

Finance Committee Meeting
 Acton Town Hall, Room 204
 February 11, 2014
 MINUTES

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 ACTON

Members Present: Pat Clifford, Mike Majors, Bill Mullin, Mary Ann Ashton, Margaret Busse, Steve Noone, Bob Evans, Herman Kabakoff, Doug Tindal and Liaison-Brian McMullen.

Chairperson Pat Clifford called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

The Chairperson led a brief overview of this evening's agenda items.

- I. Public Comment. – None
- II. Report of Board of Selectmen Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Vote *Herman Kabakoff*

Herman updated the committee regarding the BOS budget vote.

Town of Acton – FY15 Budget % change from FY14

	<u>FY14</u>	<u>FY15</u>	<u>%</u>
<i>Operating Budget</i>	28,472,335.	30,049,062.	5.54
<i>Subsidies</i>	507,845.	306,393.	-39.67
<i>OPEB</i>	432,000.	332,845.	-22.95
<i>Total Capital</i>	760,000.	311,000.	-59.08
<i>Regionalization</i>	0.	(393,246.)	n/a
Total Municipal FY15 Spending Request*	30,172,180.	30,606,054.	1.44

(* - without the effects of regionalization)

- Bottom line – will not proceed with Harris Street renovation because purchase of the property is not a given at this time.
 - Net increase of 1.44% over FY 14
 - Changes to the Minuteman Regional Agreement – outlined in point-by-point comparison of current agreement versus proposed agreement.
 - Doug asked what is the cost of already retired APS employees? Steve said this is unknown at this time. The expense is \$588k in FY 15 and will carry forward in future years.
 - Brian McMullen stated that the town budgeted 5% for retirees and 8% for active employees.
 - David Clough (BOS) commented on the Harris St. property.
 - A discussion followed regarding the impact on the town budget due to the transfer of APS Health Insurance (and other insurance) for apples-to-apples comparison.
- III. Discussion of Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Hearing for Acton Boxborough Regional School District and Budget Vote *Mary Ann Ashton*
 - ABRSC budget appears to be going up faster than any of our models have predicted.
 - Chapter 70 revenues are also smaller than projected by any of our models (ALG, FinCom POV, Regional Study Group).

Acton's Share of Chapter 70			
	FY14	FY15	Difference
<i>Acton</i>	5,596,025.	0.	
<i>Acton Boxborough</i>	6,072,957.	12,778,928.	
Total Acton Share of Ch. 70	\$ 11,668,982.	\$ 12,778,928.	\$ 1,109,946.

(includes new transportation + regional bonus aid)

- Many of the FTEs added to the budget are not in the classroom.
- Bill Mullin stated that he thought the budget as presented by the school administrators on Budget Saturday was very compelling.
- Bob Evans commented that some of these increased costs that will appear in FY16 will not be as compelling.
- Charlie Kadlec observed two problems with the school budget;
 - the budget itself, and
 - the difference between the two towns assessment. Acton's assessment goes up and Boxborough's goes down.
- Steve Noone asked where the savings are. The proposed budget looks like less money put into classroom teachers and more money into administration.

IV. Committee Guidance to Acton Leadership Group Representatives *Pat Clifford*

- General opinion from the committee is to stick with our plan, looking for a longer term view from the School Committee.
- There was no consensus in the ALG except for revenue projections.

V. Finance Committee Business

- Minutes were deferred.
- TM Warrant assignments – no update as to when warrants will be ready.
- OPEB will meet February 12.
- Reserve Use Subcommittee – committee will meet next week.
- CPC will meet on Thursday
- Meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm
- Next Meeting – Tuesday, February 25, 2014

Documents presented at Meeting:

1. Snapshot – “Table 6” – Analysis of Assessments
2. Snapshot – Town of Acton FY 15 Budget, as passed by Board of Selectmen
3. ABRSC FY 15 Budget Saturday