

Special Finance Subcommittee Meeting – Draft Minutes

December 21, 2020, 5:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

Attendance:

Jenny Emery	Present	Jordan Grossman	Present
Mark Fiorentino	Present	Anna Robbins	Present
David Peling	Present		

Meeting commenced at 5:05 p.m. Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

1. Public Comment: None

2. Approve Minutes from the November 18, 2020 Finance Subcommittee Meeting: Dave moved, and Mark seconded approval. Passed unanimously.

3. November Statement of Accounts: There is now a projected \$180k budgetary shortfall, including (\$205k) from special ed. The covid-related grants, plus savings from the salary line because of less senior hires replacing more senior retirees, has more than offset the unbudgeted covid expenses so far. It was noted that a projected deficit of \$25k has now been included, reflecting the challenges related to the school lunch program.

4. High School Building Committee Update: Jenny outlined the status of committee engagement in and oversight of the various projects. The most recent report from the architect suggests there will need to be some prioritization of the planned projects, as the total cost likely exceeds the authorized funds. She said it would be an iterative process, and the BOE will be engaged as decision points unfold.

5. Food Service Update: Anna explained that, with the economies of scale for the food service, reducing the deficit requires maintaining volume, which is challenging when individual classes and schools are periodically quarantined. The possibility of engaging with East Granby, which does not currently participate in a national school lunch program but could take advantage of the federal covid-related reimbursements currently in place through the end of this school year, is being explored to increase our volume, while East Granby could make cold food available to its students. The committee was interested in this creative solution but had a lot of questions about how it could be done without assuming risk. The administration will continue to explore this and report back. Jordan assured the committee that legal counsel would be involved in any MOU developed between the two Towns.

6. Other: Jordan reported that the Plus-1 budget will be presented January 6, 2021. He will present it with and without the OPEB liability funding. Jenny noted, again, that the Town's General Fund reserves benefitted from over \$900k in returned surplus last year, and that this may be a good source for OPEB funding; a decision that would rest with the BOF.

With no other business, Mark moved, and Dave seconded adjournment at 5:50 p.m.