



Town of Ashland

MASSACHUSETTS

Liaison Committee Meeting – 1/9/15

Present: Tony Schiavi, Yolanda Greaves, Joe Magnani, Maribeth Morrissey, Dan Conroy, Laurie Tosti, Jim Adams, Barbara Durand

Absent: Michael Herbert, Kathy Bates

Town Management and School Administration Updates

- Tony Announced that the Town Meeting Warrant is Open/Guidance published and emailed this morning
 - February 18th is the deadline for Notice of Intent on Warrant Articles--- Solar, MWRA, and Public Facilities Consolidation being worked to move forward. Once School and Town Administration have a chance to finalize the Consolidation Proposal, it will be briefed to the School Committee, BoS and FinCom. Also looking at other potential opportunities.
- WSHG rates will be finalized for FY16 in February and GIC rates approximately March 1st.
- Tony mentioned a recent Natick Article related to stressors being felt on the town budget- Rising Health Care and Pension Costs were noted, and underscores some of things Ashland and all communities are facing for the future. Ashland will also have these to some extent and an increase in Non-Excluded debt service for FY 16.
- State budget issues --- \$1B shortfall which was \$369M..... What impact this will have for the new administration is yet unclear. The FinCom Hearings are scheduled for Police Fire and DPW. Tony also provided a Capital Improvement Committee Update
- Tony requested everyone affirm that the Tri-Board meeting scheduled for January 31st from 0900 to 12:00 is good with everyone and also the date of April 7th for the State of the Town Address.
- The Town has also started the collective bargaining process for all four of it's unions.

Jim Adams --- The Schools are in the thick of the budget process and there is a budget meeting tomorrow to go over everything.

- Process is somewhat new this year in order to be in alignment with the town and using a needs based approach. Schools have a budget workshop for the School Committee this weekend --- budget books are out. Jim and Barbara went to FinCom and provided an update, with emphasis on SPED impacts (Schools recently got another family who have two students --- one to outplace in July and one immediately). Looking at Root Cause analysis --- Jim provided an update on how the start time study is going -- it is in a primitive state --- have been meeting for five months and will be a two year process before even discussing with the School Committee.

- Whole Day Kindergarten --- School administration strongly believes in it, but it is a whole year before any Chapter 70 assistance is received --- there are, however, space concerns as well as financial concerns.

FinCom Update

Dan Conroy- No updates from FinCom since the last meeting.

School Committee Update

Laurie --- there was meeting last night after a month because of the holidays. Nothing out of the ordinary --- presentation on school start time committee -- work is progressing --- will be long process --- have had two preliminary presentations, forums, and surveys --- making sure everyone knows what's going on. New Superintendents now have a coaching/mentoring program and provides a lot of support and a great opportunity to have the support of experienced administrators. Will be having a budget workshop tomorrow and first look at priorities ahead of the Jan 31st Tri-Board meeting. School Committee did vote to accept naming request for Joseph Seaman --- Baseball Field. A lot of people showed up to show support --- he served his country, was an athlete and a good student --- No negative feedback and many letters and emails of support --- Naming in the Spring and perhaps around Memorial Day.

Board of Selectman ---

Yolanda -- BoS had a Meeting Wed night --- Carl Hakansson came with new signs for Murphy and Green Square --- Lou Mancini did the signs for the Town and they are ready to be installed by DPW. Sustainability Committee was approved to go from 9 to 7 members. Andrea Green updated the BoS on the downtown sign project --- has been approved by the Selectman --- will go to RFP development

and acceptance of Bids.

Next Meeting is February 13th at 0730

Minutes from 12/12/14 meeting approved 3-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 AM

DRAFT