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By James Alexander at 9:51 am, Apr 18, 2023

Maynard Budget Subcommittee Minutes

January 10th, 2023

I. Call Meeting to Order

Virtual meeting called to order at 7:02 pm.

Present (*denotes voting members): Justine St. John*, Jeff Swanberg*, Natasha Rivera*, Peter Campbell, Jillian Prendergast, Greg Johnson, Brian Hass, Lauri Plourde, Jon Larkin, Doug Adler

Absent: Mary Brannelly

II. Minutes for Approval

Minutes will be approved at the next meeting once Mary is present and members have had a chance to review.

III. FY22 End of Year

No major updates, Mr. Larkin did note the Capital Planning Committee is part of the way through the prioritization, they are waiting for the certification of the FY22 free cash amount.

IV. FY23 Status

Ms. Plourde reported on 47% of budget expended. Water/Sewer a little over, but in a reasonable range. We are at about 38% of budgeted revenues used, compared with 44% at this time last year. Investment income is up. Solid waste revenue is down possibly due to reduction in bulky waste pickups and individuals switching to private trash services. Ms. St. John noted costs for disposal of comingled recycling has tripled, making forecasting challenging.

V. FY24 Budget Development

a. TA Recommended Budget Development

Mr. Johnson gave an update on the FY24 budget. Fire Station bonding costs have decreased, and Fowler School Payments have ceased. There will be a delay in the House 1 budget estimation due to a new administration. Local receipts are expected to grow by 5.2%.

General Government expenses increased due to Town Counsel and IT costs, and general liability. We will be going into negotiations with the police and clerical unions, and several individuals. We have been unable to set money aside for these negotiations. The current draft budget still has a deficit. Maynard schools are targeted for a 3% increase as projected in the summer, Assabet is being estimated at a 2.5% increase. No new hires have been allowed. Public Works is only being allocated a 0.6% increase, which does not leave funding for MS4 stormwater management and Trees.

Debt services continue to drop, mostly from Fowler School, matched by the decrease in cost. Our largest single increase is insurance costs which will be at 8.1%, ~\$740,000. Ms. Rivera asked about the tier structure for offered health plans. The Select Board could change the plan, this would be a reduction in benefits for town employees. Mr. Johnson reviewed recent conversations with the unions on health insurance offerings.

PEG expenses are being decreased, aligned with previous expectations. Conversations with Verizon are ongoing.

Our overlay assessment has been decreased, based on anticipated needs for abatements.

The current budget is \$110,000 in deficit.

VI. Capital Planning

a. Green Meadow School

Cost estimate reconciliation will be mid-March. Schematic design documents for initial estimates will be available to all March 27th. The Green Meadow School Building Committee will vote on the schematic design April 17th. The Select Board will then vote on April 18th. Submission of the design is scheduled for April 27th. There has been an increase in square footage, but this does not necessarily add to cost. Educational space and size are locked as is the overall character of building and site design. Costs for add-ons after design submittal will fall 100% on town. Preliminary estimates for the project costs are being prepared using a new MSBA reimbursement rate. Current estimates are ~30MM state and ~49MM local share. This includes bonuses for energy efficiency. The next Building Committee meeting will be on Jan 17th.

b. Alumni Field Bleachers

Athletic Director Mike Arria is forming a team to oversee the OPM. The Capital Planning Committee would like a better connection to the Alumni Field bleacher discussion. 2.5 MM is the current cost estimate.

VIII. Scheduling Additional Meetings

The next meeting is scheduled for Feb 28th

IX. Conclusion

Ms. Rivera made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Swanberg. The motion passed all in favor, and adjourned at 9:07 pm.