



The TOWN OF NORWOOD

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

FINANCE COMMISSION

ANNE MARIE HALEY
CHAIR

ROBERT G. DONNELLY
VICE-CHAIR

JUDITH A. LANGONE

KELLIE NOUMI

ALAN D. SLATER

FINANCE COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, April 23, 2020 at 4:00pm

This meeting will be conducted digitally using GoToMeeting. Directions explaining how to join the meeting can be found on page two of this agenda.

A G E N D A

- Acceptance of minutes from Monday, March 2, 2020 meeting
- 2021 Financial Forecast based on last BBC Meeting
- Blue Hills Regional Budget
- School Committee Budget
- MOU School and FINCOM
- General Government Budget
- Capital Outlay
- Reserve Fund Transfer
- Other Business

2020 APR 17 P 1:26

TOWN OF NORWOOD
RECEIVED

TOWN CLERK & REGISTRAR

FISCAL 2020 RESERVE FUND ACTIVITY

Reserve Fund ATM Appropriation:

\$125,000

The Commission reserves the right to consider items on the agenda out of order. This listing of matters contains those items reasonably anticipated by the Chairman which may be discussed at the meeting at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

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Finance Commission (MEETING WILL BE RECORDED)
Thu, Apr 23, 2020 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (EDT)

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FINANCE COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, March 2, 2020
MINUTES OF MEETING - DRAFT

A meeting of the Finance Commission was held at 6:30 pm in the Robert M. Thornton Room of the Norwood Town Hall, 566 Washington Street, Norwood, MA.

Attending the meeting were Anne Haley, Chair, Robert Donnelly, Vice Chair, members Judy Langone, Kellie Noumi and Alan Slater, supported by Molly Ahearn, Budget Management Analyst. Tom McQuaid, Clerk to the Finance Commission was absent.

Chair Haley requested an amendment to the minutes from February 21, 2020 clarifying that following Mr. McQuaid's presentation of the trends analysis project, the Commission decided to use data found on the Division of Local Services (DLS) website as the source of information. On a motion to accept from Mr. Slater, seconded by Ms. Noumi, the amended minutes from February 21, 2020 were *approved unanimously*.

The FY21 School Budget presentation was given by Dr. David Thomson, Superintendent of Schools, Karin Sheridan, Business Manager, Lori Cimenio, Director of Pupil Personnel Services and Teresa Stewart, School Committee.

The focus of the presentation was on English Language Learner (ELL) and Special Education (SPED) mandates that require new positions and resources, as well as highlighting the challenges facing the school budget this year, including out of district tuitions.

In response to Mr. Slater's inquiry, Dr. Thomson explained that these new positions were not identified at the time of the override because they are a result of unanticipated needs from the increasing student population.

Ms. Sheridan presented other revenue sources and distributed the attached spreadsheets analyzing school revolving funds, grants and the history of Circuit Breaker.

Dr. Thomson provided an update on override spending, specifically Curriculum Refresh which establishes a curriculum review and purchasing cycle, for which the department has chosen the materials and is currently in the process of purchasing them.

Mr. Slater provided an update on the Middle School Building Committee which is scheduling a meeting for later this month in order to review the draft Request for Services for the OPM as part of the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) process.

Chair Haley called a two minute recess at 8:18 pm.

Tony Mazzucco, General Manager gave an overview of the budget in which he reviewed revenue items, budget requests, projected reserves and the calculation of maximum budget increases per the Override Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Mr. Mazzucco noted that the Town has separated out utilities in an effort to adopt more enterprise-like accounting practices. He explained that capital items have also been removed from department's operating budgets as the amount differs greatly from year-to-year, creating too much of a swing in department's requests. Mr. Mazzucco recommended that the following budget requests fall outside of the 3.5% maximum budget increase: Student Opportunities Act requirements, new Facilities Department and Out of District Tuitions.

After the General Manger's budget overview, Mr. Mazzucco presented the attached letter to the Commission outlining two options for addressing the extraordinary out of district cost burden facing the School Department and discussion focused on Option 2 – New Proposal.

The Commission agreed that all other agenda items should be pushed to a later meeting. Chair Haley distributed two classification/re-classification requests approved by the Personnel Board that were sent as a notification and discussed the department addressing these during their budget hearing. Vice Chair Donnelly announced that Blue Hills Regional School will attend the Finance Commission's meeting scheduled for March 26, 2020 starting at 6:00 pm.

On a motion from Mr. Slater, seconded by Ms. Noumi, the Commission ***voted unanimously*** to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 pm.

A True Copy

Attest: _____
Molly Ahearn, Acting Clerk