



Finance Committee

Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2020
7:30 PM
Acton TV Studios

Present: Christi Andersen, Roland Bourdon, Jason Cole, Tom Farley, Mike Majors, Adam Nolde (Associate), Steve Noone, Sahana Purohit, Christine Russell, Al Vlajinac (Associate), Dave Wellinghoff

Absent: n/a

1. Opening

Chair Roland Bourdon opened the meeting at 7:30 pm

This meeting was recorded by Acton TV.

2. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

3. Past Tax Incentives Overview

Town Manager John Mangiaratti gave an overview on the past tax incentives granted to AES and Insulet Corporation.

AES

- Granted a 5 year special tax assessment in 2015.
- AES did not reach hiring milestones set for them and Town was not quick to follow-up.
- Special Tax Assessments have questionable benefit to Town.

Insulet

- Entered into a 20 year tax increment financing with the town in 2017.
- \$200,000 invested in facility, taxes on which will increase every 5 years.
- 1,000 job hiring milestone. Reported on every year in February.

Questions

- Possibility of Acton residents being worked into hiring goals.
- No new tax incentives in the pipeline.
- Split tax rate reviewed every year, but timing not right for it now.

Mr. Mangiaratti also provided with the Committee a Town Meeting Draft Warrant Article List. He will be back to present the articles when requested. The Draft Warrant Article List was divided among the Finance Committee Members for initial review.

4. FY 2021 Budget Hearing



Chair Roland Bourdon went over the FY 21 Town, Acton-Boxborough Regional School, and Minuteman School Budgets.

- Town Operating Budget increased by 2.94% due to capital increases
- ABRS increased by 3.1%
- Minuteman increased by 19.05% caused mainly from debt service payments on the new school.
- The increases in budget will be paid for by: an increase in State aid, increased tax revenue from Prop 2 1/2, revenue changes, & increased local receipts. There will be a decrease of reserve use.
- As a result the average single family tax bill will increase by 8.21%
- An audience member, Charlie, suggested that including bond payments in the town operating budget distorts the numbers.
 - Separating bond payments out means that they would have to be approved with subsequent Town Meeting votes. Problems could arise.
 - Bundling bonds for separate projects is better for bond rates.
 - More transparency in how it is shown in the operating budget was requested.
- Roland and Christi went over the budget as talked about at the most recent ALG meeting including concerns with the School Budget figures. Diane Baum gave an update from the most recent School Committee Meeting. Minuteman School will be presenting their budget in an upcoming FinCom Meeting.
- Jason Cole also talked about bonding a full face amount and having a premium left over at the end versus borrowing an amount reduced by an estimated premium and having smaller payments.

5. Finance Committee Business

A. Approval of meeting minutes

The meeting minutes of January 14, 2020 were reviewed and approved.

B. Committee Liaison Reports

Committee Members who are liaisons to Committees that met during the interim between last FinCom meeting and this meeting gave reports as to what occurred at those meetings. Board of Selectmen Liaison to the Finance Committee, Jon Benson, also gave an update.

C. Miscellaneous Committee Business

Adam Nolde introduced himself as a new Finance Committee Member.

6. Adjournment

At 9:10 pm, it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting

Tax Incentive Handout

Town Meeting Draft Warrant Articles



School Budget Handout
January 14, 2020 Draft Meeting Minutes

Respectfully submitted,

Finance Committee