

**Town of Andover
Board of Finance**
Wednesday, May 26th 2021 at 7:00 P.M.
Location: virtual Zoom meeting

Regular Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Marc Brinker called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members: Chair Marc Brinker, Vice Chair Diane Choquette, Louise Goodwin, Curt Dowling, David Hewett, Robert England, Linda Fish.

Andover Elementary School Superintendent: Valerie Bruneau

Town Administrator: Eric Anderson, Admin Assistant/Board Clerk: Amanda Gibson

Finance Director: Sherry Holmes

Board of Selectmen: Adrian Mandeville, Scott Person.

Board of Education: Gerry Crème, Shannon Louden.

Public Present: Cathy Palazzi, Kimberly Person, Melissa Lotezcka, Mike Beckwith, Joanne Hebert, Kelly Haggerty, Erin Boris, Liz Lokiec, Marcie Miner.

Community Voice Channel recorded the meeting.

2. Public Speak

Cathy Palazzi thanked the Board of Finance and shared support of tax increase.

Gerry Crème thanked the Board of Finance and shared support of tax increase.

Mike Beckwith thanked the Board of Finance and shared support of tax increase.

Adrian Mandeville expressed frustrations with the Board of Education budget process.

Lynn Dove thanked the Board of Finance and shared support of tax increase.

Joanne Hebert thanked the Board of Finance.

Shannon Louden thanked the Board of Finance and expressed frustration for Board of Education budget decreases.

Marcie Miner expressed frustration with budget process.

Kelly Haggerty expressed frustration with budget process.

Erin Boris expressed frustration with budget process.

Marc Brinker introduced regular meeting agenda.

3. Additions/Deletions of Agenda Items

Rob England MOVED to substitute item 4a. with Budget Discussion with intent to come up with recommended budget to present at the Annual Town Budget Meeting and move item 4a. to 4b.

Louise Goodwin SECONDED

MOTION CARRIED 7:0:0

Marc Brinker MOVED to substitute New Business 9a. with Timing for Tax Collection for Upcoming Year.

Curt Dowling SECONDED

MOTION CARRIED 7:0:0

Members requested to add Recreation Commission Fund to the next regular meeting agenda for discussion.

4. Discuss and act upon the following:

- a. Budget Discussion with intent to come up with recommended budget to present at the Annual Town Budget Meeting on Tuesday, June 1st, 2021 at 7:00 P.M.

Members discussed various options for revising the proposed budget.

Rob England MOVED to fund the Andover Elementary School Board of Education budget at \$3,999,400 total which is \$97k increase at 2.49%.

Marc Brinker SECONDED

Discussion: Rob England explained reasoning behind the motion's goal.

MOTION NOT CARRIED 1:5:1

Rob England voted in favor of.

Diane Choquette, Linda Fish, Curt Dowling, David Hewett voted not in favor of. Marc Brinker abstained.

Diane Choquette MOVED to fund the Andover Elementary School Board of Education budget at \$3,978,008 total which is \$75k increase at 1.9%.

Curt Dowling SECONDED

MOTION CARRIED 5:1:1

Curt Dowling, Linda Fish, Louise Goodwin, David Hewett, Diane Choquette voted in favor of. Rob England not in favor of. Marc Brinker abstained.

Members had open dialogue on status of the town budget.

Sherry Holmes expressed concerns for lack of funding for both the town and school, including specifically regarding contractual obligations for school positions and tree work for the town.

Curt Dowling MOVED to recommend the proposed budget as amended for the Annual Town Budget Meeting on Tuesday, June 1st, 2021 at 7:00 P.M.

Louise Goodwin SECONDED

MOTION CARRIED 7:0:0

b. Budget Discussion

i. Recap of the following meetings:

- Thursday, May 6th Annual Town Budget Meeting
- Tuesday, May 18th Town Budget Referendum
- Sunday, May 23rd Special Meeting Budget Workshop
- Tuesday, May 25th Annual Town Budget Meeting

ii. Plans for upcoming Referendum and Budget Process.

Members discussed request for Board of Selectmen to have 4 questions on the upcoming Referendum ballot. Members stated that if the budget passes at the Annual Town Budget Meeting on Tuesday, June 1st then the Referendum would be Tuesday, June 15th, 2021.

5. Town Administrator's Report

Eric Anderson provided a brief verbal report. The First Selectman will be discussing the reopening of Town Hall and COVID relief funding at the Monday, June 14th, 2021 Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting.

Adrian Mandeville suspended the meeting by requesting that Marc Brinker not host the meeting due to personal conflicts with the Andover Elementary School. Diane Choquette continued the meeting.

6. Finance Department Report

- a. Town Budget Summary – Provided.
 - b. Revenue Summary – Provided.
 - c. TAR Spending – Provided.
 - d. Over Expenditure Report – Provided.
- Sherry Holmes provided updates on the reports.

7. Budget Transfers

- a. Budget Transfers/Supplemental Appropriations – None.
- b. Over Expenditure Requests – None.

8. Old Business

- a. Software Transition
Sherry Holmes shared that another meeting is scheduled tomorrow, Thursday, May 27th to discuss status and next steps.
- b. Audit Status
Sherry Holmes shared that the audit final draft will be coming soon, with plans for shorter and streamlined process next year.
Eric Anderson stated that the ACH fraud issue is almost completely resolved.
- c. Community Senior Center Building Committee
Diane Choquette shared that the committee meets monthly in the Town Hall Gazebo. The next step is in the town's hands to post a Request for Proposal for a site survey.

- d. Veterans Monument Park Updates
Eric Anderson shared that Resident Veteran Gerry Wright is continuing the fundraising through Buy a Brick Program. The new Agent Orange Monument and walkway has been installed. The Unveiling Ceremony is on Saturday, June 5th, 2021 at 6:00 P.M.
- e. Building and Land Use Department Online Permitting System
Eric Anderson shared that the company Permit Link will not make the launch date of June 1st, 2021.

9. New Business

Discuss and act upon the following:

- a. Timing for Tax Collection for Upcoming Year.
Eric Anderson shared that the Town Attorney Dennis O'Brien provided a legal opinion, and the Board of Selectmen will review in conjunction with the Town Charter.

10. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. Wednesday, April 28th, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes
- b. Sunday, May 23rd, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes

Marc Brinker MOVED to approve the following:
Wednesday, April 28th, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes
Sunday, May 23rd, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes
Rob England SECONDED
MOTION CARRIED 7:0:0

11. Liaison Reports – None.

12. Board Open Discussion – None.

13. Public Speak

Gerry Crème thanked the Board of Finance and expressed concern for the town's lack of funding per Sherry Holmes comments.
Valerie Bruneau expressed concern and frustration for lack of necessary funding for the elementary school and does not feel support from the town.
Joanne Hebert thanked the Board of Finance and believes town boards have supported the Board of Education.
Liz Lokiec expressed disappointment regarding discussion on tax dollars.
Marcie Miner thanked Amanda Gibson for hosting nice meetings.
Kelly Haggerty expressed disappointment in behavior of Adrian Mandeville, explained rational behind the small class sizes and thanked the Board of Finance.
Erin Boris expressed frustrations with the budget process.
*SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS INTERRUPTED THE MEETING WITH MANY ATTENDEES LOSING CONNECTION AND/OR POWER. THE MEETING RESUMED AFTERWARDS.
Caitlin McIntosh Greenhouse inquired on adding Referendum ballot question regarding the senior/community center. Members agreed the question does not pertain to the current proposed budget.
Adrian Mandeville apologized for interrupting the meeting when noting conflict of interest issue.
Katie Marino expressed concerns for budget.
Shannon Loudon expressed disappointment in Board of Education budget decrease by the Board of Finance.

14. Adjournment

Louise Goodwin MOVED to adjourn the Regular Meeting.
Linda Fish SECONDED
MOTION CARRIED 7:0:0
Diane Choquette adjourned the Regular Meeting at 9:32 P.M.

*Please visit our town website at www.andoverct.org for upcoming VIRTUAL meetings with instructions on how to join. The following boards/commission Zoom Video Recordings are posted to the NEW Town of Andover, CT YouTube Channel: Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, Board of Assessment Appeals, Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission, Planning and Zoning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals. Like our www.facebook.com/townofandoverct page for community updates! Helpfully submitted by the Board Clerk/Administrative Assistant, Amanda Gibson. *Amanda Gibson*
Please see the minutes of subsequent meetings for the approval of these minutes and any corrections hereto.