

Call to Order

Call to Order/Roll Call

Chair, Kevin O’Handley called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Through video conferencing mode, present were Aaron Buzay, Paula Colby-Clements, William Haskell, Paul MacKay, Andrew McBrien, Kevin O’Handley, Kim Perry, Ken Russo and Yican Cao. Also present were Chief Financial Officer, Patrick Lawlor and Town Accountant, Hayley Green. The meeting was videotaped and live cablecast.

Town Financials – Hayley Green

Town Accountant Hayley Green gave the Finance Committee an overview of the Town Financials through November 2022. A question was asked regarding inflation and how it is affecting the towns financials. Ms. Green stated that there was nothing that stood out now.

Some of the Finance Committee members suggested showing graphs in future financial reports.

Tax Levy Overview – Patrick Lawlor

Chief Financial Officer, Patrick Lawlor gave the committee a presentation on the Tax Levy. An overview of terms was presented. There is a proposition 2 ½ primer that can be found in section L of the Finance Committee handbook as well as an overview of debt service located in section P. Andover has never had an override. Most communities that compare themselves to Andover have had overrides. The question was asked if Debt Exclusion is something new. It is not and has been there all along. With debt exclusion, once the debt service is retired the debt exclusion goes away. An override is permanent unless there is an underwrite. an override/underwrite must go to a ballot vote. Debt exclusion must go to a ballot vote and possibly Town Meeting. Andover currently has five active debt exclusions: West Elementary, Pension Obligation Bond, Bancroft Elementary, Public Safety Center and Wood Hill High Plain. The 2 1/2 percent is not inflation driven; it is fixed. The question was asked about how Andover’s position is compared to other towns? Andover is on the lower side as far as tax bills.

There was an Unused Levy Capacity policy brought before the Select Board and Finance Committee last year. The Town will be seeking legislation approval on that policy in the future. Unused Levy Capacity is not cumulative each year.

The Finance Committee would like more information on the Town’s priorities of major projects that will be coming up and what would the effect on the tax rate be if each project moves forward.

Liaison Updates

Bill Haskell went to the tours of Andover High School. He spent some time with Marc Johnson who would like to come to a future Finance Committee meeting and make a presentation. There is a meeting taking place tomorrow at 6:30pm where they are going to present to the three final designs to the Select Board. Aaron Buzay will forward the slideshow to the committee. Aaron and Bill will be attending the meeting tomorrow night.

Paula Colby-Clements met with the School Department. The Special Education budget is one of the biggest increases in the School Department’s budget this year. There will be a \$2.5M increase. The School Department will be presenting their budget to the Finance Committee at the February 8th meeting.

Review and Approval of Minutes from December 14, 2022

Upon motion duly made by Paula Colby-Clements and seconded by Paul MacKay it was voted to approve the minutes from the December 14, 2022, Aaron Buzay-Y, Paula Colby-Clements-Y, Paul MacKay-Y, Andrew McBrien-Y, Kevin O’Handley-Y, Ken Russo-Y, Yican Cao-Y. Bill Haskell abstained. Motion passed 7-1-0.

Upcoming Meeting Schedule

The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 8th at 7pm and Wednesday, February 22nd at 7pm. The Select Board, School Committee and Finance Committee Budget Workshop will be held on Saturday, March 4th at 9am.

Adjournment

Upon motion duly made by Paula Colby-Clements and seconded by Paul MacKay it was unanimously voted to adjourn. Aaron Buzay-Y, Paula Colby-Clements-Y, Paul MacKay-Y, Andrew McBrien-Y, Kevin O’Handley-Y, Ken Russo-Y, Yican Cao-Y. Bill Haskell abstained. Motion passed 8-0.

Documents:

Minutes from December 14, 2022, Monthly Financials through November 2022, PowerPoint presentation Tax Levy Overview.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Salvi
Recording Secretary