DRAFT

Minutes- January 11th, 2016

Sharon Community Center, 219 Massapoag Avenue

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

Absent: Aaron Agulnek and Laura Nelson.

1. **Priorities Update with Fred Turkington**

Fred Turkington,Town Administrator, discussed a handful of adjustments made after the September 10th, 2015 meeting including an increase of $157,000 of local revenue estimates as well as a lower property tax. Priorities received a notice from Norfolk County that the budget is $175,000 higher then previously anticipated, $130,000 for the school, $42,000 for the sector and $3,000 for the Finance Committee.

Cindy Doherty, Finance Director, continued by stating that due to the increase in the stock market, there will be some projected downfalls in the near future. February 2nd, 2016 was provided as the next meeting to see if Priorities is going to change their ratings overall. At the end of February or in early March, Priorities will have an exact pension number as well as state aid and other revenues as they continue to come in. It has been decided that 3.18% will be the ceiling cap and that Priorities are looking to apply free cash to one time expenses. The available levy right now is beyond the 2.5% by approximately 1.69% or $1.7 million without an override.

1. **FY 2017 Preliminary Budget Overview**
2. **School Budget- Bill**

William Brack, Chairman of the Finance Committee stated that there was a meeting on December 16th, 2015, where the School Committee went through a discussion surrounding financial items in FY 2017. The information was then presented again on January 6th, 2016. The discussion involved the Kindergarten revolving fund and its surplus as well as how exactly to use that money. Currently the school has $264,000 for reserves and is looking to possibly increase fees for athletics and adding an overall fee structure for extracurricular activities that does not currently exist.

The School Committee went on to discuss three items that need extensive help which include foreign language at the elementary schools, the autism spectrum line share and the technology program, which will add a $450,000 increase. The new plan includes a new support staff team member for the IT department, adding foreign language to the second grade classrooms as well as pairing teachers together with students with higher learning needs. This change will add a 3.49% increase and all of this information will be voted on at the February 25th, 2016 meeting.

1. **Selectman Sector Budget- Fred & Cindy**

Fred Turkington and Cindy Doherty began by stating that the Selectman sector budget is within the Priorities Committee guideline. There are a few more policy changes to make but it does not reflect any changes in the FTE’s. Only eight people are subject to salary adjustments rather then the usual twelve, therefore the changes will be rather insignificant. The only department that is over would be the Fire department due to sick or injured employees who need other employees to work overtime to cover needs. The Selectman will be done with the budget total by February 2nd, 2016 for the Finance Committee to review.

1. **Finance Committee Sector Budget- Bill, Fred & Cindy**

Fred Turkington stated that the initial budget for the Finance Committee is below the 3.18% by $30.00. The Finance Committee has a lot of room in terms of the contracting line item.

The Personnel Board and the Planning Board are level funded. The Town Clerk is also level funded, except the telephone which is not applicable and the Conservation and Zoning Board sectors are level funded except for a slight salary change. Lake Management has been level funded for five years (except 2014) and needs to come to a consensus on what to do with a lake. The current concerns discussed included water management, water capacity and recreation. The Health sector, being the largest, has a total increase of 3.4% and was laid out in full description by Beverly Anderson, Health Administrator.

1. **Budget Schedule and Process**

The Finance Committee discussed meeting with the Town Clerk, Board of Health, Norfolk County and the Zoning Board quickly. February 8th, 2016 will be the estimated date to meet with the Selectman.

1. **Annual Town Meeting Warrant Scope and Timetable**

The Annual Town Meeting will be held on May 11th, 2016 and when the warrant closes, Fred Tarkington will send the Finance Committee to full scope.

1. **Other Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated**

Cindy Doherty provided VisGov with this years’ revenue information but still needs to provide them with FY 2016 revenue. She will contact them in a joint phone call with Fred Tarkington as well to review the overall program. The target for it to begin running is shortly. A trial password will be first sent to the Finance Committee so they can see what has been done thus far and progress will then go from there.

1. **Adjournment**

**MOTION** by Patricia Lee-Achornto adjourn **SECONDED** by Gordon Gladstone and Alexander Korin **VOTED** 10-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 pm.

The next meeting will be January 25th, 2016.