

Town of Andover
Board of Finance
Thursday, June 3rd, 2021 at 7:00 P.M.
Virtual via Zoom Platform

Special Meeting Budget Workshop Minutes

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Diane Choquette called the Special Meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

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

Board of Selectmen: Scott Person, Jeff Murray.

Finance Director: Sherry Holmes, Town Attorney: Dennis O'Brien

Board of Education: Gerry Crème, Daniel Foran, Celeste Willard, Shannon Loudon, Chris Bernard.

Public: Cathy Palazzi, Mike Palazzi, Kimberly Person, Lucie Wilson, Rick Wilson, Wendy Kopp, Jennifer Thompson, Linda Derick, Catherine Magaldi-Lewis, Kevin Regan, Mike Beckwith, Mike Burke, Leigh Hutchinson, Liz Lokiec, Sarah Warriner, Ryan Warriner, Erin Boris, Charlotte Nelson, Brian Briggs, Joanne Hebert, Marcie Miner, Jed Larson, Melissa Kjellquist, Kelly Allard, Kelly Haggerty, Eric Nunes, Michelle Lorentz, Mary Holer, Sheila Patrizz, Elizabeth Partridge, Dave Kluczwski, Stacy Kluczwski, Rick Risley, Dianne Grenier, Michael Greenhouse.

2. Public Speak

Gerry Crème relayed information from Andover Elementary School (AES) Superintendent Valerie Bruneau.

Daniel Foran requested increase in AES Board of Education (BOE) funding from the Board of Finance.

Liz Lokiec inquired on AES teacher contractual obligations. Shannon Loudon provided response. Liz Lokiec expressed concerns regarding small classroom sizes.

Sarah Warriner thanked the Board of Finance and shared support of AES Board of Education proposed budget.

Chris Bernard thanked the Board of Finance and shared support of AES Board of Education proposed budget.

Erin Boris requested from the Board of Finance the reinstatement of \$22k to the AES BOE budget in order to meet teacher contractual obligations.

Charlotte Nelson expressed disappointment of \$22k decrease in the AES BOE budget.

Brian Briggs shared support of AES Board of Education proposed budget.

Joanne Hebert announced lack of respect for senior citizens at the Annual Town Budget Meeting.

Marcie Miner expressed frustrations with the town's budget process.

Shannon Loudon requested from the Board of Finance the reinstatement of \$22k to the AES BOE budget in order to meet teacher contractual obligations. Stated that the BOE supports seniors. Thanked the Board of Finance.

Wendy Kopp shared support of AES Board of Education proposed budget and expressed desire for all to work together.

Jed Larson inquired on AES teacher contractual obligations. Shannon Loudon provided response. Jed Larson shared concern for lack of town capital improvements over the years and recommended for the Board of Finance to reinstate \$25k back into the Road Improvement Fund for the Town Budget.

Melissa Kjelquist shared support of AES Board of Education proposed budget.

Kelly Allard requested from the Board of Finance the reinstatement of \$22k to the AES BOE budget in order to meet teacher contractual obligations. Suggested a subcommittee to discuss shared services for town and school.

Eric Nunes shared support of AES Board of Education proposed budget, shared support of the community/senior center and recommended the Economic Development Commission assist with business development to increase tax revenue.

Ryan Warriner shared support of AES Board of Education proposed budget.

Elizabeth Partridge shared information regarding class sizes in other surrounding towns and regionalization.

Dave Kluczwski shared support of AES Board of Education proposed budget, expressed hope for community to come together and shared support of community/senior center.

Stacy Kluczwski shared support of AES Board of Education proposed budget and explained reasoning for children attendance at town budget meetings.

Jeff Murray recommended for the Board of Finance to add \$25k back into the Road Improvement Fund for Town Budget. Stated that the town's Shared Services Committee was appointed by the Board of Selectmen 2 years prior with Shannon Loudon as Chair but the committee did not continue with meetings.

Kelly Haggerty shared support of AES Board of Education proposed budget.

Rick Risley shared sense of lack in receiving informational facts in order to be an informed voter.

Board of Finance Member David Hewett joined at 7:44 P.M.

Sheila Patrizz thanked the Board of Finance, shared history of her experience as a student at AES, and spoke in support of a community/senior center.

Mary Holer shared sense of lack in receiving informational facts in order to be an informed voter.

Michael Greenhouse shared support of AES Board of Education proposed budget and community/senior center, inquired on cost per student at RHAM, and thanked the Board of Finance. Marc Brinker provided explanation.

3. Budget Workshop

a. Discuss and act upon the Proposed FY 2021-22 Budget

Members discussed various options for adjusting the proposed Town Budget to present at the Annual Town Budget Meeting. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 8th at 7:00 P.M. in the Andover Elementary School Gymnasium at 35 School Road. All information can be found on the town website budget page.

Rob England MOVED to add \$21,392 back into the proposed Andover Elementary School Board of Education Budget for a \$97,000 total increase for the Andover Elementary School budget.

Curt Dowling SECONDED

Discussion: Members discussed the board's response to the community members' feedback.

Board of Education members provided input.

MOTION CARRIED 5:1:1

Robert England, Curt Dowling, Linda Fish, Louise Goodwin, David Hewett voted in favor of.

Diane Choquette opposed. Marc Brinker abstained.

Robert England MOVED to add \$25,000 back into the Road Improvement Fund of the proposed Town Budget.

Louise Goodwin SECONDED

MOTION CARRIED 7:0:0

Eric Anderson shared that the new Public Works Maintainer 2 position hire is single and therefore recommended to decrease the line item for Public Works health insurance/dental by \$8,000, increase the line item for Public Works salary overtime by \$2,000 and increase the line item for Public Works salary by \$3,000.

Robert England MOVED to approve the following:

Decrease the line item for Public Works health insurance/dental by \$8,000.

Increase the line item for Public Works salary overtime by \$2,000.

Increase the line item for Public Works salary by \$3,000.

Louise Goodwin SECONDED

MOTION CARRIED 7:0:0

4. Recommendation to the Board of Selectmen for adopting a proposed Mill Rate for 2021-22

Members discussed options for the Board of Finance setting the temporary mil rate until official Town Budget is passed.

Marc Brinker MOVED that the Board of Finance recommend a temporary mil rate of 36.67 in the event that the Town Budget does not pass prior to the distribution of tax bills.

Rob England SECONDED

MOTION CARRIED 7:0:0

Sherry Holmes expressed concern for lack of funding for the town as a whole.

5. Public Speak

Michael Greenhouse thanked the Board of Finance.

Kelly Allard thanked the Board of Finance.

May Holder thanked the Board of Finance.

Wendy Kopp thanked the Board of Finance.

Jed Larson thanked the Board of Finance.

Shannon Loudon thanked the Board of Finance and supports newly proposed town budget.

Daniel Foran thanked the Board of Finance and apologized for behavior at Annual Town Budget Meeting.

Gerry Crème thanked the Board of Finance.

Liz Lokiec thanked the Board of Finance.

Sarah Warriner thanked the Board of Finance and supports newly proposed town budget.

Melissa Kjellquist thanked the Board of Finance.

Chris Bernard thanked the Board of Finance and shared goal of Board of Education is transparency.

Brian Briggs thanked the Board of Finance and supports newly proposed town budget.

Charlotte Nelson thanked the Board of Finance and supports newly proposed town budget.

Joanne Hebert thanked the Board of Finance and supports newly proposed town budget.

9:17 P.M. Marc Brinker shared that status of Assessor's Revaluation may adjust tax increase.

Kelly Haggerty thanked the Board of Finance.

Kevin Regan thanked the Board of Finance.

Dianne Grenier thanked the Board of Finance and questioned placement of advisory questions on Annual Town Budget Meeting ballot. Marc Brinker stated uncertain if permitted at town meetings per Charter.

Leigh Ann Hutchinson thanked the Board of Finance.

Michelle Lorentz thanked the Board of Finance and made recommendation for a USDA grant available to fund a rural community center.

9:22 P.M. Dennis O'Brien thanked Diane Choquette for recap of attorney's review.

Diane Choquette thanked the Board of Finance members for their hard work and time.

6. Adjournment

Curt Dowling MOVED to adjourn the Special Meeting

Marc Brinker SECONDED

MOTION CARRIED 7:0:0

Diane Choquette adjourned the Special Meeting at 9:24 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.