Call to Order

Chair Moffitt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Select Board Conference Room. Present were: Chair Eugenie (Janie) Moffitt, Mary Ellen Logee, Linn Anderson, Bojay Taylor, Paul Monticciolo, Andrew Betts, John Barry and Spiro Christopulos. Absent was Paul Russo. Also present was Donna Walsh, Finance Director and Patrick Lawlor, Director of Administrative Services. The meeting was videotaped and live cablecast.

School Presentation – Superintendent Berman, Shannon Scully and Joel Blumstein
Superintendent Berman was accompanied by School Committee members Scully and Blumstein. Mr. Blumstein gave a brief historical overview of the proposed Full Day Tuition Free Kindergarten for FY2021. Superintendent Berman and Ms. Scully followed with the presentation (see attached.)

Discussion ensued including:
   a) kindergarten was offered half-day until fifteen years ago when full-day was offered with tuition cost;
   b) the full-day option is now more preferred (90% of students);
   c) the town’s role in covering health insurance costs ($140-150K) for teachers in the “gap” year between FY2021 and when state aid reimburses;
   d) teachers thereafter will be covered for health insurance as are all regular teachers;
   e) the estimated $600,00 surplus in the revolving account will pay the increased expenses for FY2021;
   f) the unpredictability of estimated enrollment numbers and whether or not full-day enrollment is likely to increase;
   g) how full-day kindergarten might impact first grade enrollment numbers;
   h) from a budgetary standpoint, the need to keep accurate records as full-day kindergarten is implemented to be able to assess its financial impact;
   i) the difference in Chapter 70 funds by going to full-day kindergarten is enough to cover the increased cost after the initial “gap” year;
   j) there is no anticipated SPED impact resulting from full-day kindergarten, as some children are assessed for special ed in kindergarten and others in higher grades; and some children come to kindergarten with IEPs out of preschool.

Also discussed were:
   a) general enrollment trends across all grades reflecting the trends identified in the recent school demographic study;
   b) the impact of collective bargaining with all unions to take effect at the end of August 2020;
   c) the impact of two unexpected and expensive Out-of-District (OOD) placements in FY2020 necessitating an $800K spending down of circuit breaker reserves;
   d) this unexpected OOD expense will offset the previously anticipated savings from the aging-out SPED population;
   e) the possibility of a supplemental budget increase of $1.9M added to circuit breaker funds; and
   f) transportation cost increases related to proposed change in start times.
CIP Review – Town Manager
The Town Manager presented an overview of the FY2021 five-year Capital Improvement Plan (see attached.)

Discussion ensued including:
- a) revisit plan to renovate town hall expanding Select Board room/asbestos abatement;
- b) ADA compliance in public spaces;
- c) increased cost of infrastructure to gain access to the river;
- d) conservation restricted space and inclusive design;
- e) prioritized planned sidewalk replacement;
- f) street tree program inclusive of 50/50 maintenance and new planting;
- g) termination of cable funds and its impact on CIP;
- h) use of gas disaster relief funds in conjunction with CIP articles;
- i) limitations of installation of turf fields;
- j) priority of major school projects including roof replacement and installation of air conditioning in elementary schools; and
- k) history of general fund borrowing.

The Select Board is scheduled to vote to accept the CIP on December 16.

Approval of Minutes – October 9, 2019
Upon motion duly made by Ms. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Christopulos, it was voted to approve above minutes as amended. Motion passed 7-0-1 with Mr. Barry abstaining.

Approval of Minutes – October 23, 2019
Upon motion duly made by Ms. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Christopulos, it was voted to approve above minutes as amended. Motion passed 6-0-2 with Messrs. Barry and Betts abstaining.

Senior Tax Exemption
Ms. Anderson updated the committee on the impact to taxpayers from the senior tax exemption.

Disposition of Lewis Street
Ms. Anderson updated the committee on the Select Board vote to move forward with an RFP for the sale of 11 Lewis Street, as well as a summary of the recently received appraisal for 11 Lewis Street (see attached summary.) It was noted that there will be no Special Town Meeting for the disposition of this land. It is expected to be voted on at the first night of Annual Town Meeting.

Plans for Future Meetings
November 20 – Cancelled
December 4 – Preliminary Discussion - Finance Committee Report
December 11 - Triboard
Adjournment
Upon motion duly made by Mr. Barry and seconded by Mr. Christopulos, it was unanimously voted to adjourn. Motion passed 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:21PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Martin Barraford
Recording Secretary

Attachments:
School Presentation on Full-Day Tuition Free Kindergarten FY2021
Town Manager’s Five-Year CIP Overview
Ms. Anderson’s Liaison Report