Date: 05 April 2017

Budget Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Members Present: T. Buono, P. Fitzsimmons, L. Richards, W. Hodges

Others Present: K. Lyons, S. Givens

T. Buono called the meeting to order at 7:08pm.

The draft minutes for the meeting of March 22, 2017 were reviewed. *L. Richards motioned to accept the minutes as amended. Second by P.* *Fitzsimmons.* Motion passed unanimously.

S. Givens said that she is still working with Guidance on developing a process for waivers of AP Testing, SAT, ACT and College application fees.

The Subcommittee discussed the approach for the Capital Strategic Plan. S. Givens noted that bond issues would be coming off in the following years: 2020 ($7.8 million), 2022, ($10 million), and 2023 ($10 million). It was agreed that we should plan for capital funding to be aligned when bonds are retired. In that regard, the priorities to be considered with the 1st bond retirement include the Priority 1 and 2 items identified in the Facility Assessment report by Habeeb. This amounts to approximately $17.5 million. The Architectural Exterior, especially the roof replacement and HVAC, are of particular importance within the next 3 years. We should also consider the installation of the solar panels at the same time, as the roof requires a superstructure for the panels to sit on. The remainder of Priority 1 and 2 items provide a good picture of what is needed in the next 5 years. We have the current FY18 capital warrant article to the towns for some of the Priority 1 safety items identified in the report. We should review remaining Priority 1 and 2 items to determine what makes sense to request as a warrant article for FY19. Since we plan to have another bond issue in the next couple of years, we need to plan a timetable for contacting and working with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) and our state representatives to identify those items in the Capital Strategic Plan that are available for partial funding by the MSBA. It was agreed that a plan should be developed that identified what items would be best to fund through town meetings, stabilization fund use, and through bonding. Once we have an idea of what will occur when, we should meet with town representatives (Finance Committees/Boards of Selectmen) for input and discussion on the proposed strategy and timings.

Under New Business:

Per the School Committee’s authorization at the March 29th meeting, S. Givens has contracted with ClearGov. The contract will begin in July to allow time to establish that section of the website.

S. Givens wanted the subcommittee’s opinion and recommendation on whether we should keep our current auditors or go out to bid for next year’s audit. Discussion centered on what would be in the best interest of the new Central Office Staff. It was determined that it would advantageous to keep the auditor for the next 2 years and then go out to bid. This is to allow our new staff to build expertise in the process by having 3 years worth of consistency in managing audits. *P. Fitzsimmons motioned to recommend keeping our current auditor for the next 2 years. Second by L. Richards.* Motion passed unanimously.

*P. Fitzsimmons motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:20pm. Second by L.Richards.* Motion passed unanimously.