

**Andover Board of Finance
Regular Meeting – Budget Workshop
Monday, April 10, 2017, 7pm
Community Room, Town Hall
Minutes**

BOF Members: Present:

Dan Warren, Board Chair, Linda Fish, Rob England, Adrian Mandeville, Georgette Conrad, Jeff Murray

Absent: Eric Shevchenko

Town Officials Present: Bob Burbank (1st Selectman), Julia Haverl (Selectman), Cathy Derosiers (Selectman), Sally Doyen (Superintendent, AES)

Staff Present: None

Other Attendees: Wally Barton, Carol Barton, Judy Knox, George Knox, Bill Liswell, Lorraine Liswell, Ed Turn, Catherine Palazzi, Mike Palazzi, Cathleen Derosiers, Betty Davis, Benjamin Mike, Julie Victoria, Elaine Buchardt, Jed Larson, Don Denley, Bob Russell, Evelyn Russell, Amy Pearsall, Steve Fish, Kelvin Abrams, Eric Anderson, Rob O'Connor.

Agenda Item 1: Call to Order: Dan Warren, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00PM

Agenda Item 2: Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Item 3: Public Comment: None

Agenda Item 4: Presentation of the Current State of FY18 Budget: Dan Warren gives a powerpoint presentation of the current status of the FY18 budget, including projected state aid cuts and additional teacher pension funding; the Andover Elementary School budget; the RHAM budget; and the decisions the Board of Finance has made so far.

Agenda Item 5: Questions and Answers:

Kelvin Abrams asks if there is a copy of the FY18 budget available for review and discuss. Dan Warren explains that no, but one will be available in advance of the April 26, 2017 public meeting.

Don Denley asks what the current unassigned fund balance is and if the Board has considered using it to mitigate the tax increase.

Dan Warren explains that since the audit is not complete, we do not have an exact figure. Rob England/Adrian Mandeville/Dan Warren explain that the BoF has voted to use some of the unassigned fund balance to pay for capital expenditures – specifically AES debt service and a final lease payment for a truck.

Ed Turn objects to cutting the Resident Trooper program.

Adrian Mandeville discusses the reasons for BoF decision.

Cathy Derosiers also speaks to object to the Resident Trooper cut.

Robin Mural also speaks to object to the Resident Trooper cut.

Bob Burbank indicates that the town gets \$25 in revenue per ticket written on Route 6 in town.

Wally Barton speaks about the increase in the cost to the Town (100% of the program for FY18).

Dan Warren indicates the cost to the town has risen from 70% to 100% over the past 4-5 years.

George Knox asks about money being spent on bathrooms at ballfields in town.

Dan Warren explains that was in a departmental budget request but is not in the budget for FY18.

Amy Pearsall asks if the BoE asked the teachers about salary cuts to avoid any layoffs.

Sally Doyen says the BoE has re-examined its budget and thinks they have found enough cuts to hit the statutory maximum cut of 3% (approximately \$130,000), though the BoE still needs to vote on that. They have not asked for salary concessions, as they have just concluded contract negotiations recently.

Don Denley speaks against the cut to the Resident Trooper and asks about the RHAM budget increase and the specifics (cuts to academics, increases to athletics).

Mike Palazzi asks if the state aid situation will get worse in FY19.

Dan Warren explains that the governor's proposed budget would drop our Education Cost Share grant an additional \$30,000 in FY19, but all of this is up in the air.

Elaine Buchardt asks for clarification about the projected level of tax increase.

Dan Warren explains that it is projected at 11% with no cuts, and the BoF was trying to get to 3%. With the trooper cut he was projecting 5.5% and without it, approximately 8%. Also, we will have tables laying out dollar amounts for the tax increase(s) by valuation level for the April 26 meeting.

Julia Haverl explains that the Board of Selectman voted against the trooper cut, 4-1.

Cathy Derosiers asks about the \$10,000 cut to the budget for the Town Administrator salary. Does this bring the salary lower than recommended by the Town Administrators/Managers we spoke to?

Dan Warren explains that no, the range we go was \$60-\$80k, and with the cut we still have \$75k in the budget.

Don Denley asks again about using the unassigned fund balance to mitigate a tax increase.

Robert England and **Dan Warren** explain that the BoF believes that using our reserves to fund ongoing costs is a bad idea. As the situation at the State level looks unlikely to improve, our reserve wouldn't last long if we started doing that.

Elaine Buchardt asks about morale in the Town Hall with cuts being considered to Town Hall hours (and therefore Town Hall staff pay). Is \$10k in savings enough to justify the morale hit?

Dan Warren and **Adrian Mandeville** explain that the morale issue was one reason the BoF voted to fully fund the employees' deductible for their high-deductible health plan for FY18. Also, the \$10k cut was considered but has not been passed.

Don Denley asks if the Board of Selectman has considered changing the hours of the Town Hall to avoid Monday holidays.

Cathy Derosiers indicates that the BoS decided to have a committee consider such a change, and that she and Jay Liddy are that committee.

Eric Anderson asks if we are doing enough to make Andover a desirable community for young families. Also, he thinks we should be putting aside money now for a new senior center to serve our large elderly population.

Brief discussion of a new senior center or multi-use community center (**Dan Warren, Adrian Mandeville**)

Rob O'Connor, Resident Trooper speaks in favor of the Resident Trooper program. He believes it offers good value for the money. He does not think we would get the same level of service without having a Resident Trooper. If we have concerns about the hours he works he would be happy to discuss that.

Adrian Mandeville asks how coverage would work on Route 6 without the RT program in place – would it be covered the same way it is now when Rob is off-duty?

Rob O'Connor – Yes.

Eric Anderson asks if we will post the proposed budget in advance of the April 26th meeting.

Dan Warren indicates yes, we're aiming for 10 days in advance.

Agenda Item 6: Board of Finance Deliberations and Actions of FY18 Budget:
None.

Public Comment: none.

Agenda Item 10: Adjournment:

Dan Warren motions to adjourn at 8:15.

Adrian Mandeville seconds.

Motion Passed/Unanimous 6/0/0

The next scheduled BOF meeting is on Wednesday, April 19, 2017 at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall Community Room.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robert England, Board of Finance
April 12, 2017