
Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Triboard Meeting
March 06, 2013

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

Chairman Salafia called the Joint Meeting of the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee to order at 7:06 P.M. in the School Committee Room in the School Administrative Offices.

Roll call: Paul Salafia-Y, Mary Lyman-Y, Alex Vispoli-Y, and Dan Kowalski-Y.

Chairwoman Paula Colby-Clements opened the meeting for the School Committee at 7:06 P.M. Present from the School Committee: Annie Gilbert-Y, Richard Collins-Y, Dennis Forgue-Y, and David Birnbach-Y.

Finance Committee Chair S. Jon Stumpf opened the meeting for the Finance Committee at 7:06 P.M. Present from the Finance Committee: Joanne Marden-Y, Mary O'Donoghue-Y, Margaret Kruse-Y, Paul Fortier-Y, Linn Anderson, and Jeannie Moffitt-Y.

Also present Town Manager Buzz Stapczynski, Assistant Town Manager Steve Bucuzzo, Finance Director Donna Walsh, Superintendent Marinel McGrath, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, Nancy Duclos, and Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Paul Szymanski. Also attending the meeting State Senator Barry Finegold. The meeting was duly posted and cable-cast live.

II. Opening Ceremonies

Chairman Salafia asked for a Moment of followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. FY-2014 Budget Presentations

State Senator Barry Finegold spoke prior to the Budget Presentation saying he advocates for the Town as much as possible. They were earlier concerns State revenues were not growing as much as anticipated, but January has been a good month as has February with revenue at 8.8% more than last year at this time and they hope the trend continues. The Governor's budget is aggressive and even though budget indicators are good and income from sales tax is strong, he does not expect Andover to receive \$2M more than last year; the outlook is more like 2-3% over last year's Chapter 70 money and does not expect Andover to receive up to the full 17.5% funding, and hopes that if they are advocating for more money for education, that is where the funds will be used.

Questions and answers:

~are we at or below the benchmarks. *We are at the benchmarks.*

~What portion of the Governor's budget will be used for transportation? *A lot will be used for transportation with a focus to increase the frequency of trains and scheduling money for double-tracking.*

~Could there be extra money for education? *Not sure, it depends. The State has to wait to see what the Federal Government will do and what extra revenue they can expect.*

~What about funding for OPEB? *Pension reform for municipal employees has been looked at, but they seem to be focused on transportation.*

Senator Finegold said the House will have their budget available in April and the Senate's budget will be out in May with final budget numbers agreed to in June. If there are any questions in the meantime, please feel free to contact him or any of the other legislators.

School Department FY-14 Budget Presentation

Superintendent McGrath presented the School Department Budget for FY-14 which was assembled by defining school values and aligning spending to those values. The Strategic Plan is their roadmap to address every child, every day, and every way to become critical thinkers, problem solvers and contributors to society. They have worked hard to examine everything they do and by working together as a team across the district and the town, reduced expenses in FY-13 by 2% with a 3.49% reduction in expenses for FY-14 over last year achieved through sustainable savings, contract negotiations, and reduced out-of-district tuition expenses; savings were close to \$700,000 this year alone by providing in-house programs. There are no cuts to programs or services and the fees for the choral program are funded in the budget, English as a Second Language and Special Education are included for continuation programs, and a new in-district Transitions Phase I program at Andover High School is also included.

The FY-14 Recommended (Level Service w/Strategic Plan) Budget is \$70,278,272 a 6.7% (\$4,413,873) increase over FY-13 with Personal Salaries of \$57,394,709 and Expenses \$12,883,563. The Level Service w/Strategic Plan Budget includes funding to ensure level services, meets all compliance requirements, reorganizing where educationally sound, and captures savings where possible while working within available funds, and modest funding for Strategic Plan investments to enable the district to move forward. The Level Services Budget (without Strategic Plan investments) is \$69,402,345; 5.37% over FY-13 or \$3,537,846 and \$1,350,516 more than the Town Manager's Recommended Budget and using the \$500,000 Chapter 70 Summer Funds leaves a delta of \$850,516.

Dr. McGrath reviewed definitions of Head Count (physical number of people filling a position) and Full-Time Equivalency (FTE - number of hours per week for a given position). The FY-14 Level Service Budget requires 21.97 FTE's, and the FY-14 Strategic Plan Investments requires an additional 13.02 FTE's for a total of 35.02 FTE's at a cost of \$2,078,934. An explanation of all the positions/FTE's by school was provided. The Level Service Budget requires \$1,202,907 to cover compliance expenses; the Level Service

w/Strategic Plan Budget includes \$1,202,907 for level services and compliance costs plus \$876,027 for Strategic Plan funding. There are still needs going unfunded which will have to be addressed in future years.

Discussion:

Out of District Students: In 2009 there were 166 students in OUD programs, 2010 the number was 112, in 2011 it was 92, in 2012 there were 87 students, and to date, 81 students are in OOD Programs. Currently, there are ten in-district programs and Phase I of the Transition Program at AHS would be the last program we would be able to provide (Phase II would occur in FY-15). It has been more cost effective to bring programs/positions in house.

On-line Programs: Andover High School will be one of the first high schools to use the EdX online programs being developed by Harvard, MIT, and Stanford University at no cost to the district with credits approved.

Unfunded Mandates: New unfunded mandates include bullying (with significant increased legal fees), child abuse, gender identity, and the New Educator Evaluation Program which requires training of administrators and staff, and the purchase of new software to upload the information to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. As of July 1, 2013 School Systems will be obligated to pay the education cost of students suspended or expelled from school. Massachusetts has been in violation of the Federal Laws on how the program for ELL students is provided; extensive training of our teachers will be required.

There was a discussion on the history of the \$500,000 which was the School Department's share of the additional State money received by the Town after Town Meeting appropriated dollars to all departments. Because the \$500,000 was not appropriated at Town Meeting, it was not carried forward as the base budget for the schools. Additional meeting(s) will be scheduled to give the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen time to review the School Budget, problem-solve, and talk about funding.

Capital Projects/Warrant Articles

Maria Maggio and Ed Ataide from Plant and Facilities distributed copies of the School CIP Projects to discuss.

SCH-1	\$275,000	School Projects for all schools
SCH-2	\$885,000	School Projects – by building
SCH-2	\$375,950	Textbooks and E-book adoptions
SCH-4	\$225,000	Space Study for AHS & Pre-School (reduced from \$600,000)
SCH-5	\$1,000,000	Major School Projects (reduced from \$2,290,000)
SCH-6	\$330,000	WWII Memorial Auditorium at DMS (reduced from \$400,000) last phase of renovation, includes Elevator for handicap access, HVAC System Upgrade

SCH-7	\$3,200,000	School Site Improvements (DMS Site Improvements reduced from \$4,270,000) includes parking design for DMS, Youth Center, and Senior Center, traffic study, and ADA Compliance issues.
SCH-8	\$400,000	AHS Tennis Courts – Presentation given by the Friends of Andover Tennis showing state of current courts in dire need of repair, improvement options, and design. Friends have raised \$40,000 towards the renovation. Court repair is a safety issue and if not repaired will have to be closed.
SCH-9	\$1,275,000	WMS Heating and Ventilation System Upgrade

Next Steps:

The Chairs will continue conversations about the budget and CIP requests bringing information back to each group. It was suggested discussions include available funds, revenue and expense assumptions, FY-13 actuals, and use of free cash/stabilization fund for one-time projects. Short term items highlighted in Brian Major’s Notes from the February 27th Triboard Meeting will be discussed in a small group of two representatives and the chair from each board.

IV. Adjournment

At 10:19 P.M. on a motion by Alex Vispoli and seconded by Dan Kowalski, the Board of Selectmen voted 4-0 to adjourn from the Joint Meeting. Roll call: Paul Salafia-Y, Alex Vispoli-Y, Mary Lyman -Y, and Dan Kowalski-Y.

Dennis Forgue motioned for the School Committee to adjourn and the motion was seconded by Annie Gilbert and voted 5-0 to approve. Roll call: Paula Colby Clements-Y, Annie Gilbert-Y, Richard Collins-Y, Dennis Forgue-Y, and David Birnbach-Y.

Finance Committee Chair S. Jon Stumpf adjourned the meeting for the Finance Committee at 10:19 P.M. on a vote by Peggy Kruse and seconded by Paul Fortier. Roll call: Joanne Marden-Y, Mary O’Donoghue-Y, Margaret Kruse-Y, Paul Fortier-Y, Linn Anderson, and Jeannie Moffitt-Y.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo, Recorder

Documents: FY-14 School Budget Presentation, School CIP for FY-14