

Call to Order

Chair Barry called the meeting to order at 7:01pm and initiated roll call. Present via Webex were Paul Monticciolo-Y and Paul Russo-Y. In person, Yican Cao-Y, Mary Ellen Logee-Y, John Barry-Y, Kevin O'Handley-Y, Paul MacKay-Y, Paula Colby-Clements-Y and Ken Russo-Y. Also present, in person was Town Manager, Andrew Flanagan, Assistant Town Manager, Patrick Lawlor. Finance Director, Donna Walsh and Management Analyst, Faith Mangiafico. The meeting was videotaped and live cablecast.

Budget Presentation

Town Manager, Andrew Flanagan presented the committee with the Budget and Levy Presentation. The following discussion points/questions arose:

- 1) Salary increases are not shown in the budget because they are held in a compensation fund. Funds are appropriated into the compensation fund in years in which union negotiations are taking place. All six collective bargaining agreements expire in June and the Town is hoping to settle all contracts by then. If contracts are not settled in this fiscal year, they will be moved from compensation funds to department funds as agreements are reached and approved by the Select Board.
- 2) State Aid revenue, Is there a formula like chapter 70? Most is based on Lottery sales. There is a formula based on population.
- 3) Use of free cash will go up because we have a snow and ice deficit.
- 4) Capital Expenditures are slightly less this year than the 5.72%. By funding less, we have more future flexibility. The additional funds do not get appropriated this year, but it doesn't take up room in the out years.
- 5) Transfer of an existing position from the Police Department into a newly created Wellness and Support Services Division. In the past year, Andover referred more people to treatment than any other municipality other than the City of Boston. Some ARPA Funds are being used over the next four years. The town's needs will be assessed to determine future funding and build the budget.
- 6) If each classification remains the same as a percentage of the total levy, the projected average single-family tax bill increase for FY2023 is 5.91%.
- 7) An additional Town custodian is recommended as a result of major increases to the total square footage of Town buildings and the need to provide adequate services to the new facilities (Robb Center, Campanelli Drive, Ballardvale Fire Station and the Youth Center and Pumps Pond).
- 8) Andover has maintained \$300,000 of excess levy capacity every year since 2015.
- 9) Leaving \$2.4 Million in Excess levy capacity from POB out there is dangerous from a financial planning perspective. Anyone can appropriate the funds and tie up the excess levy capacity for years. The Town Manager has asked the Select Board to consider an Excess Levy Capacity Policy Statement and will be asking the Finance Committee to consider it at a future meeting as well. The Select Board voted for the Policy Statement

at their March 14, 2022, meeting. The alternative to this would be to file for special legislation or a Proposition 2 ½ Underride.

Warrant Articles – Discuss Review, Order & Voting Schedule

Tracker will be sent out soon. At the next meeting, the committee will vote on the following preliminary warrant articles: P3, P6, P7, P8, P10, P12, P13, P14 AND P15. Private warrant article sponsors will be invited to the April 13, 2022, meeting.

Saturday workshop with Select Board, Town Manager and Division heads will be held on April 2nd at Memorial Hall Library

Final Warrant will be signed on April 4th

Town Meeting will be held on June 11th at 10:30 at the Field House

Liaison Updates

Ken Russo -None

Paul Monticciolo - None

Kevin O’Handley - None

Paul Russo – Investment Committee meets tomorrow and Retirement Board next week

Mary Ellen Logee - None

Yican Cao - None

Paula Colby-Clements - None

Paul MacKay - None

Adjournment

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Paul MacKay and seconded by Kevin O’Handley it voted to adjourn. Paul Russo-Y, Paul Monticciolo-Y, Yican Cao-Y, Mary Ellen Logee-Y, John Barry-Y, Kevin O’Handley-Y, Paul MacKay-Y, Paula Colby-Clements-Y, Ken Russo-Y. Motion passed 9-0. Meeting Adjourned at 8:21pm.

Documents:

- Budget and Excess Levy PowerPoint presentation