

ALG Minutes October 30, 2019 Room 204, Acton Town Hall, 6:30 PM

Present: Bart Wendell, facilitator: Christi Andersen & Roland Bourdon, FC; Joan Gardner & Jon Benson, BoS; Diane Baum, SC; John Mangiaratti, Peter Light, Marie Altieri & Steve Barrett, Staff.

Absent: Amy Krishnamurthy, SC

Audience: David Martin, BoS; Mark Hald, Asst. Town Manager; Brian Mc Mullen, Assist. Assessor & Finance director; & Charlie Kadlec.

Additional documents: Agenda; October 10 Minutes; Town of Acton Multi-year financial model (ALG spreadsheet) ; Schedule of meetings and events; Nov. 4 BoS votes for December 10 STM; excerpt of ATM 2016 , Article 10 to authorize debt issuance for Minuteman; Town Counsel's opinion on the need to have an additional Town meeting vote on Minuteman debt and bond counsel's response

I. Regular business

1. There was a hold on both the October 10 & September 19 minutes

II. New/Special business

2. FY 20 update

Peter: Nothing new

John: tax bills will go out next week; otherwise nothing new.

3. FY 21

Steve: no changes to the financial model. Tax levy is to maximum extent; state aid is level; local receipts is level; \$1.3m in reserves. Until budgets are added, there will be no changes.

4. School building

Peter reported that they received the formal approval from the MSBA; \$38M with this formal authorization they are looking towards the STM in December. He took the plans to Boxboro and their selectmen, finance committee and school committed voted their approval.

5. West Acton sewers

John reported that they were on track for the December STM; those in the district have received notification of their projected betterments; they are answering the feedback from that notification. There will be an additional public forum on 11/14 to answer betterment questions.

6. Minuteman

John reported that town counsel has written that there need not be another town meeting vote for the authorization of the money. There does need to be a ballot vote on authorization of a debt exclusion. There will not be an article on the warrant at the STM for Minuteman.

Jon noted that the Minuteman ballot vote could be either on December 17, along with the other debt exclusions for the school and fire station or at the town election on March 29. He asked which date was better.

Marie noted that it would be difficult to get the budgets changed if the vote were delayed until March. Roland agreed saying that it gave the town only one week to find a way to absorb the \$423K into the operating budget. If the vote were to fail on the 12/17 then there would be more time to figure out the necessary changes.

Jon noted the concern that voters would not know why the Minuteman question was on the ballot. It was agreed that not having to “scramble” to find the funds, it was better to have the Minuteman question on the 12/17 ballot while there needed to be a short presentation at the STM on the Minuteman ballot question.

The BOS will meet on Monday and determine the articles for the STM warrant; they will also ask the Town Moderator for time to explain Minuteman.

7. Fire station

John reported that there has been an update on the cost estimate; Monday he will report to the BoS; there will be a public forum on 11/05 at the public safety building.

8. STM & ballot

At present the warrant has four articles: school building; North Acton Fire station, Sewers and a charter change for the Board of selectmen to Select Board.

There was a discussion on the ASTM (Additional Special Town Meeting) and when that could be scheduled before the STM on December 10. John noted that the BoS would make that decision on Monday but it appeared that it would most likely be Dec 3. The BoS will open and close the warrant at their Monday meeting. The single article for the ASTM is non-binding.

Christi asked that it be scheduled so the FC could meet before.

9. Tri-Board Meeting.

There was a general discussion on the pending Tri-Board meeting scheduled for November 12.

It was decided to change the time from 5:30-6, making it easier for board members to get there in time. The venue was also discussed and the schools suggested that they meet in the school administration building. The school committee members will see if that venue is free and let the others know. Members were reminded that they need to post the meeting for each committee under the OML.

The meeting will go over the articles for the STM and have presentations. There were discussions as to whether or not decisions on support for the articles could be made after the presentations. Roland thought that the FC would need more time to deliberate. The FC positions will be made public at their Nov.19 meeting.

Bart: so there is an agreement that the Tri-board meeting will start at 6:30, with social time starting at 6 ; the FC will present their POV but not their positions.

10. POV---nothing new

11. Review of Multi-year plan

SB: No changes

12. Future meeting

The next ALG is scheduled ALG meeting is Nov. 14. There was discussion as to the need of this meeting so close to the Tri-board meeting. It was decided to keep the date but make a decision later. There was a desire to meet before the Dec 3. Additional STM. It was decided that they could possibly meet before the start of the meeting. No actual decision was made.

The next scheduled meeting will be on December 13, 7:30 AM in room 204.

13. Public

Charlie asked that the STM be covered on TV. Peter noted that the administration building, a possible site for the Tri-board meeting was also connected to Acton TV.

Adjourned 7:25

Ann Chang

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