

Minutes

February 22, 2021

Present: James Catacchio, Jim Darr, Aaron D'Elia, Victor Liang, Lynne Lipinsky, Melissa Sampson McMorrow, Scott Triola

Also Present: Kim Kane, Barney Arnold, Betsy Fell (Carlisle Mosquito)

Meeting held via Zoom and began at 7:03.

1. Minutes from prior meeting of 2/10/2021 amended and approved.
2. Discussion of debt capacity. Massachusetts statutes limit communities to debt no more than 5% of total assessed valuation. As of 2018, this would be about \$77 million for Carlisle. Current Town debt (excluding CCRSD) is about \$13 million. Issue is less about capacity than about annual cost and the willingness of residents to support, for instance, doubling rate of growth in budget to borrow \$10 million over 25 years.
3. Discussed and voted to send a letter to the Carlisle School Committee reiterating the December budget guidance and requesting a fresh look at their proposed FY22 budget.
4. Discussed some of the line items still unresolved in draft FY22 budget. A look back at the annual percentage increase in the average property tax shows a rate between 2.7% and 3.0%, even including the current year's decline of 1.7%. With all current proposed costs, FY22 would increase about 6%.
5. Reviewed subjects to raise with the Select Board on 02/23/2021, including the above, plus position on new jobs and expanded hours and warrants.
6. Final brief review of the equipment requests included as capital in departmental budgets. Total requests are around \$630,000 versus an average of about \$300,000 in prior years (adjusting for the transfer of IT items to departmental budgets).
7. Next meeting set for 03/01/2021. Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15 p.m.

Minutes drafted by Jim Darr. Approved by FinCom on 3/1/2021.