

Override Study Committee Municipal Subcommittee
Monday, Jan. 29, 2018, 5:00 PM
Room 111 Town Hall

Members Present: Betsy DeWitt, Harold Petersen, Jeff Rudolph

Arrived at 5:30 pm: Ben Franco

Public present: Mark Gray (TMM pct. 7), Ryan Ballenger, David King (Chair, Preservation Comm.)

Guests: Town Administrator Mel Kleckner, Dep. Town Administrator Melissa Goff

Meeting Notes:

Without a quorum present, the meeting began at 5:10 pm.

Mel Kleckner distributed a memo with updated FY19 financial information: the Governor's budget would increase local state aid by \$1.3 million; and the Town continues to project a lower, 2.5% increase, in GIC health benefits although the original plan to eliminate some providers is being reconsidered. This would lead to an increase of nearly \$6.5 million in general revenue available for the operating budget, subject to the Town/School partnership sharing formula (attached). The net increase after allocations would be about \$1.8 million to the Town budget and about \$3.2 million to the schools in FY19. If necessary, it could be possible to transfer an additional \$500,000 of capacity to the School budget, resulting in a 3.6% increase over FY18 and leaving the Town budget level-funded. There is also a list of Town departmental requests totaling \$1.5 million to address deferred unmet needs that would be addressed by an override (attached). Ben arrived and was given a summary of the financial update. David King, Chair of the Preservation Commission, spoke about the increased workload for Preservation staff and hoped that their request for a funding could be included in the Town budget.

Betsy gave the committee an update on items from previous meetings. There is an ongoing court case involving a dispute over valuation of property belonging to Eversource Energy. Assessor Gary McCabe confirmed that the Town would collect about \$3 million if the court rules in its favor. However, he anticipates that there would be an appeal if that were to be the decision and any collection would be years away. The second item was a question about increased parking meter rates and increased refuse PAYT fees. In both cases the response was that we want to remain competitive and that we are currently not considering increases.

A motion to approve the minutes from Jan. 18, 2018 was seconded and the minutes as amended were approved unanimously. The Subcommittee adjourned @ 5:55 pm to join the full Override Study Committee.

Future Meeting Dates:

5 PM Feb. 5, 2018 - Full OSC MEETING