

Budget Strategies Task Force  
Minutes of the November 23, 2015 Meeting

Members Attending: Susan Berry, Fred Floru, Radha Gargeya, Melissa Murphy-Rodrigues, Lucie St. George, Anne Wilson, Bella Wong, Chuck Woodard

Chair called the meeting to order at 7:30 am.

Minutes: Minutes of the October 29<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved unanimously.

Cost Center Update on Budget Pressures: Nothing new. SPS and LS on track for FY16 budget.

Review FY17 Budget Process: Chair reviewed where we are in the budget process. Guidance letter stated that the cumulative growth for the 3 cost centers, Town, SPS, LS could be no more than 2.6% to be on target for a no override budget. Finance Committee started the liaison meetings earlier than in past years. The second meeting with FinCom liaisons should be completed by December 7<sup>th</sup> and a write up by cost center of answers to the questions sent to the liaisons. Those questions will be reviewed at the Finance Committee meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> of December.

Chair went over the Finance Committee spreadsheets that cost center fill out every year and discussed the additional information requested.

Town: Add OPEB Normal Cost; Public Safety headcount broken out by same categories as the salaries; and add a line for # of employees eligible for benefits

SPS: Transportation separated from Health & Food Services in salary section and headcount; add OPEB Normal Cost, map head count to same categories used for salaries, add a line for # of employees eligible for benefits

LSRHS: Add OPEB Normal Cost, map head count to same categories used for salaries, and add a line for #of employees eligible for benefits

Bella questioned whether coaches should be included in the headcount because they are paid with user fees; she will check with Peter Rowe.

The Chair went over the calendar and when information is due – Budget Reconciliation sheets by January 8<sup>th</sup> and January 22<sup>nd</sup> the Finance Committee spreadsheets updated with FY17 budget info are due.

The committee discussed the timing of the Board of Selectmen decision about the BSTF participating in joint meetings with the Finance Committee to discuss any allocation issues that might arise from the cost centers' budgets. The earliest the BoS could receive feedback on this possibility would be for their December 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. In the meantime the Finance Committee chair has tentatively scheduled joint meetings to get them on the calendar.

Public Comment: none

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 7:57 passed unanimously.