

**Town of Andover
Board of Finance
Special Meeting –
Budget Workshop**
Wednesday, May 18th 2022 at 7:00 P.M.
Location: virtual Zoom meeting

Special Meeting Budget Workshop Minutes

Members Present: Chairman Marc Brinker, Vice Chair Diane Choquette, Joanne Hebert, Robert England, Louise Goodwin, Linda Fish

Members Absent: Curt Dowling

Town Administrator: Eric Anderson, Board Clerk: Marina Pandolfi

Assistant Finance Officer: Marina Pandolfi

Public Present: Elizabeth Partridge, Kimberly Person, Liz Lokiec

Andover Board of Selectmen: Scott Person, Jeff Murray

Andover Board of Education: Superintendent Valerie Bruneau, Gerry Cremè, Steve Fuss, Shannon Loudon, Caitlin Greenhouse

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance-

Marc Brinker called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. The pledge was recited.

2. Public Speak

Superintendent Valerie Bruneau – in support of AES budget, asked the Board of Finance to not make any additional cuts to the school, if the budget is cut some programs and services may need to be cut

Gerry Cremè- reiterated Valerie's statement, appreciates the Board of Finance's efforts

Steve Fuss – none

Marina Pandolfi – none

Elizabeth Partridge – commented on budget increase, that residents on a fixed income are not receiving an increase so this increase in taxes would be difficult for them

Shannon Loudon – reiterated Valerie and Gerry's statements, the School cannot meet certain obligations if the budget is cut. There has not been an increase to the AES budget in 7 years – stated the Town could try to use Grant money as relief to the tax payers

Kimberly Person – none

Liz Lokiec – concerns about lack of transparency from the School Administration, budget information is not up to date on the AES website

Board of Finance Comments

Marc Brinker reviewed the referendum results.

Overall Budget failed 53%(no) to 46%(yes)

AES Budget failed 60%(too high) to 25%(too low)

Town Budget failed 49%(too high) to 29%(too low)

Discussion amongst Board members – everyone is all in this together, Board needs to be more vocal about the budget and plans for taxpayer dollars (roadwork, trees) – as costs continue to increase, the Elementary School can't continue to have a flat budget for 8 years. Board agreed that some cuts need to be made to both the Town and School budget in order for it to pass – answers to referendum questions are pointing the Board in the right direction

3. Budget Workshop for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Proposed Town Budget

Diane Choquette discussed with the Board the cuts she had proposed and total number she had come up with.

Diane Choquette MOTIONED to reduce the Contingency Fund to \$50,000. Robert England SECONDED.

MOTION CARRIED 6:0:0

Diane Choquette MOTIONED to reduce the Department of Public Works Equipment Fund by \$15,000 down to \$100,000.

Joanne Hebert SECONDED.

MOTION CARRIED 6:0:0

Diane Choquette MOTIONED to reduce the Tree Fund by \$25,000 to \$50,000. Linda Fish SECONDED.
 MOTION CARRIED 5:1:0 with Robert England voting No
 Diane Choquette MOTIONED to reduce the Building Maintenance Fund by \$5,000 to \$55,000. Robert England SECONDED.
 MOTION CARRIED 6:0:0
 Diane Choquette MOTIONED to reduce the Fire Engine Fund by \$20,000 to \$80,000. Louise Goodwin SECONDED.
 MOTION CARRIED 4:1:1 with Robert England voting No, and Marc Brinker abstaining
 Diane Choquette MOTIONED to reduce the Department of Public Works Temp Help Expenditure line 100.03.0301.111 by \$17,500 to \$2,500. Joanne Hebert SECONDED.
 MOTION CARRIED 6:0:0
 Diane Choquette MOTIONED to reduce the Insurance Severance line 100.13.1305.860 by \$5,000 to \$0. Louise Goodwin SECONDED.
 MOTION CARRIED 6:0:0
 Marc Brinker MOTIONED to add a Revenue line item for the State Reimbursement of Motor Vehicle taxes of \$114,861. Robert England SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 6:0:0

With these cuts to the budget:
 The Andover Elementary School budget has an increase of 5.1%
 The Town has an increase off 7.2%
 The total by Taxation has an increase of 2.6%
 The RHAM budget has an increase of 1.8%
 The fund balances have a decrease of 60%

The Board next discussed the Andover Elementary School Budget.

Diane Choquette MOTIONED to reduce the Andover Elementary School budget by \$50,000. Robert England SECONDED.
 MOTION CARRIED 4:2:0 with Robert England and Marc Brinker voting No

This cut will bring the total AES budget from \$4,102,787 to \$4,052,787

The total increase by taxation is now 2.1% or \$9,938,852. The mil rate with these cuts will now be 31.91

Diane Choquette MOTIONED to present this budget at the next Town meeting. Louise Goodwin SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 6:0:0

4. Correspondence - none

5. Public Speak

Superintendent Valerie Bruneau – disappointed in cuts made to the AES budget by the Board of Finance
 Jeff Murray – none
 Scott Person – none
 Liz Lokiec – none
 Kimberly Person – none
 Caitlin Greenhouse – thanked the Board for their time and dedication, asked question about referendum questions
 Elizabeth Partridge – asked question regarding the School’s budget increase
 Shannon Loudon – thanked the Board for their hard work during the budget process, disappointed in results of cuts made to the School budget

6. Adjournment

Louise Goodwin MOTIONED to adjourn the meeting at 9:36pm. Robert England SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 6:0:0

* 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 Marina Pandolfi. Please see the minutes of subsequent meetings for the approval of these minutes and any corrections hereto.