

## **Advisory Budget Committee**

### **Minutes**

October 26, 2021

This meeting was at the Barrington Town Hall with remote participation available.

Members Present: Steve Saunders, Michael Houst, Peter Royce, John Morris and Scott Shephard

Alternates Present: Dannon Manschreck

Others Present: Amy Doherty

Steve Saunders called the meeting to order at 4:34pm.

Steve Saunders reviewed the meeting agenda which contains the Recreation budget and COLA and step increases.

The group discussed the fund balance target percentage of 12.5%. and how warrant articles would impact that percentage if the money was to come from fund balance. The group discussed the fund balance less the two new public safety positions. If the Town gets reimbursed for the salaries and benefits for the two deployed persons, what effect does that have? Which warrant articles would come from fund balance and what ones would come from taxes? The group would encourage the Select Board to prioritize the warrant articles.

The group discussed the COLA and step increases. The group supports the 2.5% recommendation for COLA and step increases.

The group discussed the paving line and would like to know the line items it's coming out of and why there isn't a warrant article this year.

The group discussed the ~4% increase in the school budget and the inflation of high school tuition rates, transportation fees, and staff increases.

The group would like to discuss the Ambulance revolving account at the next meeting.

Steve Saunders moves to approve the meeting minutes from the October 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. The group agrees.

The group discussed which departments budgets could be cut out of the operating budget in the future if necessary. The recreation department and library department were mentioned as options that could take on a portion of their budget.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Amy Doherty.