

Budget Collaboration/Financial Summit 5
February 13, 2008

A joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen, School Committee and Finance Committees was held on Wednesday, February 13, 2008, at 7:30 p.m. in the Selectmen Meeting Room, Town Office Building. Present: Chairman Krieger, Mr. Kelley, Mr. Cohen, Mr. Manz and Mr. Burnell; Mr. Valente, Town Manager, Ms. Pease, Executive Clerk; Ms. Dunn, Assistant Superintendent; all members of the School Committee with the exception of Mr. Sakhuja; all members of the Appropriation Committee with the exception of Mr. Eurich; and all members of the Capital Expenditures Committee with the exception of Mr. Hurley and Mr. Lamb.

Mr. Young received a standing ovation for his last Summit meeting. He will be heading to Natick as their Deputy Town Administrator at the end of February. Everyone wished him well and felt he would be difficult to replace.

Revised FY2009 Budget Shortfall

The budget shortfall as of January 28, 2008 currently is \$787,718 (\$154,506 Municipal and \$724,212 for Education).

Recommendations for Closing Municipal Budget Shortfall

The recommendations for closing the gap of \$154,506 are:

1. Universal reductions of \$48,315;
2. Municipal Budget Adjustments of \$73,041; and
3. Departmental Reductions of \$33,150.

The universal reductions are items that will be purchased or funded with available FY2008 money and they include: a document Scanner (\$6,000); a cardiac monitor (\$23,315); a risk management program review (\$10,000); and a classification study (\$9,000)

The municipal budget adjustments based on updated analysis include: the transfer of contractual settlements to the water/sewer account (\$36,541); public works revisions for a new Licensed Site Professional contract (\$15,000); a reduction for DPW electricity for street lights (\$15,000); police budget revisions for telephone charges based on the new system (\$4,000); and CRT disposal costs have been reduced with a new bid (\$2,500).

The departmental reductions include: DPW reduction of asphalt berm replacement (\$5,000); DPW Cemetery turf management (\$3,000); DPW Parks turf management (\$4,000); Police gasoline (\$1,500); Library reduction of books and materials (\$5,300); Community Development to reduce land management (\$1,775); shared expenses for pre-employment physicals (\$5,000); and MIS communications network (\$7,575).

The Selectmen unanimously approved this budget at its meeting on February 11, 2008.

Budget Collaboration/Summit 5 – February 13, 2008

Recommendations for Closing School Department Budget Shortfall

The School Committee is ready to vote a FY2009 Education budget of \$64,548,189. Salary and wages will increase by 7.55% (20.28 FTE change); Expenses will be reduced by 3.74%; and benefits were moved to Shared Expenses (\$230,898).

This budget also includes a LABBB credit of \$294,868 that will be applied to tuition invoices for FY2009.

The School Committee would like to see the In District Expenses and Out of District SPED students budgets separated for informational purposes. In District budget is \$59,295,239 and Out of District is \$5,483,847. The School Committee would also like to take an FY2008 surplus of \$350,000 and start a SPED Stabilization Fund. At the end of the School Year they are hoping for an additional \$350,000 surplus that would go to Free Cash and they would request it be appropriated to the SPED Stabilization Fund.

The Appropriations Committee has not taken a position on the budget, but is continuing to do more analysis. Sense of the Committee is that new items added to the School Committee budget may cause problems for FY2010 and beyond.

Other Business

This meeting was also Mr. Griffith's last summit meeting, since he is not running again for reelection to the School Committee. Everyone thanked him for all his hard work for the Schools and Town.

The School Committee and Capital Expenditures Committee adjourned. The Appropriations Committee adjourned to Room 111. The Board of Selectmen remained in session.

Issue Bond for Fiske Elementary School Project

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted 5-0 that the Town shall issue a bond or bonds in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$1,803,049 (the "Bonds" pursuant to Chapters 44 and 70B of the General Laws, and votes of the Town passed on March 25, 2002 (Article 5), May 20, 2002 (Question 3), May 2, 2005 (Article 29, Item d), and May 2, 2007 (Article 43), to finance the school projects referenced therein, including the Fiske Elementary School Project;

Further it was voted that the Bond shall be issued as a single registered security and sold to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (the "Authority") at a price of par and at an interest rate of 2% and upon such other terms and conditions as shall be set forth in any Loan Agreement between the Authority and the Town that may prepared with respect to the Bond (the "Loan Agreement");

Budget Collaboration/Summit 5 – February 13, 2008

Further it was voted that the Treasurer is authorized to determine the date, the form and the principal maturities of the Bond which shall be in accordance with any applicable Loan Agreement, and to execute a Loan Agreement or Agreements with the Authority with respect to the sale of the Bonds, such date, form and maturities of the Bond to be approved by a majority of the Board of Selectmen by their execution thereof;

Further it was voted that all action taken to date by the Town and its officers and agents to carry out the project to be financed through the issuance of the Bond, including the execution of any loan commitment or any other agreement by the Treasurer, are hereby ratified, approved and confirmed; and

Finally it was voted that the Treasurer and any other appropriate Town officials are each hereby authorized to take any and all actions necessary and convenient to carry out the provisions of this vote, including execution and delivery of any Loan Agreement and any other agreements or documents between the town and the Authority relating to the Project.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to adjourn at 8:40 p.m.

A true record; Attest:

Lynne A. Pease
Executive Clerk