the Minutes of October 22, 2015. Motion seconded by Ms. Tremblay. Motion passed unanimously.

Next Meetings

The next meeting was scheduled for November 4, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

(Joint Budget Task Force Committee Meeting Minutes of October 28, 2015)

Adjournment

Motion made by Mrs. Murphy to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Ms. Tremblay.
Motion passed unanimously.

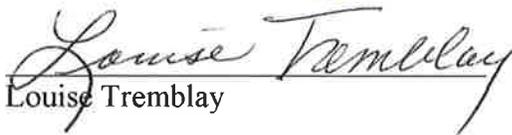
The meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.


Alison Hughes


Tony Archinski


Betsy Murphy


Dr. Michael McNamara


Louise Tremblay

ABSENT
Bob Corey