DRAFT

Minutes

November 30th, 2016

219 Massapoag Avenue, Sharon Community Center

Present: William Brack, Aaron Agulnek, Edward Philips, Hannah Switlekowski, Patricia-Lee Achorn, Gordon Gladstone, Arnold Cohen, Ira Miller, Steven Ross and Charles Goodman.

Absent: Alexander Korin and Laura Nelson.

Arrived Late: Arnold Cohen and Ira Miller.

I. **Approval of September 28th, October 26th and November 9th Minutes**

**MOTION** by Aaron Agulnek to approve September 28th, 2015 minutes as written **SECONDED** by Edward Philips **VOTED** 6-0-2

**MOTION** by Aaron Agulnek to approve October 26th, 2015 minutes as written **SECONDED** by Edward Philips **VOTED** 7-0-1

**MOTION** by Edward Philips to approve November 9th, 2015 minutes as written **SECONDED** by Patricia-Lee Achorn **VOTED** 7-0-1

**II. Update on Budget Goals Process**

The School Committee meeting Bill attended was discussed. The Committee was broadly in agreement with the budget goals concept and proposed process. There will need to be more dialogue around scheduling and how the Finance Committee proposals relate to the Priorities Process. The School Committee expressed concerns regarding the goal of not exceeding a 2 ½ % tax increase which might conflict with their mission to provide what is for Sharon schools. There is agreement on a second joint meeting in January 2016.

The Board of Selectman endorsed three of the policies proposed by the Finance Committee: 1. restriction on the use of one time revenue 2. exchange of budget in December and 3. joint meeting in January. There will be continuing discussion around specific language.

The Finance Committee can retain the goals within the context of their budget review and as a framework for operating norms.

**III. Update on FY 2017 Budget Process and Priorities Process.**

Fred Turkington announced that the free cash certification arrived from the state today. He is confident there is no material changed since the projection given in September. Those proposals are usable pending the approval of the Priorities Committee in December. The allocation of fixed and uncontrollable is pending.

**IV. Review of Options for Better Communications of Town Budget Information to Citizens of Sharon and Vote to Approve Vendor or Vendors.**

There was a discussion of the ClearGov and VisGov software; the prices are comparable but there may be a conflict in doing both simultaneously since they manipulate data differently. The Board of Selectman support with moving forward with one or both to allow better communication with the town’s citizens.

VisGov utilizes information directly from Munis download and is flexible to local formats (data is not manipulated). ClearGov has better visuals but uses an algorithm to manipulate data for comparison among towns and requires conversation of data to a spreadsheet for upload. Fred Turkington and Cindy Doherty will be asked to contact Easton and Mansfield regarding their experience with each software in regard to ease of upload, mobile readiness, benchmarking and data mapping. The Finance Committee would like to have that information to review prior to the next meeting.

**V. Other Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated.**

There was discussion of the Capital Outlay Meeting and the School Board plan for capital improvement; the list of requests included the Heights Roof, lighting and basic furniture upgrades and new vehicles for transportation. FY 2017 was the major focus of the meeting; there was no long-range technology plan presented for the one-to-one computer program.

The Finance Committee will ask Tim Farmer to the next meeting to discuss School Committee capital and the range of options being considered for the Sharon High School. Norfolk County Retirement will also be asked to attend that meeting.

**VI. Adjournment**

**MOTION** by Pat Achorn to adjourn **SECONDED** by Edward Philips **VOTED** 10-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

The next meeting will be held on December 14th, 2015.