

Minutes of the Joint Budget Subcommittee Meeting

September 26, 2018

TOWN OF FRANKLIN
TOWN CLERK
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The meeting was called to order at 5:34 PM by Chairman Peter Padulla.

Members: Town Council: Peter Padulla, Chair; Thomas Mercer, Matthew Kelly, Debbie Pellegrini. School: Anne Bergen, Denise Schultz, Diane Feeley. Finance Committee: Susan Dewsnap, George Conley.

Also in attendance: Finance Director Chris Sandini, SBO Miriam Goodman, Superintendent Sara Ahern, Deputy Town Administrator Jamie Hellen, and Town Administrator Jeffrey Nutting. Steve Sherlock, Franklin Matters (taping). Other Councilors: Eamon McCarthy-Earls, Patrick Casey, Melanie Hamblen.

Town Administrator Jeffrey Nutting updated the Committee on the Status of the current fiscal year's revenue and some other odds and ends:

- Police contract has been negotiated to change the shift schedule, allow us to hire 5 more officers and see a small operating budget reduction.
- Library appropriation will go up to the amount to meet the state Minimum Appropriation Requirement (MAR) so the town does not have to apply for a waiver.
- Hiring a SRO to share between Tri-County and High school; half to be paid by Tri-County.
- MECC will be delayed a few months.
- Roads report will be out soon and will show a \$40 million backlog in roads.
- FY19 deficit was \$1,487,000 and when the tax rate is set and all the books are closed, the actual deficit will be about half of that.
- The overall economy is strong, permits are level and revenues are level. Things should level off this next year as long as the economy stays positive.

FY 19 Capital Plan updates:

Mr. Hellen gave an overview of the process for FY19. The capital memo went out to Department Heads and requests and priorities are due November 9th. Meet with departments in November/December and

School Committee Overview:

Anne Bergen, Chair of the School Committee, gave an update on their efforts to get citizens more engaged and be more transparent, a review of all of their fees, the programs lost over the last ten years that mattered to citizens, a salaries comparison, and enrollment trends. enrollment at least leveled off this year, until final numbers are certified in a week.

FY20:

Mr. Nutting gave a forecast into FY20 suggesting there are too many factors up in the air, like health insurance, collective bargaining, staff raises. There is a structural deficit at some point coming that is going to come home if the economy and revenues take a dive. All folks had a

conversation about doing a public outreach meeting come March to go through the budget situation for each department to help tell the Town's story with the demands on town services. The group agreed to meet again in February in preparation for that.

The meeting adjourned at 6:19PM