

**Meeting Minutes
Financial Planning Committee
February 7, 2019**

Members in Attendance

Bill Chenard
Jonathan Freedman
Patrick Hayes
Julie McDonough
Amy Mistrot
Anna Nolin
Lisa Tabenkin

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m. by Chairman Amy Mistrot.

Chairman Amy Mistrot made a motion to approve the minutes for the January 22, 2019 meeting. The motion was seconded by member Patrick Hayes.

Bill Chenard and John Townsend provided an update on revenues for the town. There is an additional \$505,000 in revenues as a result of an increase in fees voted on by the Board of Selectmen recently.

Ambulance revenues are down. There have been a small increase in costs in the Police Department and the Department of Health.

The projected Ch. 70 revenue is higher than originally projected. However, the actual number will not be finalized until July 2019. However, the town's assessments are also up. So, the actual state aid numbers may not be as high as it may appear from the Ch. 70 number.

Mr. Chenard explained that all state aid is added to overall town revenues. So, while it is labeled Ch. 70, the funds are looked at within the overall revenue picture of the town.

There was discussion about how the town projects new growth. How accurate is it? How carefully it is tracked? Mr. Chenard shared that they are constantly in contact with the Community Development Office to understand the timing of new projects and when revenue is expected to be realized. It is prudent to budget new growth conservatively.

There was discussion and explanation of tax abatements and how much we hold in reserve as a town in the event that an abatement is granted through an appeals court case.

There was discussion of the snow and ice deficit. We typically project this lower than anticipated because it is a category in which the state does allow a town/city to run a deficit. Any deficit is funded through free cash at Fall Town Meeting.

Related to snow and ice, Natick did submit for emergency management funds from FEMA related to extreme snow and ice a few years ago. It is possible that the town may be reimbursed by FEMA in the near-term.

There was a brief discussion about a potential downturn in the economy. Mr. Chenard shared that this came about from a session at the MMA conference earlier this year. There is no additional data at this time related to this forecast.

There was discussion about bus fees and how they could be raised to provide additional revenue. School Committee representatives noted that the School Committee would be discussing this at upcoming meetings. There was also discussion about the Town Meeting warrant article that supports transportation in the public schools. There will be further discussion of these revenues moving forward.

Paul Griesmer as a member of the public attending the meeting, asked FPC to look at the following three items:

- What is the average of free cash certified over the past several years? What is it in terms of %? Going in, going out # from April to Fall. The suggestion is to do an expanded analysis of free cash.
- What is the investment income available from the debt borrowed in December 2018? Has this been accounted for in the budget? Mr. Townsend said that it had not yet been accounted for in the revenue projection for the town.
- There should be a recognition of the hotel and the meals tax that is available. These funds are accumulating as the fiscal year goes along and it is technically available as revenue. These funds are typically placed into the stabilization funds.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m. Jonathan Freedman motioned for adjournment. Patrick Hayes 2nd the motion.