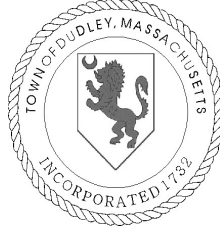


TOWN OF DUDLEY  
MASSACHUSETTS  
Board of Selectmen  
Finance, Appropriation and Advisory Committee  
**May 4, 2021 @ 6:30pm**  
**Approved 5/17/21**

Mark Landry, Chairman  
Michael Mayotte, Vice-Chairman  
Ann Gaudreau, Clerk  
Jon Currey, Member



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**1. Called to Order/Pledge of Allegiance:**

Kerry Cyganiewicz called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Members of the Board of Selectmen attending were John Marsi and Jason Johnson. Steven Sullivan participated remotely. Michael Mayotte, Ann Gaudreau and Jon Currey were present for the FAA. Also present were Jonathan Ruda, Town Administrator and Michelle Jervis, Administrative Secretary. All are keeping Mark Landry in our prayers.

**2. Continuation of Public Hearing of April 27, 2021**

**Dudley Charlton Regional School District (DCRSD)** – Superintendent Lamarche and Mr. Mathieu – Jason Johnson recused himself at 6:37pm. Mr. Ruda stated that the Selectmen met last night and discussed three versions of the FY22 budget. The town is mandated to pay 2.5% from previous year. With that percentage the impact on the town budget would be minor with adjustments in October using free cash. Option 2 would be 3% to the schools, with more adjustments in the fall. The 4.8% is what the district is proposing. Part of the increase is to recoup \$172,000 that the district reduced in their assessment last year to help with our budget due to the pandemic. If the FAA and BOS adopt the 4.8% we would still fully fund the police, highway and library. The additional \$163,300 increase would have to be transferred from stabilization with an absolute commitment to replace those funds. Mr. Ruda stated that we anticipate funds from the federal government and 4.8% is risky since we have no inclination on how much federal funds we will receive. Superintendent Lamarche stated that the schools might need to reduce their budget and last year they used FY22 monies to reduce their assessment. They are looking to become whole again. Richard Mathieu stated that he is aware that Dudley is not flush with money. This year we had a funding cliff to address. Also transportation went down, which comes from the Governor's budget. He stated that the school needs to maintain the classes and the need for funding is crucial for a minimal impact on the students. Per a study prepared by Abrahams Group, the schools are now 22<sup>nd</sup> from the bottom in pupil expenditures. The schools face inflation and increased costs as well. Steven Sullivan stated that last year the town gave the schools \$325,000 in CARES Act money, money you would not have had. He would like to know if the town will get credit for it. Mr. Ruda stated that is it subjective. Mr. Mathieu stated that the funds used from the CARES Act were set for specific things, getting the children back to school. Superintendent Lamarche stated that the school has an E&D account and it is part of the budget. The school does not sit on a lot of money. Mr. Sullivan reminded the schools that last year we laid off and furloughed employees. Both Mr. Lamarche and Mr. Mathieu thanked both boards for listening to their presentation. Jason Johnson returned to the Board at 7:20pm.

Water/Sewer Commissioners – **Provide recommendations, overview, and source of funding for Warrant Articles 23, 24, 25, and 26.** The Water Sewer Commissioners came before the Boards. Scott Zajkowski and Bob Sullivan along with George Patrinos, Water/Sewer Superintendent. Mr. Ruda stated that at our meeting last night we discussed the source of funding. Feels it is not a good idea to say everything will be debt excluded and should not fall on the water users. We need to offset the costs to the rate payers and we don't have the time to propose how to pay off everything. Mr. Zajkowski stated that two of the projects have been bided and have come in low. We are projecting it will cost \$11.5 million but hope it is less but all feel the need to ask for the funds now. George Patrinos stated that we do not want the SRF loan go to waste. It would be an embarrassment to give back the money to the State to have another community receive it. He wants to educate the community. It is a win/win for the town and the department is doing their due diligence for clean water and new roads in Dudley. Regarding Article 24 Michael Mayotte asked about the \$150,000 for the water asset management project. Bob Sullivan stated that the project is to assess the water system, approve our mapping and manage the system. The department received a grant for \$90,000 to put towards this project and in the end, it will cost \$30,000. It is required by the DEP to improve our documentation and consolidates information into one document. It lays out all the assets the water department had and anticipates what expenses coming up. Article 25 for \$700,000 is for engineering costs, design, plans and surveys for the treatment plant. It is not eligible for SRF funding. Article 26 – SRF funding for \$11.5 million with principal forgiveness of 13%, 0% interest loan. The first payment would be in January 2024 with the project anticipated to finish in December 2023.

The final review of the Town Administrator budget was discussed with the noted changes.

The Public Hearing closed at 7:53pm.

### **3. New Business:**

Regarding the budget and the schools, all agreed their request to be reimbursed their money from last year should be considered. Jon Currey motioned to approve Article 4 with a 4.8% increase option with \$163,320.00 taken from the Stabilization Account. . Ann Gaudreau seconded. Unanimous 3-0.

John Marsi motioned to approve the town warrant as assembled tonight and send it to Town Counsel for review. Jason Johnson seconded.

Roll Call Vote

John Marsi, Aye

Kerry Cyganiewicz, Aye

Jason Johnson, Aye

Steven Sullivan, Aye

John Marsi motioned to approve the Capital Improvement five year plan as amended by the Capital Improvement Planning Committee. Jason Johnson seconded.

Roll Call Vote

John Marsi, Aye

Kerry Cyganiewicz, Aye

Jason Johnson, Aye

Steven Sullivan, Aye

Jon Currey motioned for both committees to authorize form and administrative changes, including renumbering of draft May 24, 2021 Town Meeting Warrant, or take any other action relative thereto. Ann Gaudreau seconded. Unanimous 3-0.

Steven Sullivan left the meeting at 9:00pm.

John Marsi motioned to adjourn at 9:07pm. Jason Johnson seconded.

Roll Call Vote

John Marsi, Aye

Kerry Cyganiewicz, Aye

Jason Johnson, Aye

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Jervis

FAA Clerk

Administrative Secretary for the Board of Selectmen